

The Union in Peril**Section 4****Slavery and Secession****Terms and Names**

Dred Scott Slave who was briefly taken by his owner into free territory

Roger B. Taney Chief Justice who wrote the ruling in the Dred Scott case

Abraham Lincoln President during the Civil War

Freeport Doctrine Idea that any territory could ban slavery by simply refusing to pass laws supporting it

Harpers Ferry Location of federal arsenal that John Brown raided to get guns to arm slaves

Confederacy “Confederate States of America,” formed in 1861 by the Southern states that seceded from the Union

Jefferson Davis President of the Confederate States of America

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the formation of new political parties.

In this section, you will learn how slavery divided the nation.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on how the major events discussed in this section sharpened the North-South conflict.

SLAVERY DOMINATES POLITICS

(Pages 324–325)

What was the *Dred Scott* decision?

As new political parties formed, the North and South grew further apart. Several events led to the final split between the North and the South. The first was an 1857 Supreme Court decision involving a slave, **Dred Scott**. Scott claimed that residing in the free states made him a free man. In *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, Chief Justice **Roger B. Taney** wrote that being in a free state did not make a slave free. The Court also ruled that slaves were considered property according to the Constitution. As a result, territories could not exclude slavery—for it would be denying a

person their property. Southerners cheered the decision. They felt that it allowed slavery to be extended into all the western territories.

That year, proslavery forces in Kansas applied for statehood with a constitution allowing slavery. Congress quickly passed a law that required a vote on the new state constitution. Voters in Kansas rejected it. Northerners cheered the outcome, while Southerners criticized it.

1. What did the Supreme Court rule in the *Dred Scott* decision?

Section 4, *continued*

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

(Pages 325–327)

How did Lincoln and Douglas view slavery?

In 1858, Stephen Douglas ran for re-election to the Senate in Illinois. Republican **Abraham Lincoln** ran against him. They held a series of debates about slavery in the territories. Douglas opposed slavery but favored popular sovereignty—each territory’s right to chose. Lincoln also opposed slavery. However, he did not support popular sovereignty. He called slavery “a vast moral evil” and insisted on federal legislation to outlaw slavery.

Their second debate took place in Freeport, Illinois. There, Senator Douglas issued what became known as the **Freeport Doctrine**. It was a call for people in the western territories to get around the *Dred Scott* decision by electing representatives who would not enforce slave property laws.

2. What was the Freeport Doctrine?

PASSIONS IGNITE (Pages 327–328)

What happened at Harpers Ferry?

In 1859, another act of violence over slavery grabbed the nation’s attention. John Brown, a Northern white abolitionist, tried to start a slave rebellion. Brown and a few followers attacked a federal arsenal in **Harpers Ferry**, Virginia. They hoped to steal guns and arm slaves.

Federal soldiers captured Brown. He was convicted of treason and hanged. Many Northerners praised Brown. Southerners attacked his actions and began calling again for secession.

3. Why did John Brown stage a raid on Harpers Ferry?

LINCOLN IS ELECTED PRESIDENT; SOUTHERN SECESSION

(Pages 328–331)

What were the results of the 1860 presidential election?

The Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, won the presidential election of 1860. He received no electoral votes in the South. Lincoln’s victory convinced Southerners that they had lost their political power in the United States. They feared an end to their whole way of life.

As a result, Southern states began to leave the Union. South Carolina seceded on December 20, 1860. By February 1861, six other states followed. They formed the **Confederacy**, or Confederate States of America. They elected **Jefferson Davis** president. What many people had feared—a divided country—had finally happened.

4. What major event led to the secession of Southern states from the Union?
