Fitzgerald

Causes of the Civil War - Anti-Slavery Political Parties Form

**Free Soil Party**

* New political party formed when Wilmot Proviso is blocked
* Two current parties – Democrats and Whigs – were avoiding the issue of slavery
  + New party formed by anti-slavery Democrats and Whigs together
* Goal - all territory gained from Mexican War be “free soil” no slavery

**Formation of Republican Party**

* goal - to stop the spread of slavery into western territories
* northern Democrats and Free Soil Party members joined
* quickly gains power - within months -
  + elected 105 of the 245 seats in the House of Representatives
  + won control of all but two northern state legislatures
* Republican Presidential Candidate of 1856 - John C. Fremont
  + a Californian - chosen to represent the focus on the territories being free
  + won 11 of 16 northern states

**Lincoln-Douglas Debates**

* both running for senator from Illinois
* Lincoln
  + had been a representative in the House
  + a Republican - against ***popular sovereignty***
* Stephen Douglas
  + current senator
  + main Northern supporter of popular sovereignty
* Whole nation followed these debates
  + Thousands attend each
  + newspapers report what each said
* Positions
  + ***Douglas*** defends popular sovereignty - each state should vote to do as it chooses.
  + ***Lincoln*** against popular sovereignty, saying
    - a house divided against itself cannot long stand - Matthew 12:25
    - this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free
    - the country ***will become all one thing or all the other***
    - ***KNOWS NORTHERNERS WILL NOT WANT ALL SLAVE***

**Free Soil Party**

* Current parties – Democrats and Whigs –avoiding issue of slavery
* Anti-slavery from both form new party
* Goal - territory gained from Mexican War - “free soil”

**Formation of Republican Party**

* Democratic Party Splits
* Northern Democrats + Free Soil Party = Republicans
* Goal - Keep slavery out of Western territories
* Gains power fast - within months controls
  + 105 of the 245 seats House
  + All but two northern states legislatures
* Presidential Election 1856 - John C. Fremont ran
  + Californian - represents focus on free territories
  + won 11 of 16 northern states

**Lincoln-Douglas Debates**

* Illinois senator race
* Lincoln - Republican -
  + ***against popular sovereignty***
    - a house divided against itself cannot long stand - Matthew 12:25
    - this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free
    - the country ***will become all one thing or all the other***
* Stephen Douglas (current senator) - Democrat
  + ***defends popular sovereignty*** - each state should vote to do as it chooses current senator
* Whole nation followed debates - 1000s attend, newspapers cover







