

Fitzgerald

Causes of the Civil War - The Final Step

<http://www.civilwarinart.org/exhibits/show/causes/introduction/the-election-of-1860-and-seces>

By 1860, the divisions in the country had reached a breaking point. Southerners were outraged over a plot by abolitionist **John Brown** to start a slave rebellion at **Harpers Ferry**, Virginia, in 1859, an event that garnered headlines in newspapers and magazines across the nation. Northern **Republicans** were equally angered by the recent Supreme Court decision in the case of *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, declaring **free soil** unconstitutional. Northern **Democrats**, meanwhile, struggled to convince Americans that their policy of **popular sovereignty** still made sense.

The presidential **Election of 1860** brought these conflicts to a head with dramatic consequences.

The **Democratic Party** split into three groups along regional lines, each vying for control of the party and each holding different ideas about how to deal with **slavery** in the West. These three camps lined up against **Abraham Lincoln**, the nominee of the **Republican Party**, who advocated that the West be free of slavery entirely. Because Lincoln's opponents were so deeply divided, he won with less than forty percent of the **popular vote** (but with fifty-nine percent of the **Electoral College**) and without taking a single slave state. Although Lincoln's election was fair, it nonetheless pushed the **Deep South** toward **secession**.

South Carolina responded to Lincoln's election first, seceding from the **Union** on December 20, 1860. Other slave states followed in short order: Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. In early February, representatives of those states gathered in Montgomery, Alabama, to found a new nation, **The Confederate States of America** (also known as the **Confederacy**), and to name its president, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi

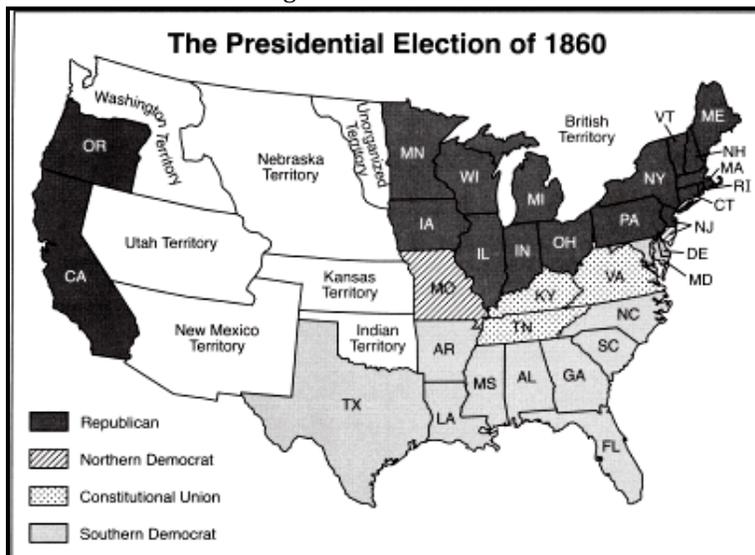
### **Election of 1860**

*Video Clip – Simple Clear Overview* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vna0ile2ogg>

*Video Clip – Crash Course* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roNmeOOJCDY>

*Video Clip – America The Story of Us* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-l8FJShCsE>

- 4 Candidates –
  - **Republicans** choose **Lincoln** as their candidate due to the Lincoln-Douglas Debates – all slave or all free.
  - The Democratic Party's split –
    - **Northern Democrats** choose – **Douglas** for popular sovereignty
    - **Southern Democrats** choose – **Breckenridge** (the V-P) as a moderate pro-slave candidate
  - The **Constitutional Union** Party is created and chooses – **Bell** to support slavery but keep Union
- Results – No one is in middle anymore!
  - Lincoln wins all free states
  - Breckenridge wins all slave states



- Winner – Lincoln due to population

## Secession

- Definition - to secede/secession – to pull out of the Union
- South believes
  - It no longer has a voice in the national government –
    - House – minority due to low population
    - Senate – minority as there are more free states
    - Presidency – candidate can win without one southern vote
  - Republican foundation is hatred of slavery
- South Carolina secedes first, then six more states do: Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana (All the cotton growing states)
  - Other states do not secede until Lincoln calls for troops to put down the rebellion
- Form a new nation – The Confederate States of America