

US History US & Slavery

1. Independence to Civil War

The Birth of America & Slavery

Revolutionary War

13 British Colonies – Declare independence in 1776 / Because of taxes and colonial rights
Win independence at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781

Major question – What to do about slavery?

- African Americans had fought and died in the Revolutionary War
- Thomas Jefferson had tried to outlaw slavery in the Declaration but did not. Why?
- Southern colonies would not have joined if slavery had been outlawed.

America's Early Years

Constitution (1787) – 3/5 Compromise included / slaves count as 3/5 for population and taxation
-Many northern states begin outlawing slavery

Cotton and the South

Cotton Gin (1794) – Invented by Eli Whitney and makes cotton very profitable
-South turns away from other crops (tobacco & sugar) to cotton

Barbados Slave Code – Set of laws making slaves close to animals
-Southern plantation owners control state gov't and pass these laws
-Can be bought, sold, beaten, killed – Considered property
-No permitted to read or write

Thomas Jefferson (1807) – Outlawed the importation of slaves / Might hasten end of slavery

Expansion of Slavery

Westward expansion led to new questions about slavery. Will new states be free or slave states?
-*Missouri Compromise (1820)* – 12 free states and 12 slave states

Industry vs Farming (1820s – 1830s)

- South becomes reliant of slave-based farming while the north has the industrial revolution
- South believed North was becoming an entirely different place with different type of people
- New immigrants from Germany and Ireland in the north enforced this belief

Slavery (1830s)

Fear increases in the South that the nation is turning against slavery. Several events cause this.

Abolitionist Movement – Wants to end slavery and becomes popular in the North
Nat Turner's Rebellion (1831) – Largest slave rebellion in American history in VA
South Carolina tries to secede from the union because of these types of events

Slavery (1840s)

Manifest Destiny – Belief that America is meant to expand west

Slave balance – Oregon territory added as free and Texas added as slave after Mexican American War

Compromise of 1850

CA added as a free state which throws off the free (16) / slave (15) state balance

Fugitive Slave Act – Passed to appease the south after addition of CA

-Southern slave owners can capture escaped slaves living in freedom in the North

-Resulted in northerners becoming more anti-slavery

Underground Railroad

Network of people, African American as well as white, who offered shelter and aid to escaped Slaves

100,000 slaves escaped to freedom by 1860 / each one valued at \$30,000 - \$40,000 in 1850

Harriet Tubman – famous conductor / helped over 300 slaves escape without losing one person

Abolitionism Turns Violent

Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) – Allowed slavery in both states through popular vote / led to violence between pro and anti-slavery groups

John Brown's Raid (1859) – Brown (radical abolitionist) attempted to capture a federal arsenal to start a rebellion to end slavery in America.

Election of 1860

Abraham Lincoln (Republican)

-Wins presidency with less than 40% of the popular vote

-Was not on the ballot in several southern states and did not receive any votes

-Won because of much larger population in the north

South Carolina – Seceded from the Union in Dec. 1860 / Considered Lincoln an abolitionist

Civil War (1861-1865)

11 Southern states secede – Confederate States of America

20 Free States (North) and 4 slave states (Border States) – The Union

The Union wins

Civil War Legislation

Emancipation Proclamation (1862) – Lincoln issued a military order freeing all slaves in rebellious states
Confederates States had their own president and did not listen

13th Amendment (1865) – Congress officially outlawed slavery in the Constitution

The South will have to outlaw slavery to reenter the United States of America