The Road to the Civil War

Unit 2
I. Economic Factors
A. Industry in the North

1. During the colonial era, the New England colonies depended on trade, manufacturing, and shipping.

2. The Industrial Revolution in the US brought large-scale production, factories, and advanced forms of manufacturing to the North.

3. A market economy developed in the North with manufacturing and small-scale agriculture.
B. Agriculture in the South

1. The South continued to grow as an agricultural power.

2. Southerners relied heavily on slave labor. Even as the North began to abolish slavery, the enslaved population increased to over 1.5 million by 1820.
C. Eli Whitney’s Cotton Gin

1. **Eli Whitney’s cotton gin** made it easier to produce cotton more profitably.

2. The emergence of a Cotton Kingdom in the South led to an increased need for slave labor, causing an expansion of slavery.
D. Dependency on Slavery

1. Many Americans believed that their economic prosperity rested on the institution of slavery.

2. The South needed slave labor for their cotton production, and the North needed Southern cotton for their textile mills.
II. Territorial Expansion
A. The Missouri Compromise

1. The North and South disagreed on whether Missouri should be added as a free state or slave state.

2. Under the Missouri Compromise, Maine was added as a free state and Missouri as a slave state.

3. The rest of the Louisiana Territory was split at the 36°30’ line. Slavery was banned north of this line.
B. Texan Independence

1. Americans moved into Mexican Texas in the 1820s. They were mostly southern slave owners.

2. Texas won independence from Mexico in 1836 and became the Republic of Texas.

3. The US annexed Texas in 1845 and treated Mexicans like second-class citizens.
C. Mexican-American War

1. The Mexican-American War was fought from 1846-1848 over the boundary between Texas and Mexico.

2. Northerners opposed the war, thinking it was an attempt to extend slavery.

D. Compromise of 1850

1. Under the Compromise of 1850, Congress decided that California would be admitted as a free state.

2. The rest of the Mexican Cession territory had popular sovereignty, so they could decide if they would allow slavery or not.

3. This undid the Missouri Compromise.
E. Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854

1. Senator Stephen Douglas wanted popular sovereignty to decide if slavery would be allowed in the Nebraska Territory.

2. This land was north of the 36°30’ line.

3. The Kansas-Nebraska Act narrowly passed in Congress. It repealed the Missouri Compromise and established popular sovereignty for Kansas and Nebraska.
III. States’ Rights and Sectionalism
A. Sectionalism

1. **Sectionalism** is the excessive regard for sectional or local interests; regional or local spirit, prejudice, etc.

2. The North considered the national government to be necessary, but the South thought it was too powerful.

3. Southerners were proponents of states’ rights.
B. Tariffs Create Problems

1. High tariffs created a conflict between state and federal power.

2. High tariffs protected Northern manufacturers but made Southerners have to pay more for goods.
C. Nullification Crisis

1. John C. Calhoun developed the idea of **nullification**.

2. South Carolina passed a law nullifying the tariff.

3. Congress eased tension by lowering tariffs, but **Southern distrust of the federal government** got worse.
D. Popular Sovereignty

1. Popular sovereignty gave states the right to vote to decide whether to have slavery.

2. While this was considered a victory for states’ rights, it only added to the conflicts over the expansion of slavery.
IV. The Issue of Slavery
A. Abolitionist Movement

1. Abolitionists sought the gradual or immediate end to slavery.

2. They tended to focus on the moral issues of slavery.

3. This movement took place during an age of reform following a Second Great Awakening.
B. Abolitionists

1. William Lloyd Garrison was a white abolitionist and author of *The Liberator*. He founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society.

2. Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave and became an outspoken and eloquent critic of slavery.
C. The Fugitive Slave Act

1. The Fugitive Slave Act stated that fugitive slaves were not entitled to a trial by jury. Anyone convicted of helping a fugitive could be fined $1000 and imprisoned for six months.

2. Northern abolitionists opposed this act.
1. Harriet Tubman was an escaped slave. She became an abolitionist and acted as a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad.

2. The Underground Railroad helped as many as 100,000 fugitive slaves escape to the North and Canada from 1810-1850.
E. *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

1. Harriet Beecher Stowe’s book *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* brought the horrors of slavery into the homes of many Americans.

2. This book inspired Northern abolitionists to increase their protests against slavery and the *Fugitive Slave Act*.

3. The book was banned in the South.
V. Conflicts and Uprisings
A. Nat Turner’s Rebellion

1. 50 slaves, led by Nat Turner, attacked the plantations killing 60 white people.

2. Slaves were executed and restrictions on slaves tightened.
B. “Bleeding Kansas”

1. Missourians crossed into Kansas, voted illegally, and won a fraudulent majority for the proslavery candidates. They set up a government in Lecompton.

2. Abolitionists started their own government in Topeka.

3. Bloody violence erupted in Kansas and spread to the US Senate.
C. The Dred Scott Decision

1. Slave Dred Scott was taken from Missouri to Illinois to Wisconsin with his master to live for years.

2. He sued, saying he cannot be a slave in a free state.

3. The Supreme Court ruled that since he was not a citizen, he couldn’t sue. Dred Scott was the property of his master and thus a slave.
D. John Brown's Raid

1. John Brown wanted slaves to join a revolution to end slavery in the South.

2. He planned a successful attempt to seize arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

3. He was charged with treason and murder and was hung. After his death, John Brown became an anti slavery hero.
VI. Politics
A. New Political Parties Emerge

1. The **Democratic Party** was made up of common men. Democrats were primarily pro-slavery Southerners.

2. The **Republican Party** opposed the expansion of slavery. The party was made up of abolitionists, “free soilers,” businessmen, and opponents of the Fugitive Slave Act.
B. Lincoln-Douglas Debates

1. The 1858 Senate race in Illinois was between Republican Abraham Lincoln and Democrat Stephen Douglas.

2. Douglas won the election, but the Lincoln-Douglas debates highlighted the slavery issue and helped Lincoln gain attention.
C. Election of 1860

1. Lincoln was the Republican candidate. He objected to slavery and saw the West as a land of opportunity for free white men.

2. Democrats were split because of slavery.

3. Lincoln won.
D. Secession

1. South Carolina became the first state to secede in December 1860.

2.11 Southern states seceded and formed the Confederate States of America. The Confederacy stressed the independence of each state and protected slavery.