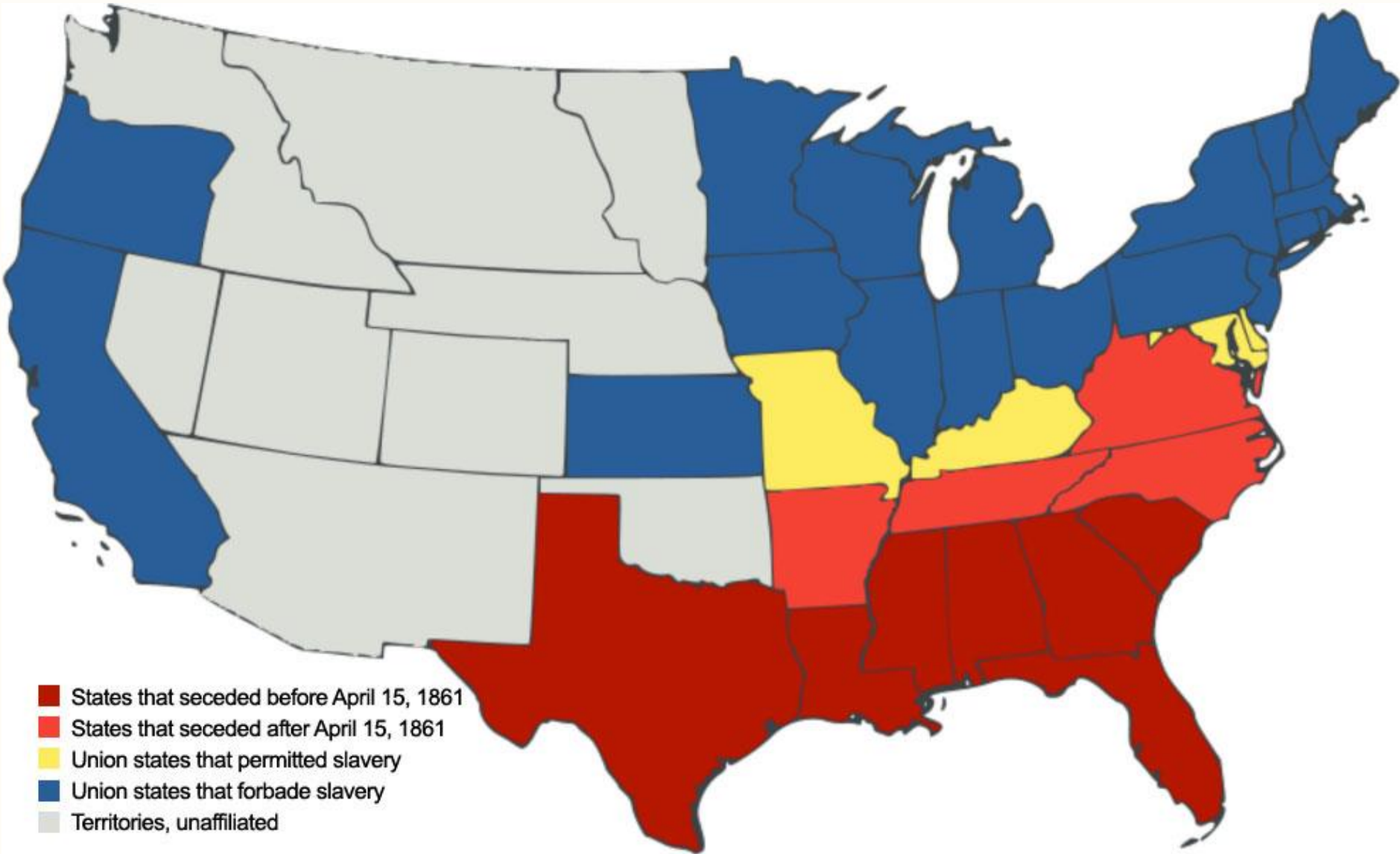
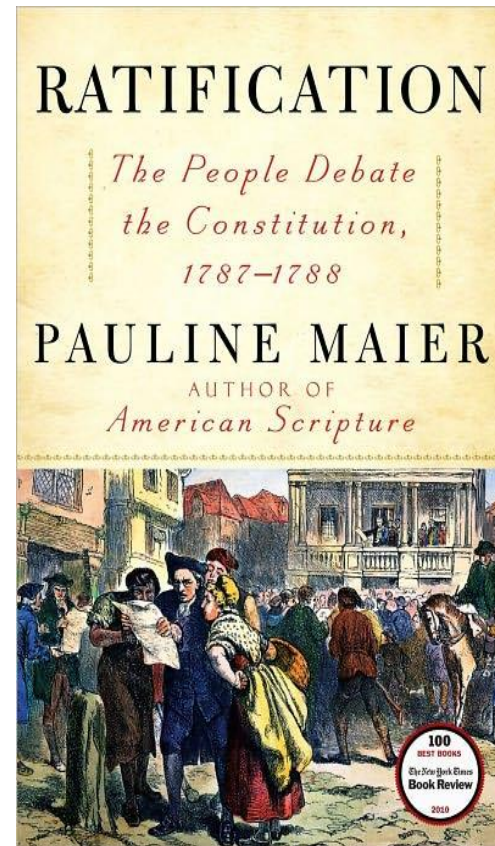


HOW DID COMPETING  
VISIONS LEAD AMERICA  
INTO A CIVIL WAR?



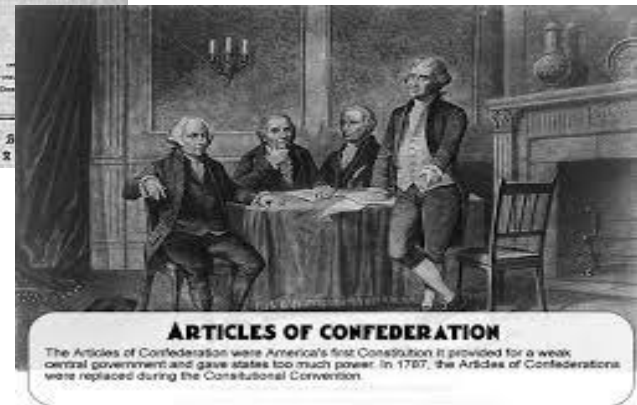
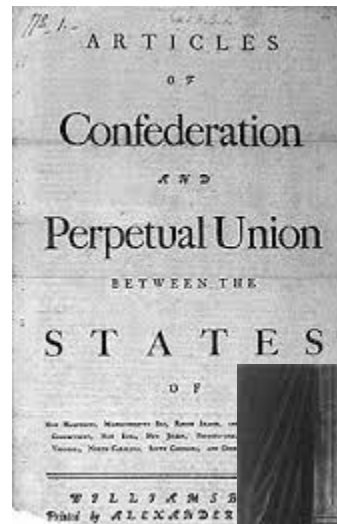
# What Caused the American Revolution (1775-1783)?

- [Pauline Maier](#)



## 1777-81: The Articles of Confederation

- After considerable debate and alteration, the **Articles of Confederation** were adopted by the Continental Congress on November 15, 1777. This document served as the United States' first constitution, and was in force from March 1, 1781, until 1789 when the present day Constitution went into effect.
- They were a necessity for co-operation against the British in the War of Independence.
- [The Articles of Confederation in One Minute](#)



## 1787-91: The Constitution and Bill of Rights

- The *U.S. Constitution* established America's national government and fundamental laws, and guaranteed certain basic rights for its citizens.
- The *Constitution* is the supreme law of the land in the *United States*.
- It provides a system of checks and balances in government to ensure no interest dominates another.
- A Bill of Rights was considered important by some to enshrine personal and state liberties.
- Why wasn't the Bill of Rights in the original Constitution?



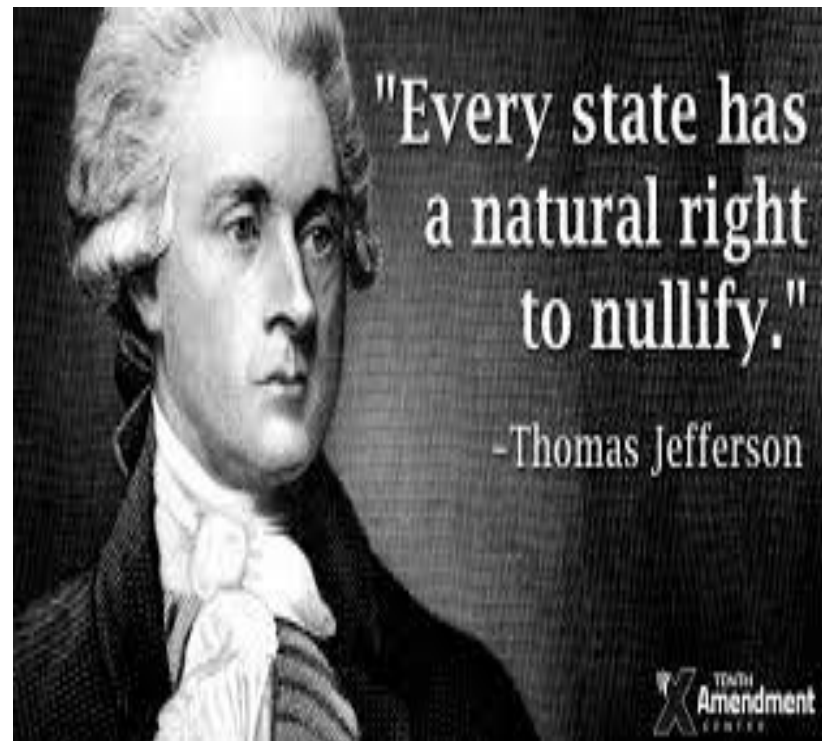
## 1792-1800: The First Party System

- Debate centred on visions of the power of the Federal government.
- Hamilton v Jefferson.
- Federalists v Republicans.
- The idea of a National Bank was greatly contested.
- What did Jefferson think about American Freedom? Peter Onuf



## The Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions: 1798-1799

- Response by Jeffersonian Republicans to the Alien and Sedition Acts.
- Suggested that states should have the power within their territory to nullify federal law.
- Stated that federal government had no right to exercise powers not specifically delegated to it.
- [The Principles of '98](#)



## Supreme Court Decisions in the 1810s

- Under Chief Justice Marshall the Supreme Court demonstrates its power as an equal partner in the Constitution.
- In a series of decisions the Court rules that the federal government can override state laws.
- Once again, the idea of a National Bank is a key issue.
- [McCulloch v Maryland](#)





## 1820: Missouri Compromise

As the USA begins to grow a decision is made to allow slavery only in the South of the country. All states in the North must be free states and all states in the South can be slave holding ones.

All territories in the West are declared free. This means slave owners cannot take their slaves there. This allows small farmers to settle these lands instead.

### The Missouri Compromise



Map 9-3  
America: A Concise History, Third Edition  
© 2006 Bedford/St. Martin's

## The Presidential Elections of 1824 and 1828

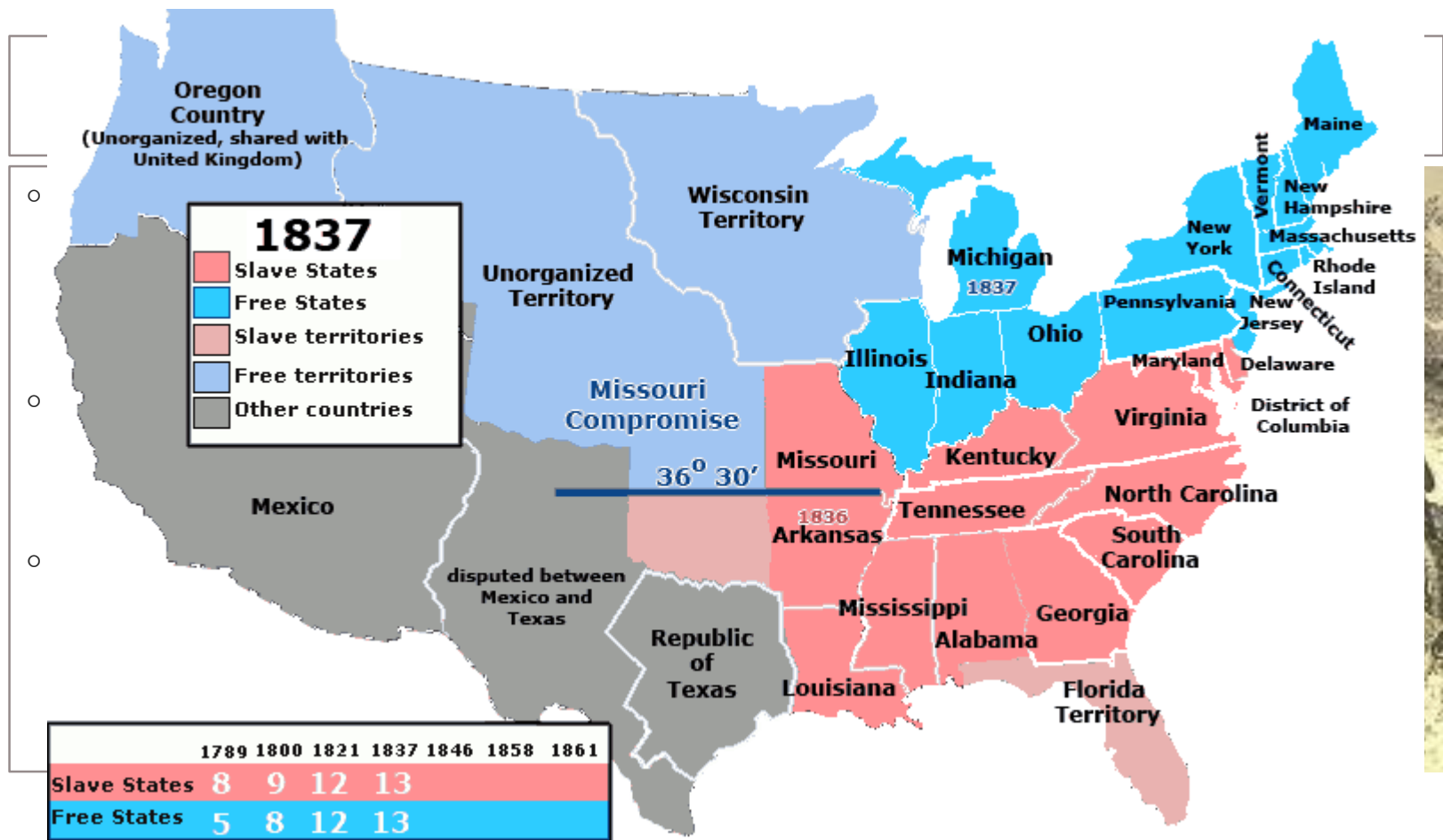
- 1824 – John Quincy Adams and the Corrupt Bargain.
- Vision here provided by Henry Clay and his ‘American System’.
- 1828 – Andrew Jackson beats John Quincy Adams. Different view – pro liberty of states (as seen in argument over National Bank).
- Though takes different tack in Nullification Crisis.
- Whigs v Democrats
- [John Quincy Adams](#)
- [Andrew Jackson](#)



## The Nullification Crisis: 1832-3

- Tariffs (taxes on trade) were the issue!
- But in reality the argument was all about States' Rights.
- Southern spokesman John C Calhoun articulates Nullification brilliantly. His state, South Carolina, threatens to secede.
- Sets up clash with Andrew Jackson.
- Henry Clay saves the day.
- The Tariff of Abominations





Oregon Country  
(Unorganized, shared with United Kingdom)

Wisconsin Territory

Unorganized Territory

Missouri Compromise

Mexico

disputed between Mexico and Texas

Republic of Texas

36° 30'

Missouri

Arkansas

Mississippi

Louisiana

Michigan

Illinois

Indiana

Kentucky

Tennessee

Alabama

Georgia

Florida Territory

Ohio

Pennsylvania

Maryland

Virginia

North Carolina

South Carolina

Georgia

Florida Territory

New York

New Jersey

Delaware

District of Columbia

Connecticut

Rhode Island

Massachusetts

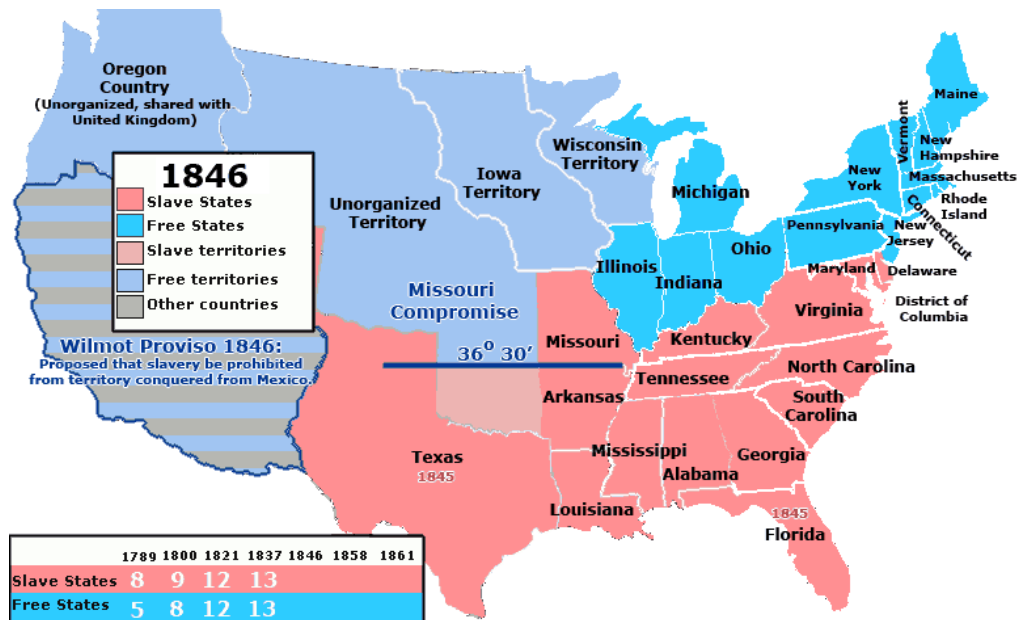
New Hampshire

Vermont

Maine

## 1840-50: Movement to the Far West and Texas

- Slavery grew into Texas and profits from cotton continued to rise. Northern factories made money from this too.
- The Far West became a place for white settlers to go and set up their own farms. Slavery was banned here.
- Slavers worried about the balance of power!
- [The Wilmot Proviso](#)



## The Compromises of 1850

Clay's Compromise said:

1. California should join the USA as a free state & the slave trade in Washington DC should be outlawed.
2. A new Fugitive Slave Act should be brought in to make it the legal duty of all states and the national government to return escaped slaves to their holders.

[1850 Compromise](#)



## The Kansas-Nebraska Crisis 1854-56

1854: Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed Territories like Kansas to decide by voting if they wanted to be free or slave states.

1854-56: Missouri slavers cheated the vote to make sure Kansas would be a slave state.

1856: Abolitionist John Brown led a fight-back.

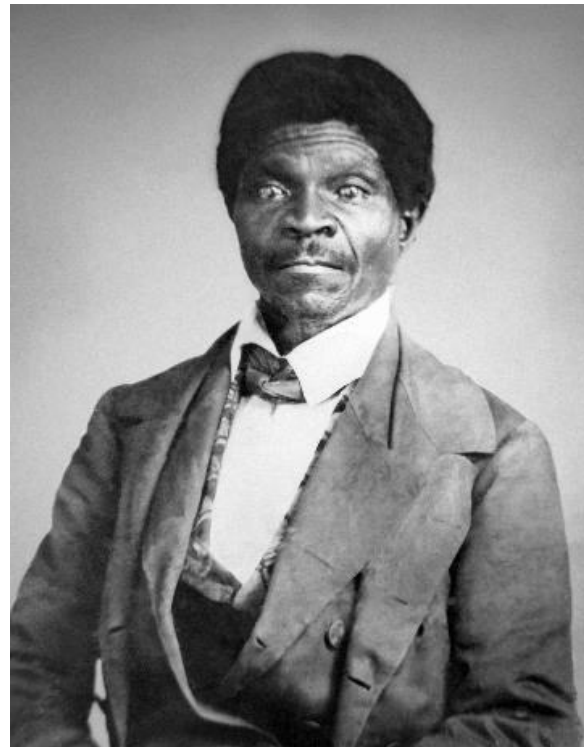
[How One Piece of Legislation Divided a Nation](#)



## 1857: The Dred Scott Case

The Supreme Court said that slavers could take their slaves anywhere they liked in the USA and that black people had no rights at all.

[Dred Scott for kids](#)  
[cartoon](#)



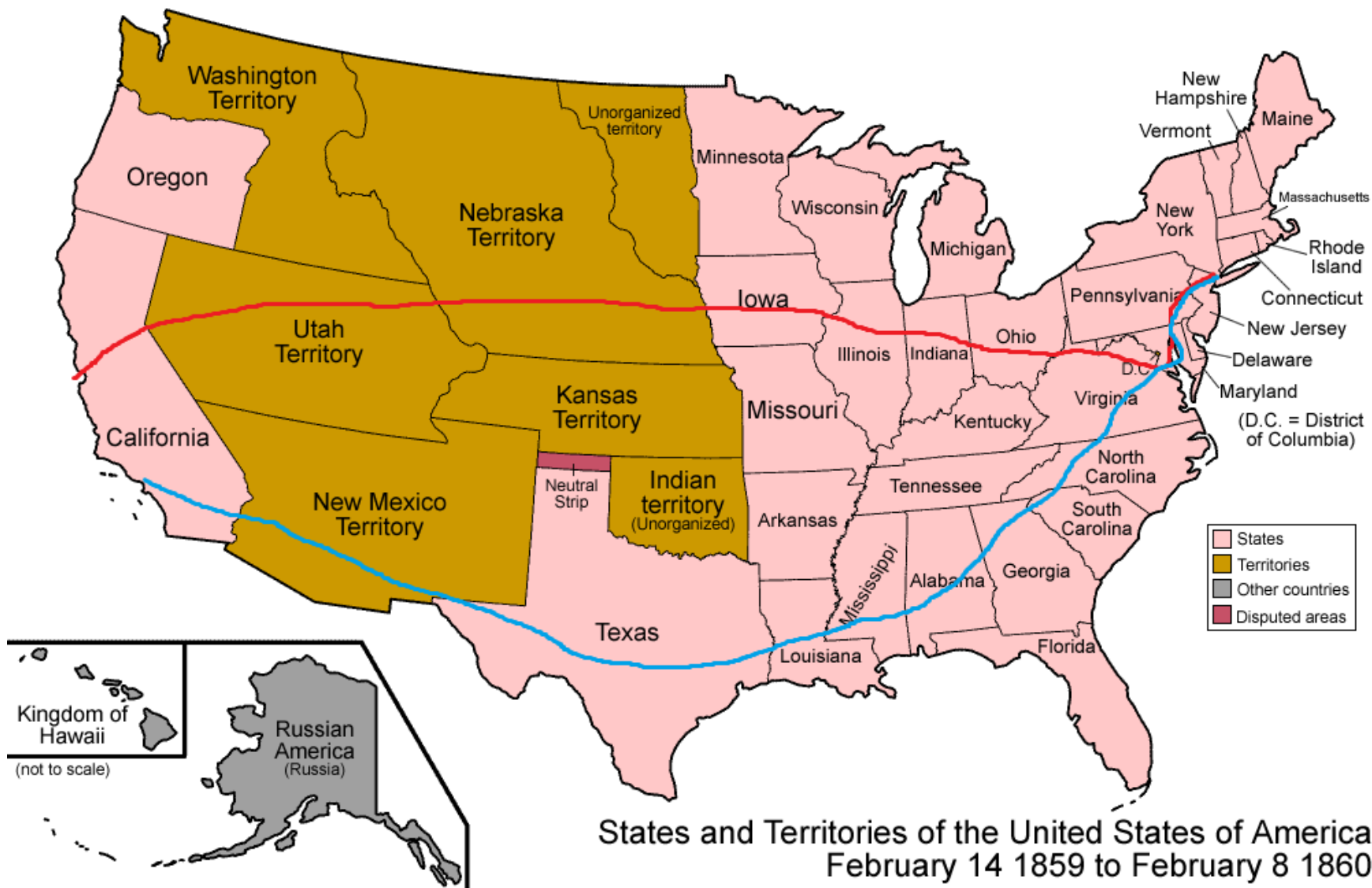


## 1859: John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry

At his trial Brown said “[I am happy to] mingle my blood...with the blood of millions in this slave country whose rights are disregarded...[for I] am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but with blood.

[Who is John Brown?](#)





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## 1864: Presidential Election

- Lincoln V McLellan
- Impact of Gettysburg
- Emancipation Proclamation 1863 – a real change.
- Note that balance still to be struck between powers of states and federal government.
- The Emancipation Proclamation

