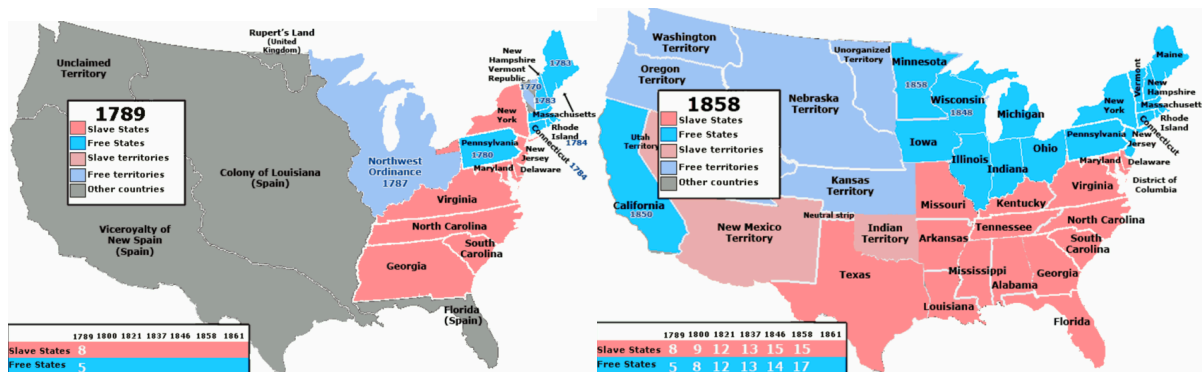


G. Abolitionism and the Rejection of Compromise

1. Once America became secure as an independent country, more and more Americans refused to allow slavery to be normal anymore. They became abolitionists.
2. *Abolitionism* was the name of the idea that slavery is wrong, and should be *abolished*.
3. One of the most famous abolitionists was William Lloyd Garrison of Massachusetts, who started a newspaper called the *Liberator*.
4. In a famous speech that he gave, Garrison explained that the *Declaration of Independence* was more important than the Constitution. “I am a believer in that portion of the Declaration of American Independence, . . . that all men are created equal . . . with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Hence, I am an abolitionist.”
5. Another great abolitionist was Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave.
6. Douglass gave a speech entitled “*What, to the Slave, is the 4th of July*” in which he explained that Americans should not celebrate their own freedom without giving it to the slaves as well.
7. The abolitionists struggled to convince people that something *normal* could also be *wrong*, but because of their efforts, America moved towards a *Civil War*.



The original mix of five free states to eight slave states became seventeen to fifteen by the time of the *Civil War*, but that was still not enough to change the Constitution.

H. The Civil War (1861-5)

1. The *Civil War* started because of the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860.
2. Lincoln was an abolitionist. He called slavery a “monstrous injustice.”
3. South Carolina led a group of states in a *secession* (to “secede” means to leave a country) and they formed the “Confederate States of America” (or the “Confederacy,” for short). The constitution of this new group of states defended slavery.

4. In early 1861, Ft. Sumter (a fort in South Carolina belonging to the federal government) was bombarded by southern forces. This triggered the war itself.
5. During the war, president Lincoln announced that "all persons held as slaves within any State...the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." This *Emancipation Proclamation* of 1863 began the process of freeing the slaves. ("Emancipation" means *giving freedom*.)
6. The war continued until 1865, when the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered to the Union commander Ulysses S. Grant.
7. The war was over, but just five days later, Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed by a Southerner, John Wilkes Booth, while attending a play.
8. The country would have to be rebuilt without the president who had led the cause of Union through the war.

