Presidents Taylor and Fillmore, 1849-1852

*Election of 1848 *Compromise of 1850 *Fugitive Slave Law *Uncle Tom's Cabin

Traditional party candidates



Democratic candidates Lewis Cass and William O. Butler

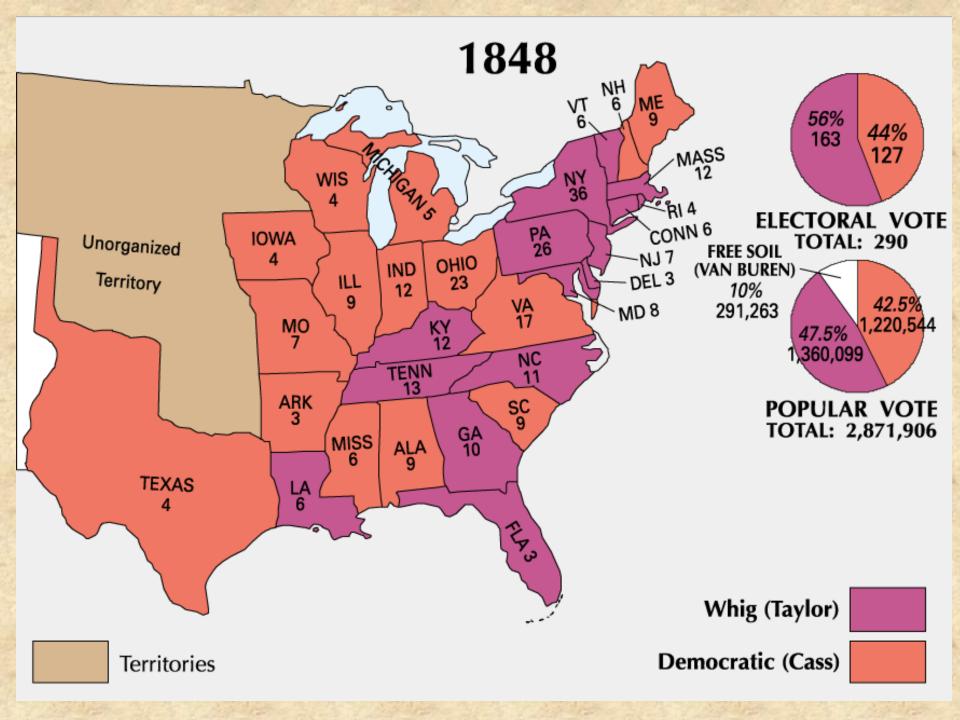


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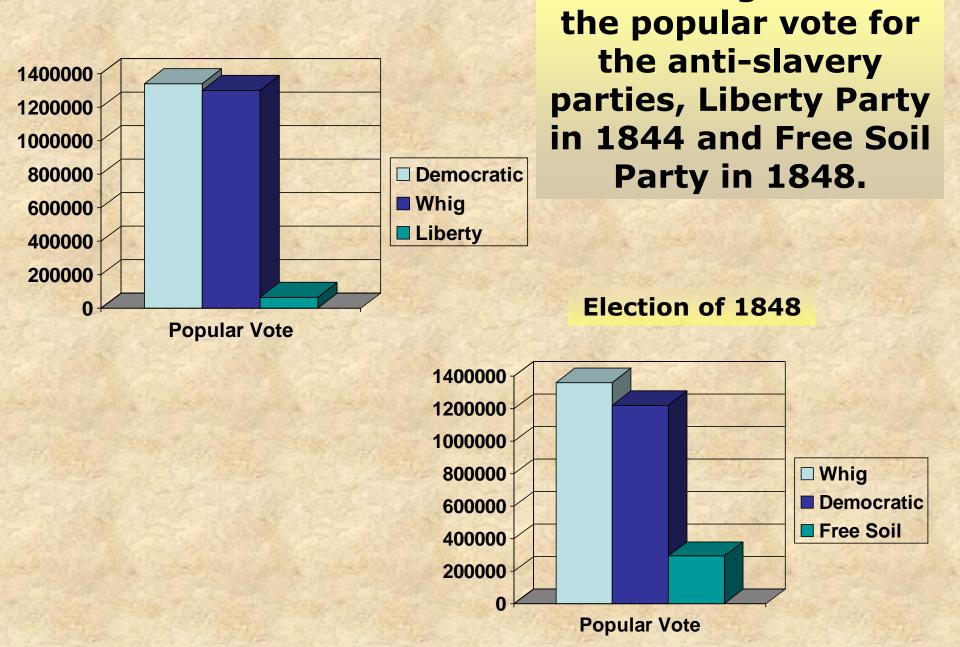
Whig candidates Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore



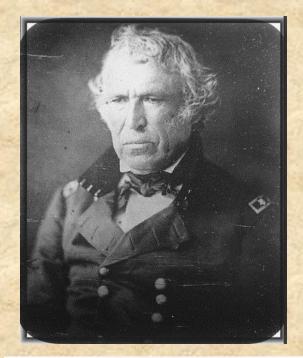
COCK OF THE WALK.



Election of 1844



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President Zachary Taylor





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President and Mrs. Zachary Taylor

Zachary Taylor's presidency

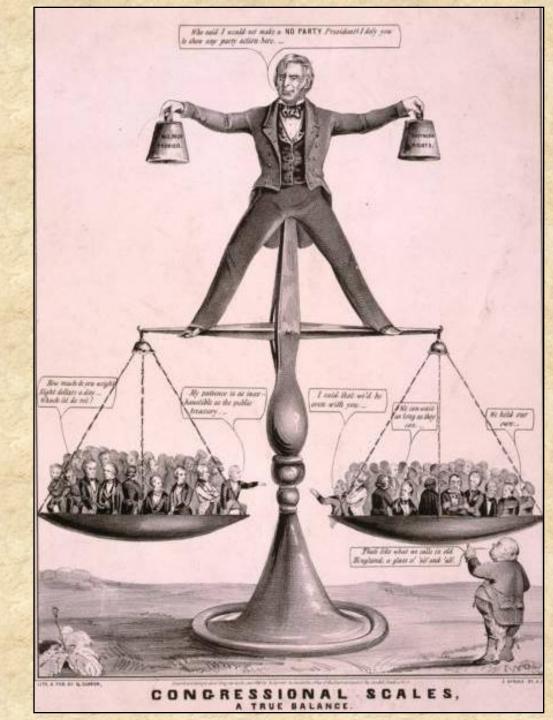
Almost immediately he had to deal with the admission of California into the union as a free state. California's population expanded rapidly due to the discovery of gold in 1848.

Taylor, a slave owner, took an anti-slavery stance when he encouraged California to come into the Union knowing they would be a free state.

Several Southern states threatened to secede (leave) from the U.S. over the admission of another free state.

President Taylor held a conference with southern leaders who threatened secession. He told them if it was necessary to enforce the laws, he personally would lead the Army and hang anyone who rebelled against the Union.

He died suddenly in July 1850 after serving only 16 months in office. Millard Fillmore became president.



Political cartoon from 1850 shows President Taylor's attempts to balance southern and northern interests on the question of slavery.

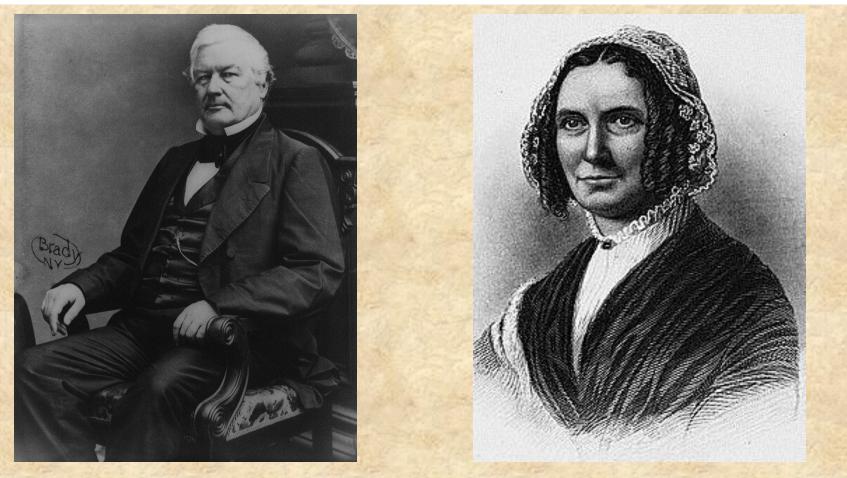
Taylor stands on a pair of scales of congressional members, with antislavery advocates on the left, proslavery southerners on the right.

President Zachary Taylor died July 9, 1850



Millard Fillmore became the 13th president

During his Presidency he dealt with the Compromise of 1850, which he supported, and the opening of diplomatic and commercial relations with Japan.



A BILL

Γο admit California into the Union of the United States of North America.

Whereas, it is self-evident to all that are acquainted with the institutions of the United States of North America, that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land; and a law made by a municipal body, or a State, or otherwise under it, that conflicts with the Constitution of the United States, *is null and void*: and whereas, the Constitution says, *new* States may be admitted into the Union by adopting a Republican Constitution and applying for admission, it is evident when so admitted, it is to be governed by the Constitution of the United States, notwithstanding any State or municipal law to the contrary, which may be in existence, that conflicts with the aforesaid Constitution. Therefore, California having adopted a Republican Constitution, and applied to be admitted into the Union as aforesaid—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre sentatives of the United States of America in Congress
 assembled, That California be, and is hereby, admitted
 into the Union of the United States, with all the rights,
 privileges, and immunities, guarantied by the Constitution
 of the United States to each State.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Sena tors and representatives sent here by California be, and
 are hereby, admitted to seats in Congress, on an equality
 with the other members of the American Congress.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That California,
 as admitted into the Union, shall be known as "the State
 of West California."

MOTTO. — Trust in God—Know you are right—then go ahead.

By 1850 sectional disagreements over slavery was threatening the union.

This tension became a major issue when Congress considered whether western lands acquired after the Mexican War would permit slavery.

In 1849, California requested permission to enter the Union as a free state, which would destroy the balance between the number of congressional members from slave and free states that had existed since the Missouri Compromise of 1820.

Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky proposed legislation to appeal to nationally-minded senators who would vote for keeping the nation together.

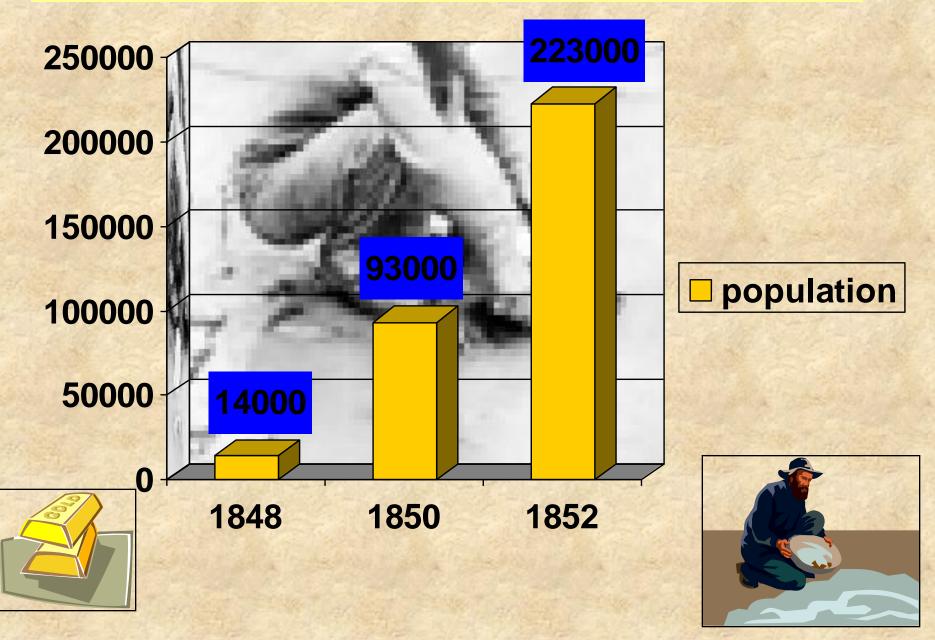
In one of the most famous congressional debates in American history, the Senate discussed Clay's solution for 7 months.

Initially voted down until Senator Douglas of Illinois stepped forward with substitute bills, which passed both Houses, known as the Compromise of 1850.

If California entered into the Union as a free state, it would upset the balance between free and slave states.

State	year admitted	total slave states	total free states
Ohio	1803		9
Louisiana	1812	9	
Indiana	1816		10
Mississippi	1817	10	
Illinois	1818		11
Alabama	1819	11	
Maine	1820		12
Missouri	1821	12	
Arkansas	1836	13	
Michigan	1837		13
Florida	1845	14	
Texas	1845	15	
lowa	1846		14
Wisconsin	1848		15
California	1850		16

California population growth



Issues raised by the debate over the Compromise of 1850

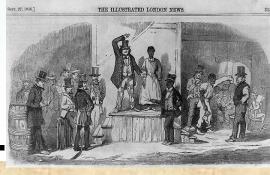
1. How would the issue of slavery be resolved in the new territories taken from Mexico?

2. California petitioned Congress to enter the Union as a free state. This would upset the Missouri Compromise, the balance between slave states and free states.

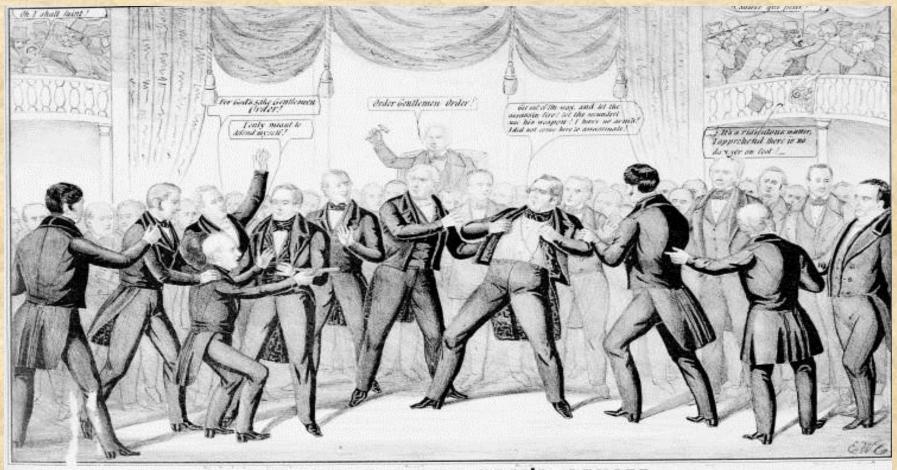


3. There was a dispute over land: Texas claimed that its territory extended all the way to Santa Fe.

4. The nation's capital Washington, D.C. was home to the largest slave market in North America and many wanted it stopped.



During the heated debate in the Senate over the admission of California, Mississippi Senator Foote drew a pistol on Benton of Missouri. In the cartoon Benton (center) throws open his coat and defiantly states, "Get out of the way, and let the assassin fire! Let the scoundrel use his weapon! I have no arms! I did not come here to assassinate!" Foote, restrained from behind by South Carolina's Butler and calmed by Dickinson of New York (to whom he later handed over the pistol), still aims his weapon at Benton saying, "I only meant to defend myself!"

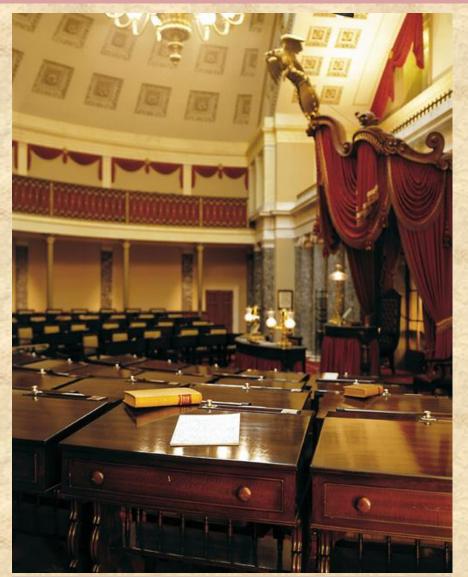


SCENE IN UNCLE SAM'S SENATE.

Senator Henry Clay presenting the Compromise of 1850



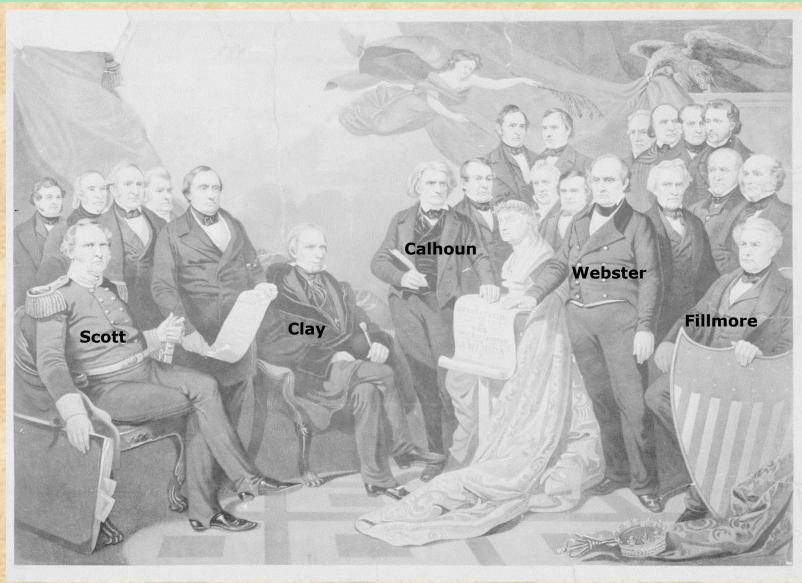
The Compromise of 1850 had five sections

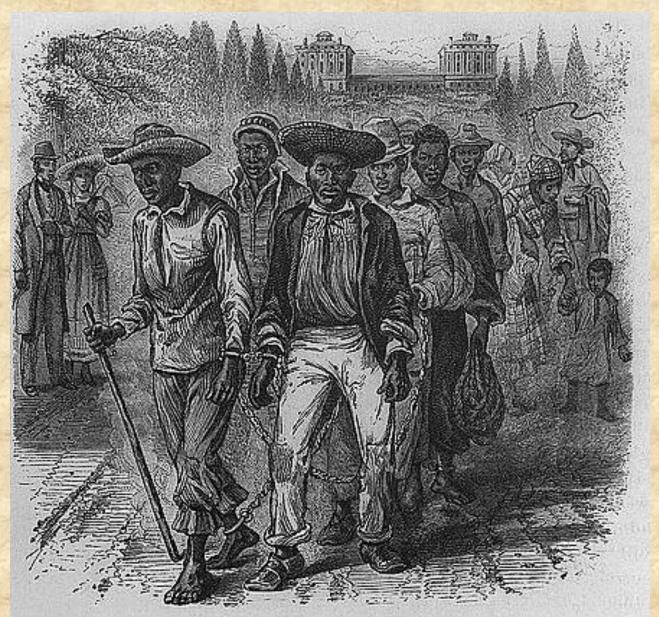


Old Senate chambers where debate took place

- 1. The territories of New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah would be organized without mention of slavery. The decision would be made when they applied for statehood.
- California would be admitted as a free state.
 Texas would relinquish the land in dispute but, in compensation, given \$10 million to pay its debt to Mexico.
- 4.The slave trade would be abolished in Washington D.C., although slavery would still be permitted.
 5. Fugitive Slave Law.

A symbolic group portrait displaying major members involved in the Compromise of 1850





A Slave-Coffle passing the Capitol.

The Compromise of 1850 outlawed slave auctions in Washington D.C. Drawing shows chained slaves on their way to be sold.

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The Fugitive Slave Law

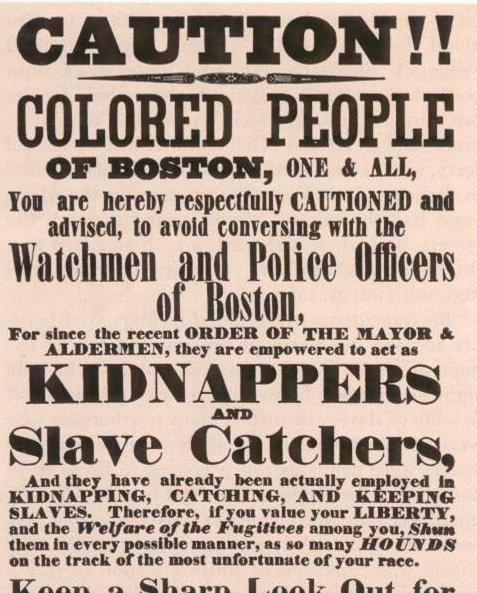
Sederal commissioners were appointed and given authority to issue warrants, gather possessions, and *force citizens* to help catch runaway slaves under penalty of a fine or imprisonment.

Accused runaways were denied both a jury trial and the right to testify in their own behalf. They could be sent to the south on the basis of a supposed owner's affidavit.

Also working against the freedom of the accused (runaway or free) was the fee paid to commissioners in each case: they received ten dollars for returning the fugitive to the claimant, five dollars if they freed the person.

A slave owner or catcher could seize a black person who fit the description of the runaway and bring him/her before a federal judge. The judge decided the identity of the fugitive, based entirely on the testimony of the slave owner or catcher.

Any U.S. marshal who refused to act under the law was fined \$1,000, and any person "obstructing arrest of [said] fugitive, harboring fugitives, or concealing them" was fined up to \$1,000 and could serve up to six months in prison.



Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open. APRIL 24, 1851. Protests and political action against the Fugitive Slave Law

Several Northern states passed additional "personal liberty" laws designed to counter the Fugitive Slave Law. Anti-Fugitive Slave Law print shows a group of four black men ambushed by a posse of six armed whites. The Bible and Declaration of Independence are quoted at the bottom to underscore the injustice of the law.

Hely Bible

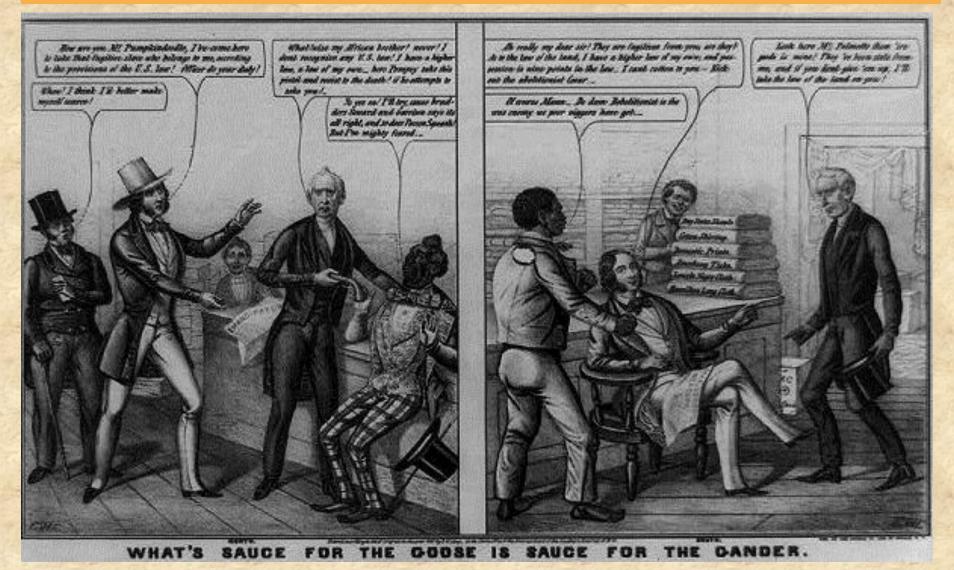
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Declaration of independence .

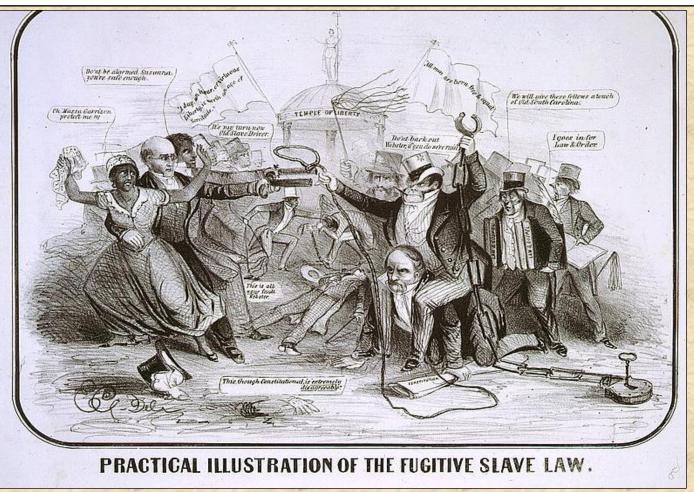
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Pro-slavery cartoon on Fugitive Slave Law compared a "stolen" slave with stolen property from a northern mill. Slavery advocates justified that slaves were their property just as products in a factory were owned by the mill owner.



A satire on the antagonism between northern abolitionists, and Secretary of State Webster and other supporters of enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act. Abolitionist Garrison (left) holds a slave woman in one arm saying to her, "Don't be alarmed Susanna you're safe enough" and points a pistol toward a slave catcher mounted on the back of Webster who is holding the constitution. Behind Garrison a black man also aims a pistol toward the group on the right, while another seizes a slaveholder by the hair to whip him saying, "It's my turn now Old Slave Driver." The slave catcher, holding a noose and manacles, says "Don't back out Webster, if you do we're ruind", is expensively dressed, and represents the federal commissioners authorized and paid by the act to apprehend and return fugitive slaves to their owners. In the background is a Temple of Liberty flying two flags, one reading "A day, an hour, of virtuous Liberty, is worth an age of Servitude" and the other, "All men are born free & equal".



Uncle Tom's Cabin

Harriet Beecher Stowe's fictional account of slavery was first published in 1851 as a weekly serial in an antislavery newspaper. It was meant to point out the evils of slavery to sway public opinion in the North.

> "The object of these sketches is to awaken sympathy and feeling for the African race, as they exist among us; to show their wrongs and sorrows, under a system so necessarily cruel and unjust as to defeat and do away the good effects of all that can be attempted for them, by their best friends, under it."

Harriet Beecher Stowe, from the preface of the first edition

Stowe was raised by an abolitionist family. While living in Cincinnati, Ohio she witnessed the plight of slaves fleeing from Kentucky. Offended by the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, she decided to write a novel to reveal the truth about slavery.

In the last chapter, she explained that she wrote the book when she heard good, religious people in the North debating whether or not it was their duty to return fugitive slaves. She thought to herself, "These men and Christians cannot know what slavery is; if they did, such a question could never be open for discussion. And from this arose a desire to exhibit it in a living dramatic reality."





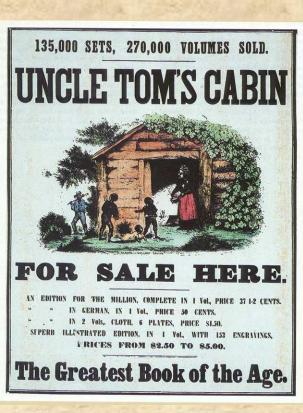






Published in book form on March 20, 1852. Within two years <u>Uncle Tom's Cabin</u> sold 2,000,000 copies worldwide. Performances of a play based on the novel drew hundreds of thousands. For many northerners with no personal experience of slavery, the novel personalized it. Most white southerners denounced the book as an inaccurate and unfair portrayal of their "peculiar institution." At least 25 pro-slavery and "Anti-Tom" novels were published between 1852 and 1861.

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH THOUSAND. BOSTON: JOHN P. JEWETT & COMPANY CLEVELAND, OHIO: JEWETT, FROCTOR & WORTHINGTON. 1852.