

Road to War

SS8H6 The student will **analyze** the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Georgia.

a. **Explain** the importance of key issues and events that led to the Civil War; include slavery, states' rights, nullification, Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850 and the Georgia Platform, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott case, election of 1860, the debate over secession in Georgia, and the role of Alexander Stephens.

Essential Question: How were slavery, states' rights, nullification, the Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850, the Georgia Platform, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Dred Scott case, the election of 1860, Georgia's secession debate, and the role of Alexander Stephens important key issues and events that led to the Civil War (War Between the States)?

1. Slavery as an issue
 - a. Southerners
 - i. Wanted cheap labor for the harvesting of cotton, tobacco and rice (especially cotton)
 - ii. Southerners resented the idea that slaves were mistreated
 - b. Northerners
 - i. Some northerners wanted "abolition" of slavery because it kept the wages for labor low.
 - ii. Others such as Abraham Lincoln wanted an end to slavery because it was moral issue (wrong) to own slaves
 - iii. Others in the north and some in the south sited the mistreatment of slaves by their masters as reason for abolition such as Harriet Beecher Stowe who wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
2. State's Rights
 - a. Since the U.S. government was federal form of government many (especially southerners) believed that states had equal power to the central government in Washington
 - b. Some believed that the states should have more power than the central government
 - c. Others disagreed saying the federal government had more power than the states.
3. Nullification Crisis
 - a. The Tariff of 1828 placed a 50% tax on goods coming into the country (imports)
 - i. This hurt the Southern farmer increasing the price of goods
 - ii. Britain placed a tax on cotton hurting the export of cotton to Britain; once again hurting the Southern farmer
 - b. South Carolina passed a Ordinance of Nullification 1832 that said that a state could nullify (declare no longer binding or legal) the tax law
 - c. President Andrew Jackson signed a Force Bill to use military action against South Carolina to force them to pay the tariff
 - d. Henry Clay worked out a compromise to keep South Carolina from going to war with the US Army
 - e. Georgia did not pass a nullification bill because of its respect and admiration of President Andrew Jackson
4. Missouri Compromise
 - a. the Issue : Missouri coming in as a slave state would tip the balance of power in the US Senate to the slave states having the more power
 - b. The Compromise (Written by Henry Clay of Kentucky)
 - i. Missouri came in the Union as a slave state; Maine would come in the Union as free to balance the power
 - ii. 36° 30' latitude line (the Southern border of Missouri and Northern Arkansas became the dividing line between slave states and free; there could be not more slave states north of this line
 - iii. Significance
 1. Made slavery an issue in America
 2. Divided the country between slave and free
5. The Compromise of 1850
 - a. California as a result of the 1849 gold rush was applying for statehood; South opposed it because they would come in as free.
 - b. In the compromise it was agreed the people could decide free or slave: Popular Sovereignty
 - c. The compromise closed the slave markets in the District of Columbia.
 - d. Fugitive Slave Law placed in the hands of federal marshals and judges the capture and return of runaway slaves creating an open hunting seasons all blacks in the north.
6. Georgia Platform said that Georgia would stay in the Union as long as US government supported the **Fugitive Slave Act**.

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7. Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - a. Illinois Central Railroad wanted to lay tracks west toward California this would go through the Kansas Territory.
 - b. Stephen Douglas, Illinois Senator pushed through the bill allowing for Popular Sovereignty letting the people decide if they were going to be free or slave; also splitting the territory into 2 parts hoping one slave and one free
 - c. This broke the Missouri Compromise since Kansas was north of the 36 30 line
 - d. The South feared a new free state would continue to erode its power; north did not want another slave state to keep wages low
 - e. Southerners and Northerners rushed to Kansas trying to get a majority to make it either slave or free. The two groups started fighting killing over 200 in what is known as **Bleeding Kansas**.
8. Dred Scott
 - a. Scott was slave to a Missouri doctor who took Scott with him to a couple of free states; Abolitionist sued for his freedom since he was in a free state.
 - b. The Decision by the new Chief Justice Roger Taney
 - i. Slave could not sue his master because the slave was property
 - ii. Slave is slave no matter where he or she went
 - c. The Results
 - i. This meant that being a free state did not matter; anyone could bring slaves into a state and work continuing to hold wages down to low levels
 - ii. More people in the north began to call for complete abolition of slavery
9. The Election of 1860
 - a. The election
 - i. The New Republican Party (1854) had formed to oppose the Kansas-Nebraska Act and slavery; nominated Abraham Lincoln of Illinois
 - ii. The Democrats split between the North for Stephen Douglas and the South for John Breckenridge
 - iii. The Old Whigs had one last hurrah and nominated John Bell on the Union Party ticket
 - iv. With the Democrats and the nation split; Lincoln won the Electoral Votes and the presidency.
 - v. December 20, 1860 South Carolina voted to leave the Union
 - b. Abraham Lincoln
 - i. The South feared Lincoln because of his speech in 1858 when he said that a house could not continue half free and half slave; a house divided against itself can not stand
 - ii. The South feared that Lincoln was going to end slavery immediately creating riots in the cities. economic depression, and the end to Southern way of life.
10. Georgia's Secession Convention
 - a. For Secession
 - i. Governor Joseph Brown was very much for secession (leaving the Union) as was Robert Toombs and Thomas Cobb
 - ii. They argued that Georgia would be better economically out of the Union not under the tariff and would make more money for its cotton, rice, and tobacco in foreign trade
 - iii. The ending of slavery was also a fear
 - b. The role of Alexander Stephens
 - i. The little man from Crawfordville had once been a friend of Lincoln when both were in the US House of Representatives.
 - ii. He called for caution and a wait and see approach; he believed that Lincoln had no legal means to end slavery and that Georgia and the South could fight any legislation in the court where the majority of the US Supreme Court were Southerners at the time.
 - iii. He also did not believe that Lincoln would immediately end slavery
 - iv. Stephens becomes the vice-president of the Confederacy.
 - v. Georgia voted to leave the Union in January 1861