

APUSH TERMS 491-525

491. Gabriel Prosser (1775-1800)

A slave, he planned a revolt to make Virginia a state for Blacks. He organized about 1,000 slaves who met outside Richmond the night of August 30, 1800. They had planned to attack the city, but the roads leading to it were flooded. The attack was delayed and a slave owner found out about it. Twenty-five men were hanged, including Gabriel.

492. Denmark Vesey

A mulatto who inspired a group of slaves to seize Charleston, South Carolina in 1822, but one of them betrayed him and he and his thirty-seven followers were hanged before the revolt started.

493. Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)

A self-educated slave who escaped in 1838, Douglass became the best-known abolitionist speaker. He edited an anti-slavery weekly, the *North Star*.

494. Mountain Whites in the South

Rednecks. Usually poor, aspired to be successful enough to own slaves. Hated Blacks and rich Whites. Made up much of the Confederate Army, fighting primarily for sectionalism and states' rights.

495. "King Cotton"

Expression used by Southern authors and orators before the Civil War to indicate the economic dominance of the Southern cotton industry, and that the North needed the South's cotton. In a speech to the Senate in 1858, James Hammond declared, "You daren't make war against cotton! ...Cotton is king!".

496. Free Soil Party

Formed in 1847 - 1848, dedicated to opposing slavery in newly acquired territories such as Oregon and ceded Mexican territory.

497. John Sutter (1803-1880)

A German immigrant who was instrumental in the early settlement of California by Americans, he had originally obtained his lands in Northern California through a Mexican grant. Gold was discovered by workmen excavating to build a sawmill on his land in the Sacramento Valley in 1848, touching off the California gold rush.

498. Forty-Niners

Easterners who flocked to California after the discovery of gold there. They established claims all over northern California and overwhelmed the existing government. Arrived in 1849.

499. California applies for admission as a state

Californians were so eager to join the union that they created and ratified a constitution and elected a government before receiving approval from Congress. California was split down the middle by the Missouri Compromise line, so there was a conflict over whether it should be slave or free.

500. Compromise of 1850: provisions, impact

Called for the admission of California as a free state, organizing Utah and New Mexico with out restrictions on slavery, adjustment of the Texas/New Mexico border, abolition of slave trade in District of Columbia, and tougher fugitive slave laws. Its passage was hailed as a solution to the threat of national division.

501. Fugitive Slave Law

Enacted by Congress in 1793 and 1850, these laws provided for the return of escaped slaves to their owners. The North was lax about enforcing the 1793 law, with irritated the South no end. The 1850 law was tougher and was aimed at eliminating the underground railroad.

502. Webster's 7th of March Speech

Daniel Webster, a Northerner and opposed to slavery, spoke before Congress on March 7, 1850. During this speech, he envisioned that the legacy of the fugitive slave laws would be to divide the nation over the issue of slavery.

503. Henry Clay (1777-1852)

Clay helped heal the North/South rift by aiding passage of the Compromise of 1850, which served to delay the Civil War.

504. John C. Calhoun

Formerly Jackson's vice-president, later a South Carolina senator. He said the North should grant the South's demands and keep quiet about slavery to keep the peace. He was a spokesman for the South and states' rights.

505. Underground Railroad

A secret, shifting network which aided slaves escaping to the North and Canada, mainly after 1840.

506. Harriet Tubman (1821-1913)

A former escaped slave, she was one of the shrewdest conductors of the underground railroad, leading 300 slaves to freedom.

507. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe

She wrote the abolitionist book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It helped to crystallize the rift between the North and South. It has been called the greatest American propaganda novel ever written, and helped to bring about the Civil War.

508. Perry and Japan

Commodore Matthew Perry went to Japan to open trade between it and the U.S. In 1853, his armed squadron anchored in Tokyo Bay, where the Japanese were so impressed that they signed the Treaty of Kanagawa in 1854, which opened Japanese ports to American trade.

509. Ostend Manifesto

The recommendation that the U.S. offer Spain \$20 million for Cuba. It was not carried through in part because the North feared Cuba would become another slave state.

510. Kansas - Nebraska Act

1854 - This act repealed the Missouri Compromise and established a doctrine of congressional nonintervention in the territories. Popular sovereignty (vote of the people) would determine whether Kansas and Nebraska would be slave or free states.

511. Birth of the Republican Party

A coalition of the Free Soil Party, the Know-Nothing Party and renegade Whigs merged in 1854 to form the Republican Party, a liberal, anti-slavery party. The party's Presidential candidate, John C. Fremont, captured one-third of the popular vote in the 1856 election.

512. Stephen A. Douglas

A moderate, who introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 and popularized the idea of popular sovereignty.

513. Popular Sovereignty

The doctrine that stated that the people of a territory had the right to decide their own laws by voting. In the Kansas-Nebraska Act, popular sovereignty would decide whether a territory allowed slavery.

514. Thirty-six, thirty line

According to the Missouri Compromise (1820), slavery was forbidden in the Louisiana territory north of the 36°30' N latitude. This was nullified by the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

515. Election of 1856: Republican Party, Know-Nothing Party

Democrat - James Buchanan (won by a narrow margin). Republican - John Fremont. Know-Nothing Party and Whig - Millard Fillmore. First election for the Republican Party. Know-Nothings opposed immigration and Catholic influence. They answered questions from outsiders about the party by saying "I know nothing".

516. "Bleeding Kansas"

Also known as the Kansas Border War. Following the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, pro-slavery forces from Missouri, known as the Border Ruffians, crossed the border into Kansas and terrorized and murdered antislavery settlers. Antislavery sympathizers from Kansas carried out reprisal attacks, the most notorious of which was John Brown's 1856 attack on the settlement at Pottawatomie Creek. The war continued for four years before the antislavery forces won. The violence it generated helped precipitate the Civil War.

517. "Beecher's Bibles"

During the Kansas border war, the New England Emigrant Aid Society sent rifles at the instigation of fervid abolitionists like the preacher Henry Beecher. These rifles became known as "Beecher's Bibles".

518. John Brown's Raid

In 1859, the militant abolitionist John Brown seized the U.S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry. He planned to end slavery by massacring slave owners and freeing their slaves. He was captured and executed.

519. Pottawatomie Massacre

John Brown was a part of six in Kansas that killed 5 pro-slavery men. This helped make the Kansas border war a national issue.

520. Sumner-Brooks Affair

1856 - Charles Sumner gave a two day speech on the Senate floor. He denounced the South for crimes against Kansas and singled out Senator Andrew Brooks of South Carolina for extra abuse. Brooks beat Sumner over the head with his cane, severely crippling him. Sumner was the first Republican martyr.

521. Lecompton Constitution

The pro-slavery constitution suggested for Kansas' admission to the union. It was rejected.

522. *Dred Scott Decision*

A Missouri slave sued for his freedom, claiming that his four year stay in the northern portion of the Louisiana Territory made free land by the Missouri Compromise had made him a free man. The U.S. Supreme Court decided he couldn't sue in federal court because he was property, not a citizen.

523. Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 during Illinois Senatorial campaign

A series of seven debates. The two argued the important issues of the day like popular sovereignty, the Lecompton Constitution and the Dred Scott decision. Douglas won these debates, but Lincoln's position in these debates helped him beat Douglas in the 1860 presidential election.

524. Freeport Doctrine

During the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Douglas said in his Freeport Doctrine that Congress couldn't force a territory to become a slave state against its will.

525. Panic of 1857

Began with the failure of the Ohio Life Insurance Company and spread to the urban east. The depression affected the industrial east and the wheat belt more than the South.