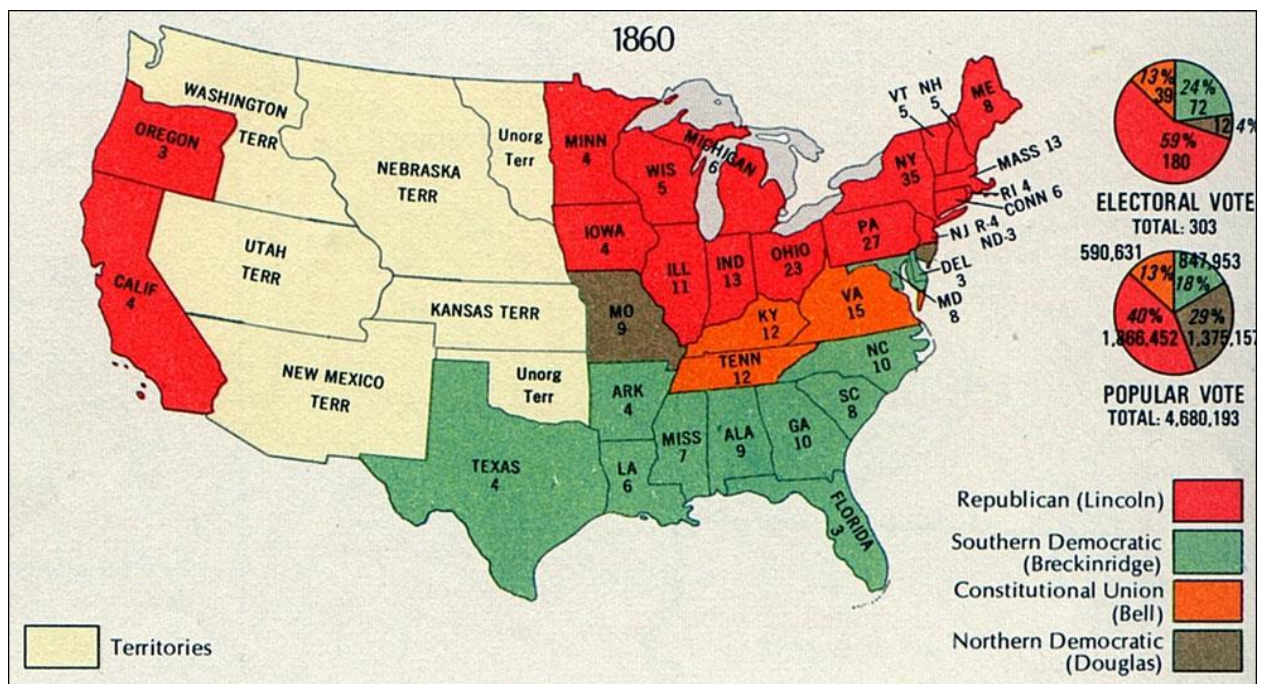


## THE RIGHT TO SECEDE

Following the Election of Republican Candidate Abraham Lincoln in 1860 deep Southern States were lead to secession by South Carolina, the State of Former Senator John C. Calhoun, who died in the midst of the Compromise of 1850. He saw Compromise as a losing battle, one that would have to end when the opponent demanded something you would not compromise over. Calhoun, then, saw compromise as a political evil. The spirit of secession came full circle ten years later, when the Deep South saw the election of Lincoln as giving in to Northern demands (Lincoln did not even have a majority of the Popular vote) that would forever stop the growth of the “Peculiar Institution.” Lincoln vowed that as President he would not allow slavery to expand in the new territories. How far would he go in forestalling the Institution in states it already existed? These concessions were not acceptable to the south.



## JOHN C. CALHOUN: SPEECH TO THE U.S. SENATE 1837

- The “Peculiar Institution” of the South has been used to render us sinful in the eyes of the world and God
- The Legislative Branch was created to provide Peace, safety and Protection of US Institutions
- “If we concede an inch, concession would follow concession- compromise would follow compromise, until our ranks would be so broken that effectual resistance would be impossible”

- James Buchanan (Future President), Senator from Pennsylvania pushes and pushes for compromise
- BUT the subject is beyond the jurisdiction of Congress by rule (A gag rule was instituted in 1836, and strengthened in 1840). The rule refused any anti-slavery petitions from being discussed in Congress
- Without such a rule the fight would spread until it brought the two regions of the Union into “Deadly Conflict.” The “decision point would be the bayonet.”
- Religious groups are using Congress feeling responsible for its continuance
- Unless this fervor is met with prompt resistance it will lead to this deadly course as it has already taken over the pulpit, schools and the press.
- Unless this is stopped the hatred of one part of the Nation towards the other cannot be forestalled—“Conflicting elements would burst the Union asunder....Abolition and the Union cannot co-exist.”
- The south cannot surrender its institutions and the relationship between the two races must be maintained—to destroy it would destroy us as a people.
- Never before has the black race reached a level of civilization as high as this (historically inaccurate)
- The rapid natural increase of slave population is proof that blacks are happy
- We are inferior to the northerners in only one area “the Art of Gain” as the Federal government has spent monies in the North for regional improvement but not the south (Directly quoted in the *Amistad*)
- No civilization has ever existed where “one portion was not subordinate to another...” (Directly quoted in the *Amistad*)
- Even in the North and Europe where “slavery” doesn’t exist, wage laborers suffer under the Foreman, boss and Master
- “There has always been in advanced stage of wealth and civilization, a conflict between labor and capital.”
- BUT “I look not for aid in this government.”
- If emancipation came to be, through continued compromise, they would become the Masters, and we the slaves.” (Directly quoted in the *Amistad*)