

Dred Scott

Dred Scott's Claim

- He was a slave in Missouri. His master took him to Wisconsin, a free territory.
- He claims that, when he entered Wisconsin, he could not have been a slave, and was thus free.

Decisions

- Decision 1: No African – American can be a citizen under the Constitution.
- Decision 2: The Missouri Compromise is unconstitutional. Congress cannot ban slavery in any territory.

Reactions – Free African Americans

- There is not much of a future if they are not citizens. They always assumed they were non-voting citizens.

Southern Slave Owners

- Now slavery can expand westward. It will be decided by popular sovereignty, as it always should have been.

Northern Abolitionists

- If Congress can do nothing, there is no political solution to slavery.
- There will never be enough votes to amend the Constitution.
- They become RADICAL abolitionists – willing to support violent rebellion.

Lincoln Douglas Debates

- Lincoln – slavery should not extend westward. He would not touch it where it exists.
- Douglas – popular sovereignty should decide.
- Significance of debate – Highlighted the stark choices in ending the slavery debate. Lincoln becomes a national figure.

Final Days

- John Brown's raid convinces Southerners that the North will do anything to stop slavery.

Election of Lincoln

- Lincoln is mistrusted by the South. They feel he will try to ban slavery.
- South Carolina secedes from the Union.

Fort Sumter

- Other states secede and form the Confederate states of America.
- Confederate forces fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The war begins.