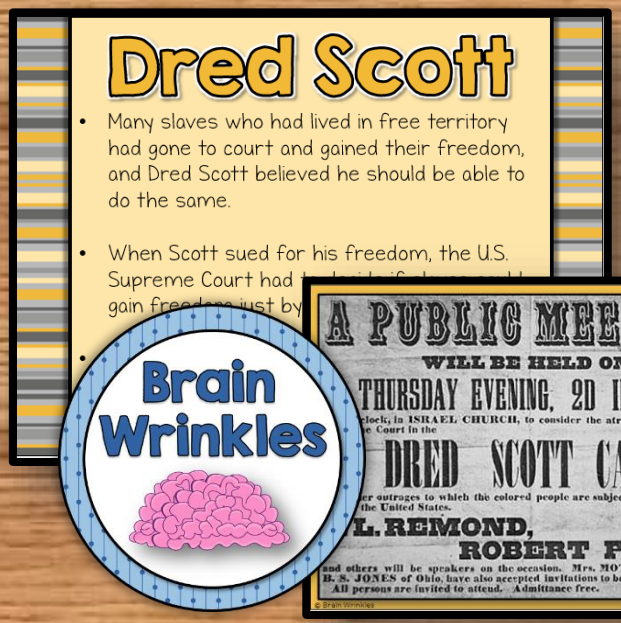
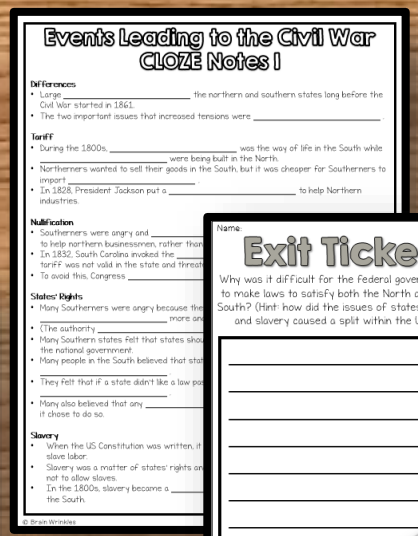
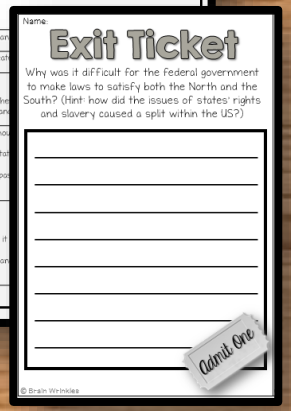
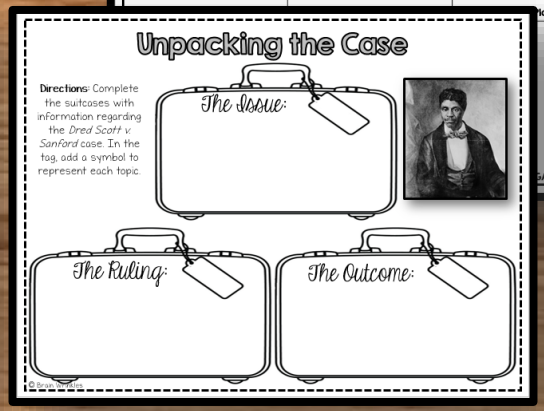
Events Leading to the CIVIL WAR

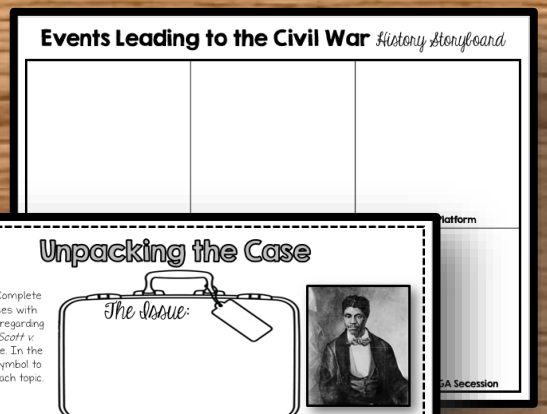
Presentation, Graphic Organizers, & Activities











Events Leading to the CIVIL WAR

and the Impact on Georgia

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Differences

- Large differences divided the northern and southern states long before the Civil War started in 1861.

- The two important issues that increased tensions were **states' rights** and **slavery**.

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Tariff

- During the 1800s, farming was the way of life in the South while numerous factories were being built in the North.
- Northerners wanted to sell their goods in the South, but it was cheaper for Southerners to import goods from Europe.
- In 1828, President Jackson put a tariff on imported goods to help Northern industries.

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Nullification

- Southerners were angry and opposed the tariff because it was put in place to help northern businessmen, rather than southern plantation owners.

- In 1832, South Carolina invoked the doctrine of nullification, saying that the tariff was not valid in the state and threatened to withdraw from the Union.

- To avoid this, Congress lowered the tariff in 1833.

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States' Rights

- Many Southerners were angry because they believed the national government was intruding more and more on states' rights.
  - (The authority states have to govern what goes on inside their own borders.)

- Many Southern states felt that states should have final authority, not the national government.

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States' Rights

- Many people in the South believed that states could choose which federal laws to obey.

- They felt that if a state didn't like a law passed by the federal government, then they didn't have to follow it.

- Many also believed that any state could withdraw, or secede, from the Union if it chose to do so.

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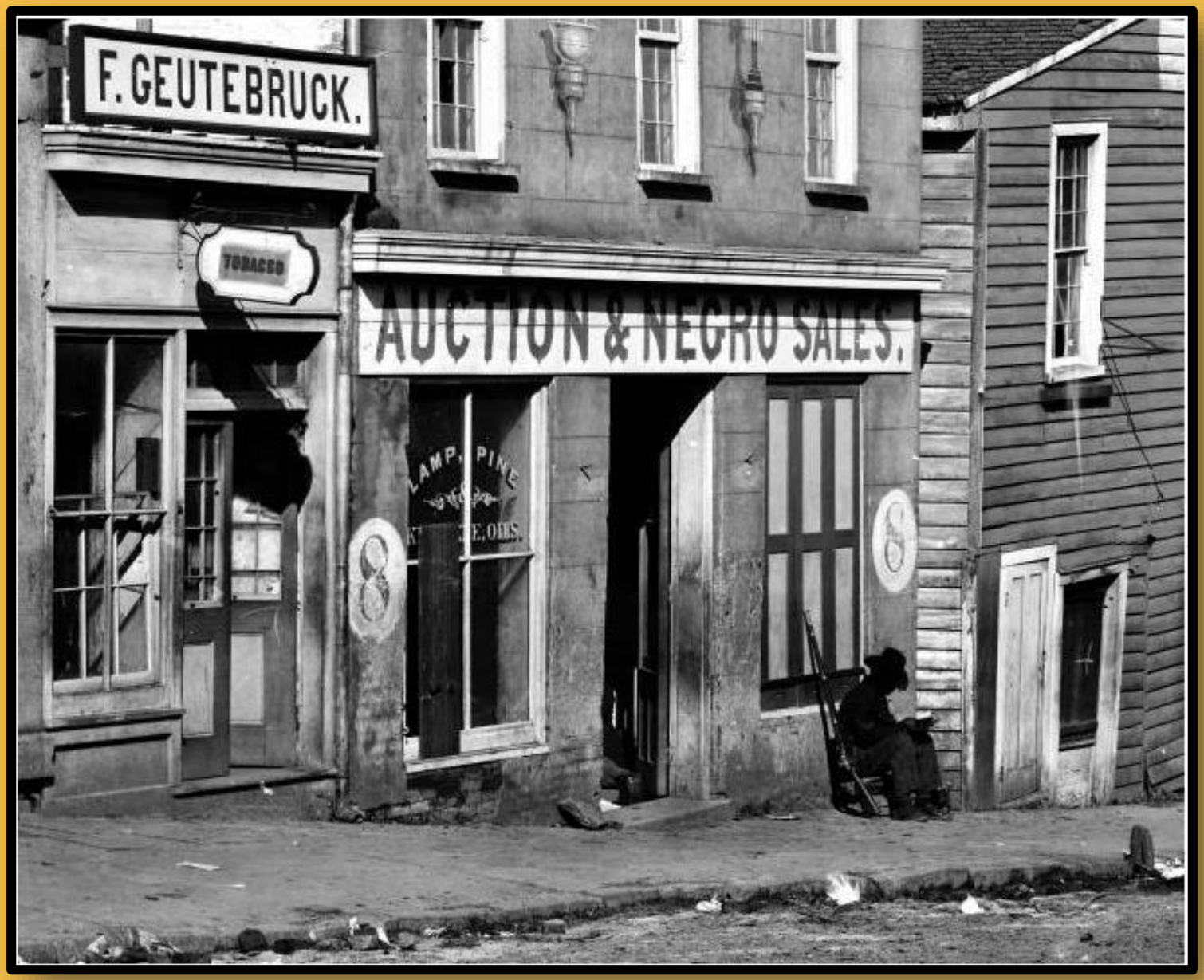
Slave Trader's Business in Atlanta, 1860s



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Slavery

- When the US Constitution was written, it did not include anything on slave labor.

- Slavery was a matter of states' rights and each state could decide whether or not to allow slaves.

- In the 1800s, slavery became a heated issue between the North and the South.

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A South Carolina Plantation – 1862

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The South

- The South relied on cash crops, like cotton, and depended heavily on (free) slave labor to work the large plantations.

- Plantation owners needed slaves to plant cotton, harvest it, and operate the cotton gins.

- The economy of the South depended on slave labor.

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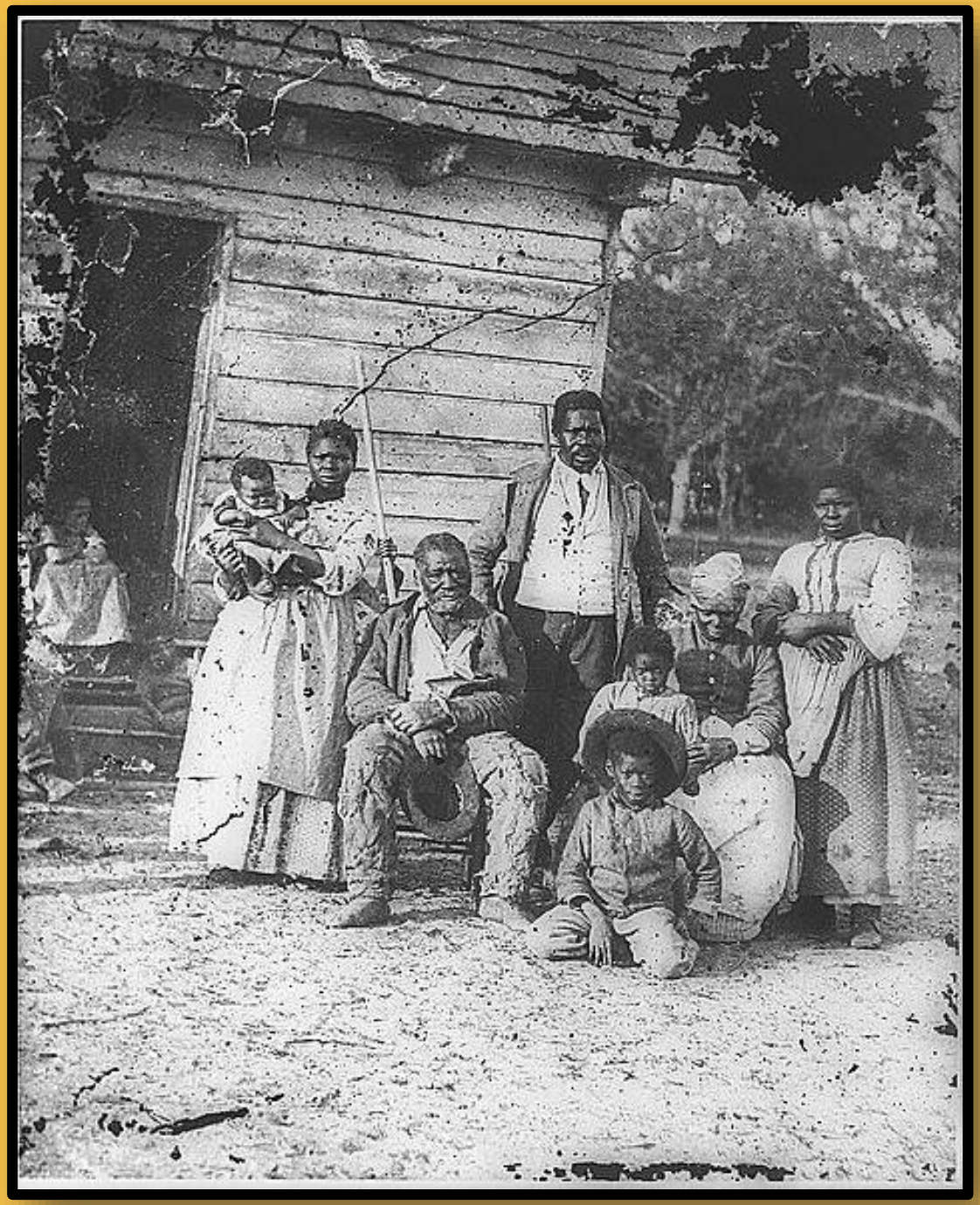
Four Generations of a Slave Family- Beaufort, South Carolina 1862



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The North

- The North relied mostly on factories and businesses, and did not need slaves in order to maintain its economy.

- Many Northern abolitionists spoke out against the evils of slavery and wanted it to end, while Southerners wanted to protect their way of life.

- Wealthy Southern plantation owners resented Northern interference in their livelihood.

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Division

- Soon, arguments began to arise between the North and the South over whether slavery should be allowed in new states added to the Union.

- Kentucky Senator Henry Clay convinced Congress that there must be a compromise in order to make both sides happy.

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Missouri

- In 1820, Congress approved the Missouri Compromise in an effort to appease both sides.

- The slave state of Missouri applied for statehood, but admitting Missouri would upset the balance between free and slave states.

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Compromise

- Lawmakers created a compromise plan that admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state.

- They also decided to limit areas that could apply for statehood as a slave state.

- All new states north of a certain point would be free, and all states south of that point would allow slavery.

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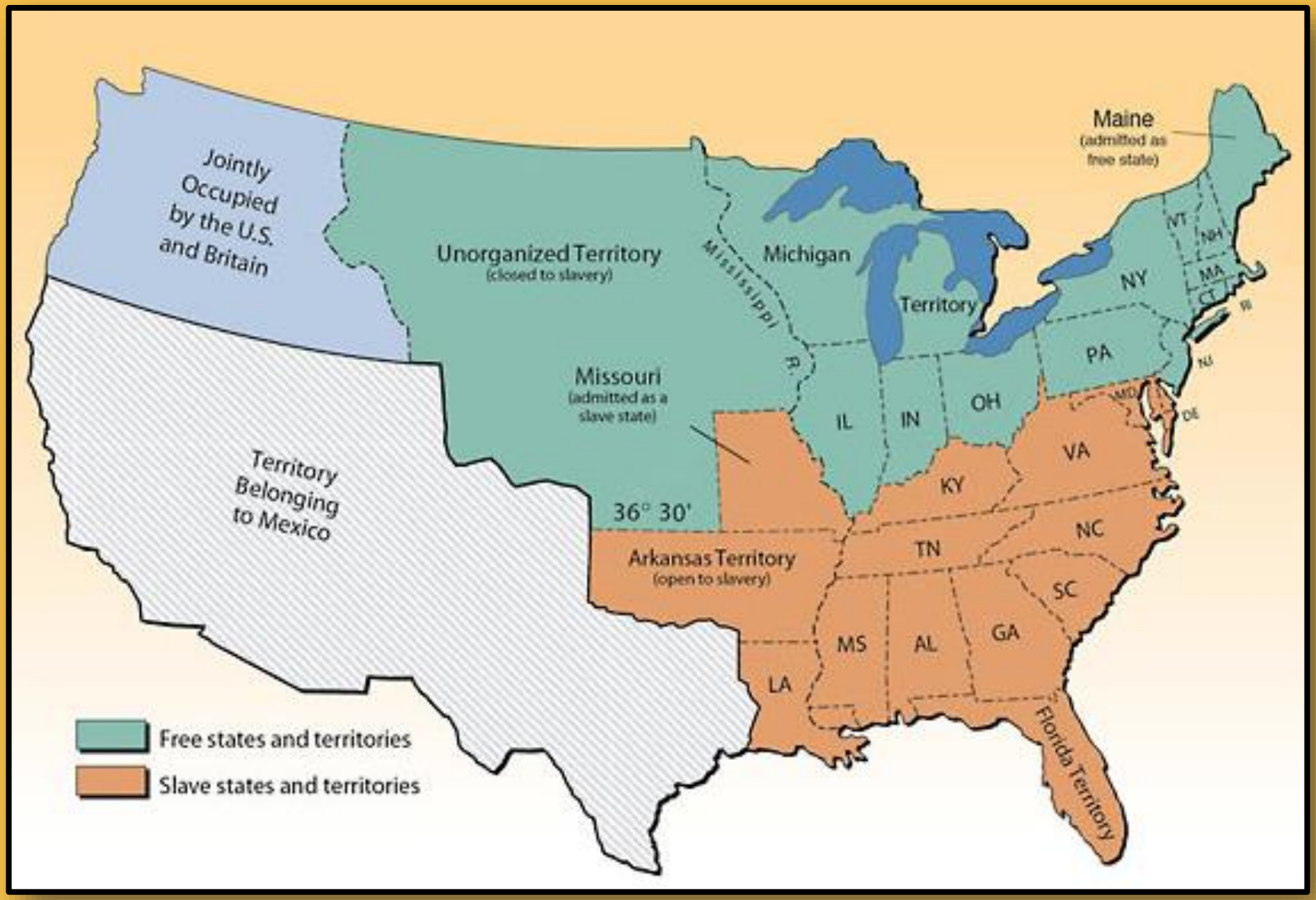
Missouri Compromise



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Compromise of 1850

- The slavery issue continued to cause division when the U.S. gained more territory after the war with Mexico in 1848.

- The Compromise of 1850 admitted California as a free state and made no decision on the new territories of New Mexico and Utah.

- The slave trade was also abolished in Washington D.C., although slavery was still permitted there.

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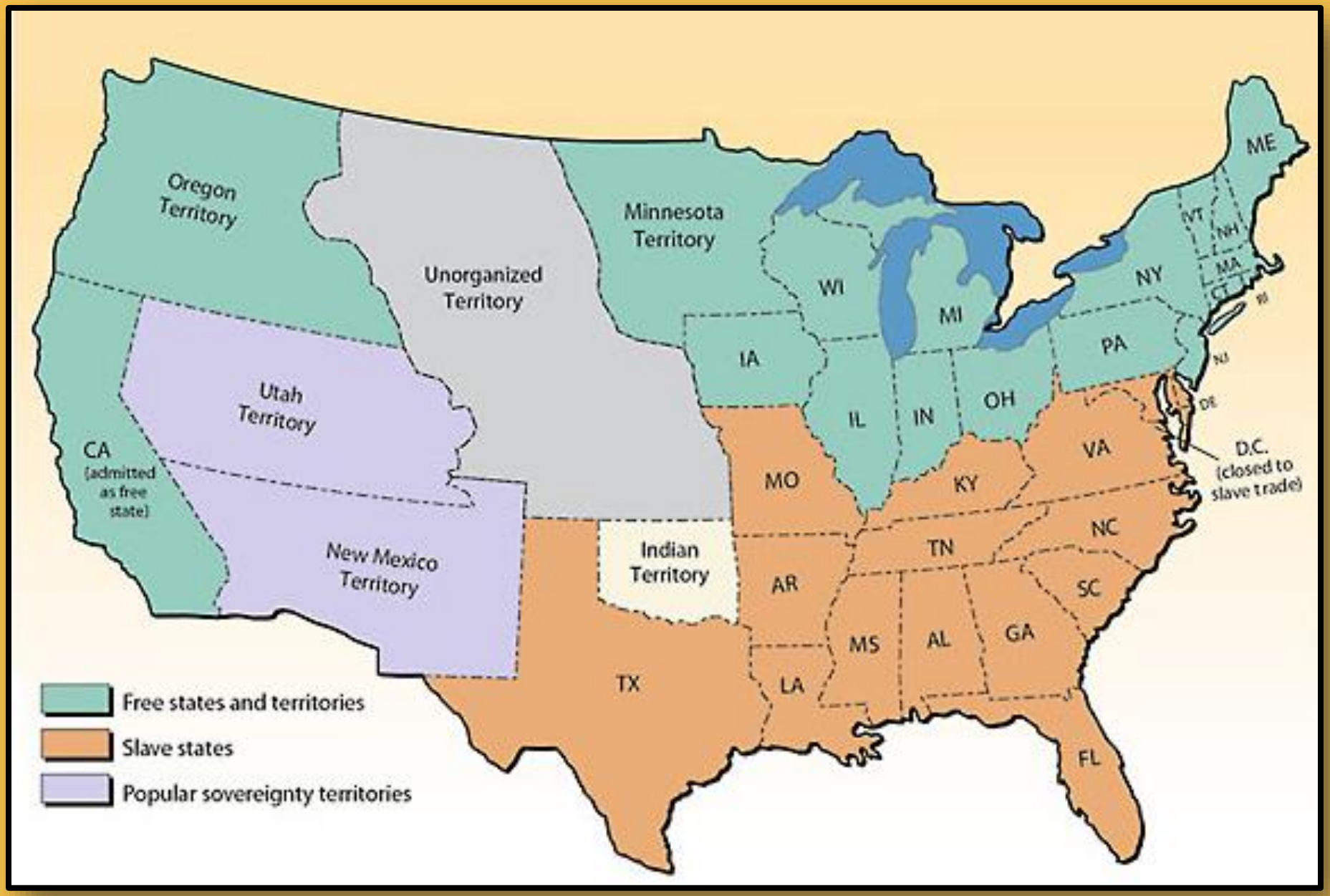
Compromise of 1850



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Fugitive Slave Act

- To pacify slave states, the Compromise of 1850 also included the Fugitive Slave Act.
- The act required runaway slaves to be returned to the South even if they had made it to free territory the North.
- It also punished anyone who helped runaway slaves.

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Runaway Slaves – 1852

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GA Platform

- The Compromise of 1850 did not pass easily.
- Many Georgians still opposed the compromise and threatened secession.
- In December 1850, Georgia's lawmakers met to discuss the issue and adopted the Georgia Platform.

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GA Platform

- The Georgia Platform stated that Georgia was willing to accept the Compromise of 1850 as long as the North complied with the Fugitive Slave Act.

- Georgia would remain in the Union as long as the North promised to help return runaway slaves to the South and would stop trying to ban slavery in new territories and states.

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Issue

- Another controversial event that sparked anger was the *Dred Scott v. Sanford* case in 1857.
- Dred Scott, a Missouri slave, sued for his freedom because he had lived for a period of time with his master in Illinois and Wisconsin (both free).
- When he returned to Missouri, Scott sued the state based on his belief that his time in the free states made him a free man.

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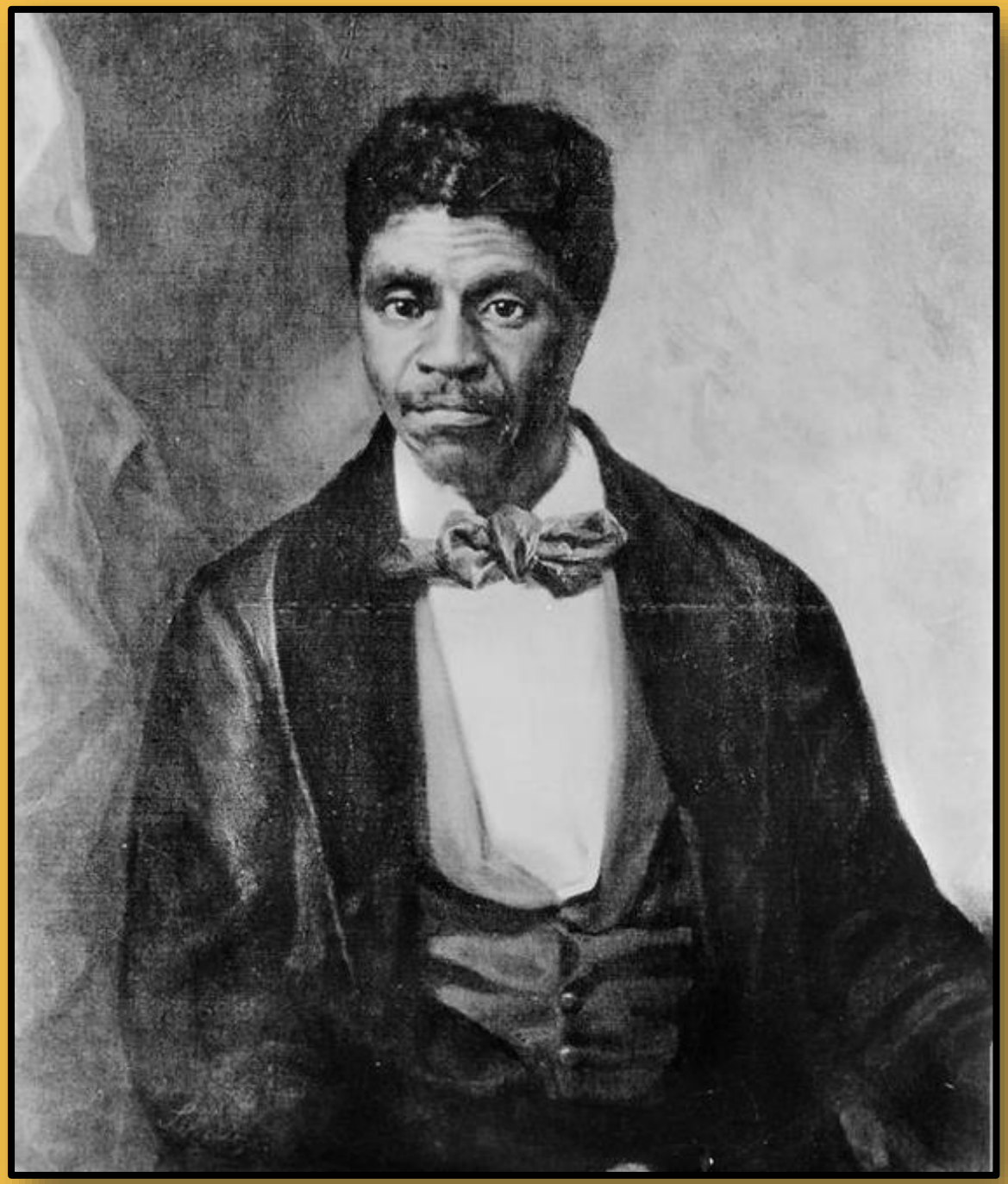

Dred Scott

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Dred Scott

- Many slaves who had lived in free territory had gone to court and gained their freedom, and Dred Scott believed he should be able to do the same.

- When Scott sued for his freedom, the U.S. Supreme Court had to decide if slaves could gain freedom just by living in a free territory.

- This case gave the Supreme Court the opportunity to make a national statement either for or against slavery.

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Ruling

- The Supreme Court ruled against Dred Scott, declaring that slaves and freed blacks were not citizens of the U.S. and did not have the right to sue in the first place.

- It went on to state that banning slavery in U.S. territories was unconstitutional.

- The Court declared that the national government had no right to stop the expansion of slavery into western territories.

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Outcome

- The Supreme Court sided with the southern view on slavery, so Southern slaveholders were pleased with the decision.
- The Dred Scott case's outcome made Northern abolitionists furious because it meant that slave owners could keep their slaves in any state.
- The court's decision further divided the nation.

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A PUBLIC MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY EVENING, 2D INSTANT,

at 7½ o'clock, in ISRAEL CHURCH, to consider the atrocious decision of the Supreme Court in the

DRED SCOTT CASE,

and other outrages to which the colored people are subject under the Constitution of the United States.

C. L. REMOND,

ROBERT PURVIS,

and others will be speakers on the occasion. Mrs. MOTT, Mr. M'KIM and B. S. JONES of Ohio, have also accepted invitations to be present.

All persons are invited to attend. Admittance free.

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New Party

- In 1854, those opposing the spread of slavery united and formed the Republican Party.
- Initially, the party only sought to restrict slavery in new states and territories, not outlaw it where it already existed.
- In 1860, the Republicans nominated Abraham Lincoln of Illinois as their candidate for president of the United States.

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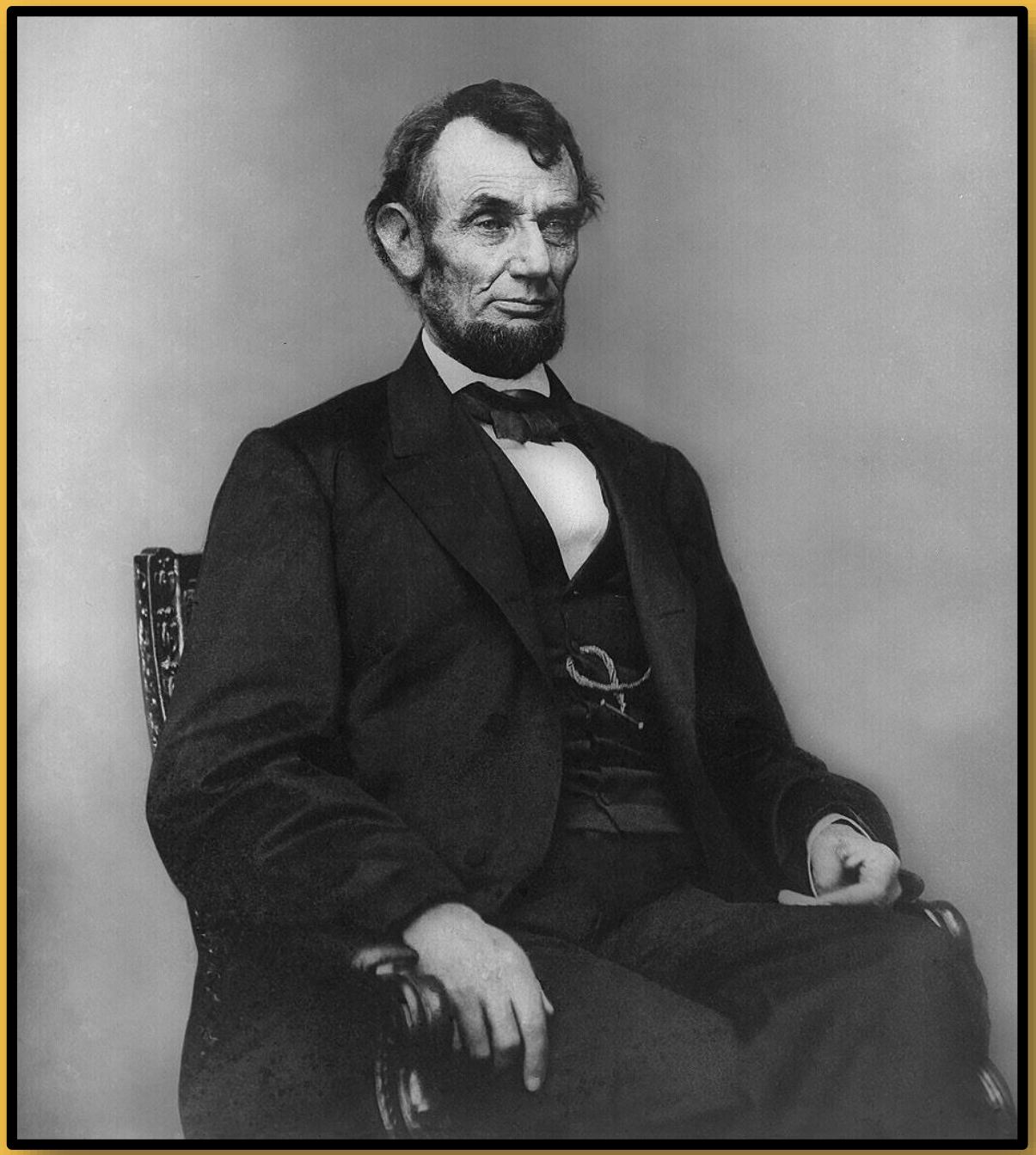

Abraham Lincoln in 1864

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Split

- The Democratic party was split between three candidates.
- Northern democrats supported Senator Stephen Douglas, who had proposed the idea of popular sovereignty in the territories (idea that power would be given to citizens).
- Southern Democrats opposed Douglas and nominated Kentucky's John Breckinridge.
- A third group, the Constitutional Union Party, nominated Tennessee's John Bell.

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1860 Election

- Abraham Lincoln won the election on November 6, 1860.
- Southern states were concerned because they felt Lincoln wanted to end slavery.
- Lincoln's goal was to keep the Union together; however, South Carolina decided to secede from the Union on December 20, 1860.

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President Lincoln's Inauguration

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Debate

- When South Carolina seceded from the Union, Georgians were divided in two.
- One group, including Governor Joseph Brown, wanted to leave the Union right away.
- Alexander Stephens disagreed and said that Lincoln was not the South's enemy.
- He also warned of the economic ruin that would occur from a civil war.

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Alexander Stephens was a sickly man who never weighed over 100 pounds. Still, one northern politician called him "the strongest man in the South".

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GA Secession

- Georgia's legislature called a special secession convention in order to vote on the issue.
- Delegates voted 166 to 130 in favor of secession.
- In January of 1861, Georgians left the Union.

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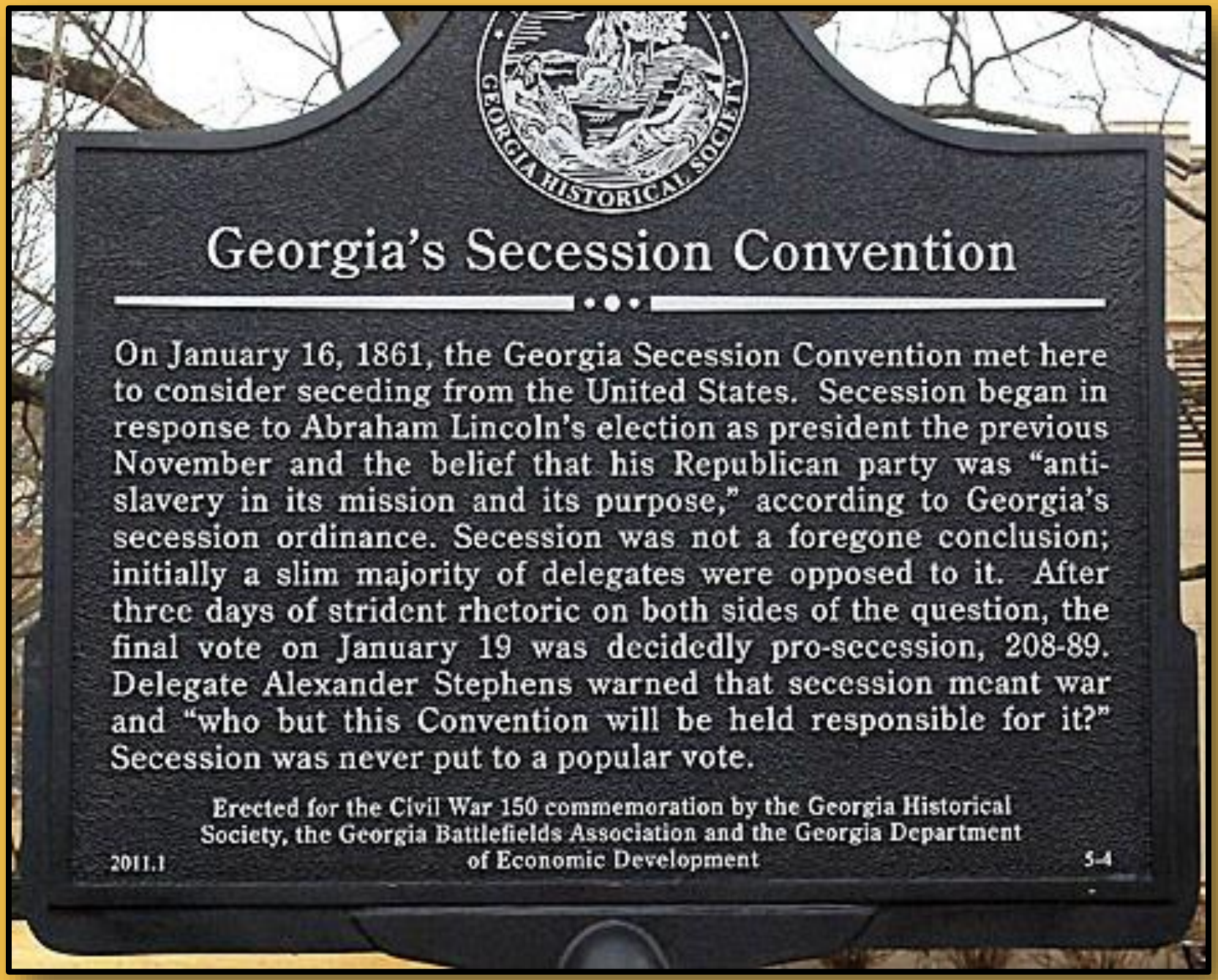

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Republic of Georgia.

ORDINANCE OF SECESSION.

PASSED JANY 19, 1861.

We, the People of the State of Georgia

PROTEST OF SIX OF THE DELEGATES.

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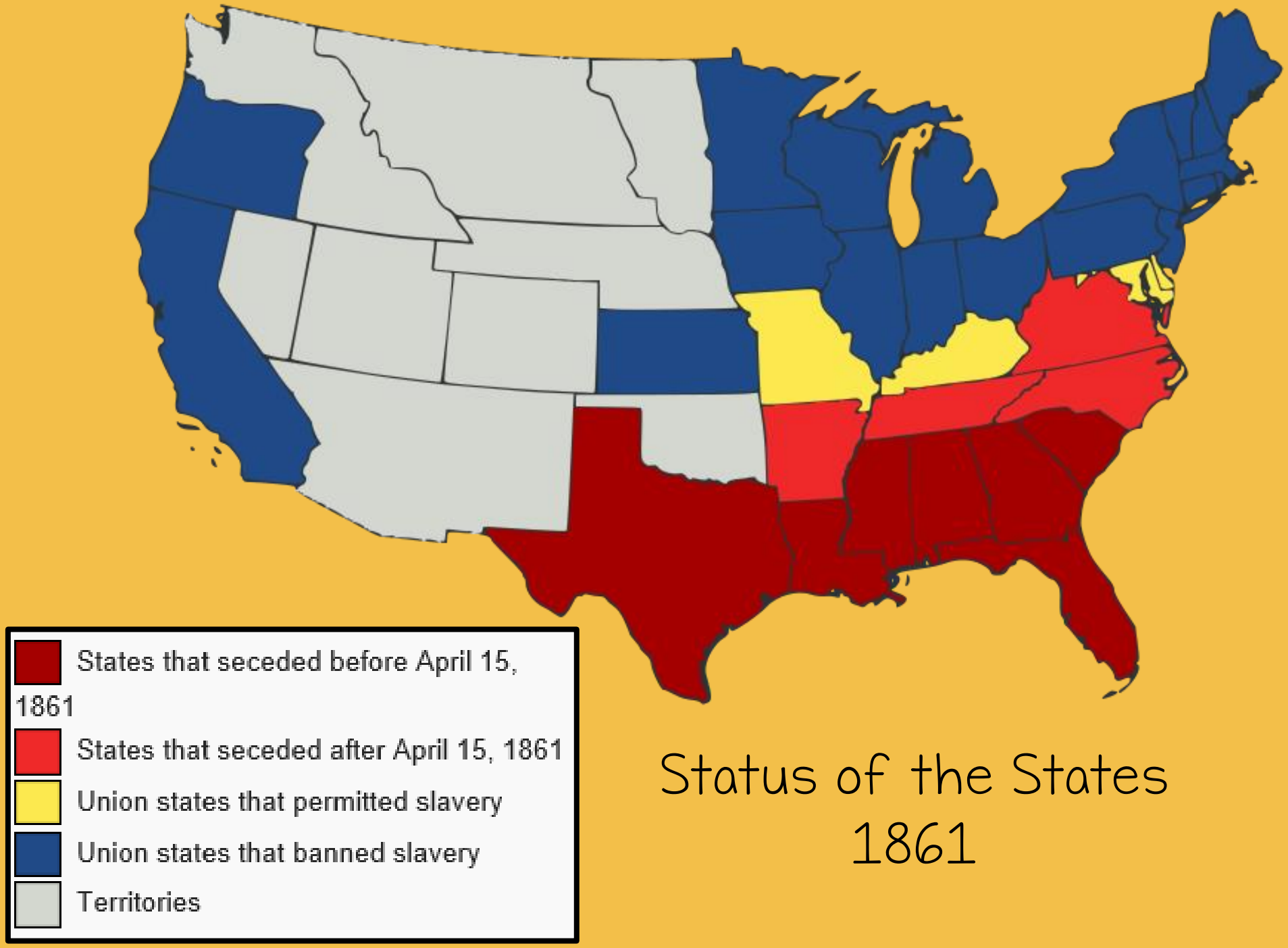

Status of the States 1861

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