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AP US History – Reading Notes

CHAPTER 19

Drifting Toward Disunion, 1854–1861

# Chapter Themes

**Theme:** A series of major North-South crises in the late 1850s culminated in the election of the antislavery Republican Lincoln to the presidency in 1860. His election caused seven southern states to secede from the union and form the Confederate States of America.

# PEOPLE, PLACES, AND TERMS

1. Harriet Beecher Stowe

2. Hinton R. Helper

3. Henry Ward Beecher

4. John C. Frémont

5. Harpers Ferry, Virginia

6. Stephen A. Douglas

7. Pottawatomie Creek, Kansas

8. John C. Breckenridge

9. Montgomery, Alabama

10. Jefferson Davis

# Chapter 19 Study Guide

**Stowe and Helper: Literary Incendiaries**

Which book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* or *The Impending Crisis of the South,* was more important? Explain.

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**The North-South Contest for Kansas**

What went wrong with popular sovereignty in Kansas?

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**Kansas in Convulsion**

What was the effect of "Bleeding Kansas" on the Democratic Party?

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**"Bully" Brooks and His Bludgeon**

What was the consequence of Brook's beating of Sumner in the North? The South?

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**"Old Buck" versus "The Pathfinder"**

Assess the candidates in the 1856 election.

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**The Electoral Fruits of 1856**

Interpret the results of the election of 1856.

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**The Dred Scott Bombshell**

Why was the Dred Scott decision so divisive?

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**The Financial Crash of 1857**

How did the Panic of 1857 make Civil War more likely?

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**An Illinois Rail-Splitter Emerges**

Describe Abraham Lincoln's background.

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**The Great Debate: Lincoln versus Douglas**

What long term results occurred because of the Lincoln-Douglas debates?

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**John Brown: Murderer or Martyr**

Why were the actions of one (crazy?) man so important in the growing conflict between North and South?

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**The Disruption of the Democrats**

What happened when the Democratic Party attempted to choose a candidate for the presidency in 1860?

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**A Rail-Splitter Splits the Union**

Why was Lincoln chosen as the Republican candidate instead of Seward?

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**The Electoral Upheaval of 1860**

Did the South have any power in the national government after Lincoln’s election, or were they helpless?

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**The Secessionist Exodus**

What did President Buchanan do when the South seceded? Why?

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**The Collapse of Compromise**

What was the Crittendon Compromise and why did it fail?

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**Farewell to Union**

What advantages did southerners see in secession? Who did they compare themselves to?

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**Varying Viewpoints: The Civil War: Repressible or Irrepressible**

Was the Civil War irrepressible? Explain.

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