

## DBQ – Causes of the Civil War

Source: Princeton Review

**Directions:** Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

Write your response on the lined pages that follow the questions. In your response you should do the following:

- State a relevant thesis that directly answers all parts of the question.
- Support the thesis or relevant argument with evidence from all, or all but one of the documents.
- Incorporate analysis of all, or all but one, of the documents into your argument.
- Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- Support your argument with analysis of historical examples outside the documents.
- Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.
- Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay.

I. To what extent was the breakup of the Union in 1861 a result of the conflict over slavery and to what extent was it due to other factors?

### Document 1

Source: "Annexation," by John L. O'Sullivan, *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, July 1845

Why, were other reasoning wanting, in favor of now elevating this question of the reception of Texas into the Union, out of the lower region of our past party dissension, up to its proper level of a high and broad nationality, it surely is to be found, found abundantly, in the manner in which other nations have undertaken to intrude themselves into it, between us and the proper parties to the case, in a spirit of hostile interference against us, for the avowed object of thwarting our policy and hampering our power. limiting our greatness and checking the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions.

### Document 2

Source: President James K. Polk's War Message to Congress, May 11, 1846

As war exists, and notwithstanding all our efforts to avoid it, exists by the act of Mexico herself, we are called upon by every consideration of duty and patriotism to vindicate with decision the honor, rights and dignity of this country.

### Document 3

Source: Representative David Wilmot, from the Congressional Globe, 29th Congress, 2nd session, Appendix, February 8, 1847

But, sir, the issue now presented is not whether slavery shall exist unmolested where it now is, but whether it shall be carried to new and distant regions, now free, where the footprint of a slave cannot be found. This, sir, is the issue. Upon it I take my stand, and from it I cannot be frightened or driven by idle charges of abolitionism.

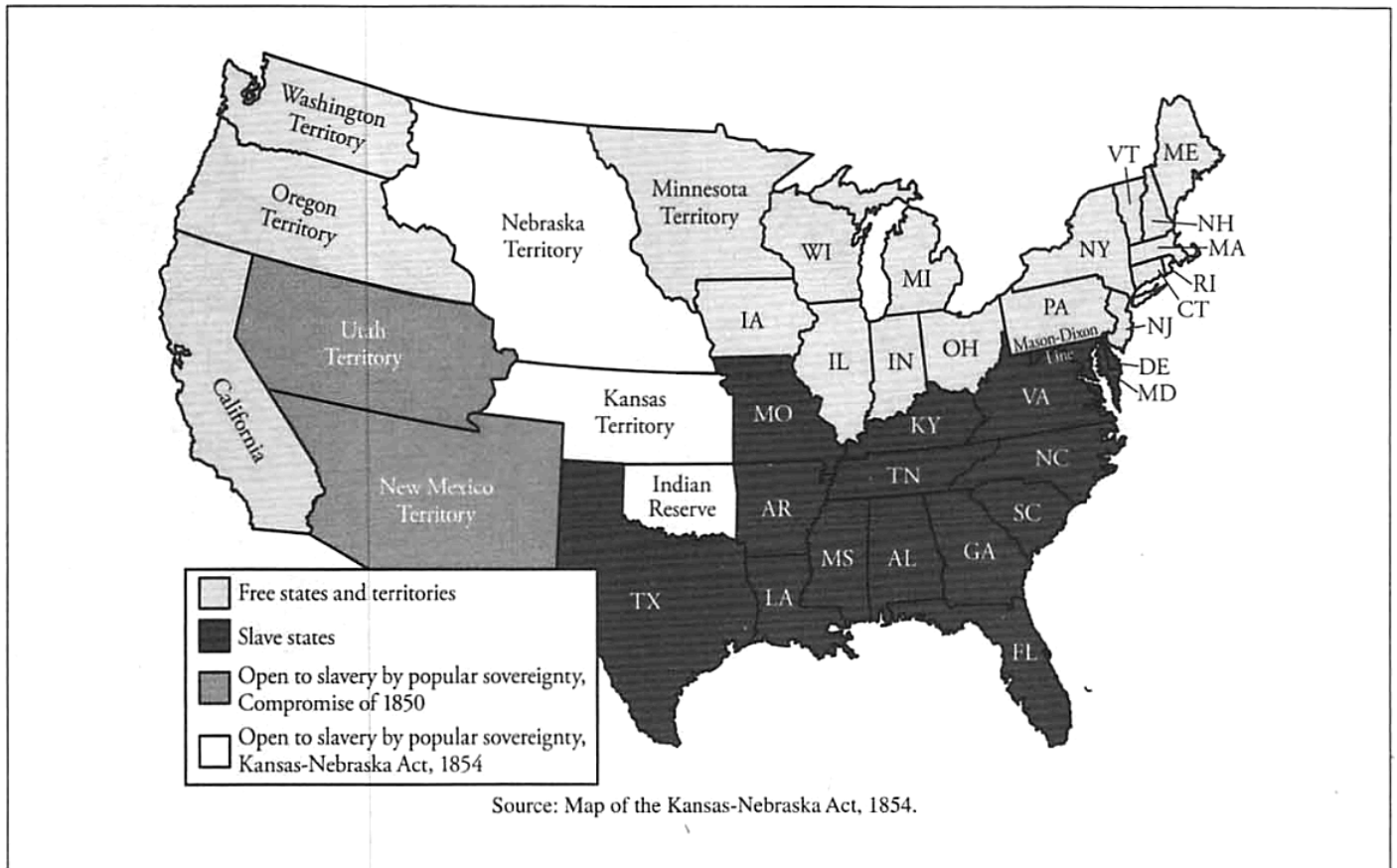
I ask not that slavery be abolished. I demand that this government preserve the integrity of free territory against the aggressions of slavery-against its wrongful usurpations.

Sir, I was in favor of the annexation of Texas.... Yes, sir, here was an empire larger than France given up to slavery. Shall further concessions be made by the North? Shall we give up free territory, the inheritance of free labor? Must we yield this also?

...But, sir, we are told that the joint blood and treasure of the whole country being expended in this acquisition, therefore it should be divided, and slavery should be allowed to take its share. Sir, the South has her share already.

...Now, sir, we are told that California is ours, that New Mexico is ours-won by the valor of our arms. They are free. Shall they remain free? Shall these fair provinces be the inheritance and homes of the white labor of freemen or the black labor of slaves? This, sir, is the issue.

### Document 4

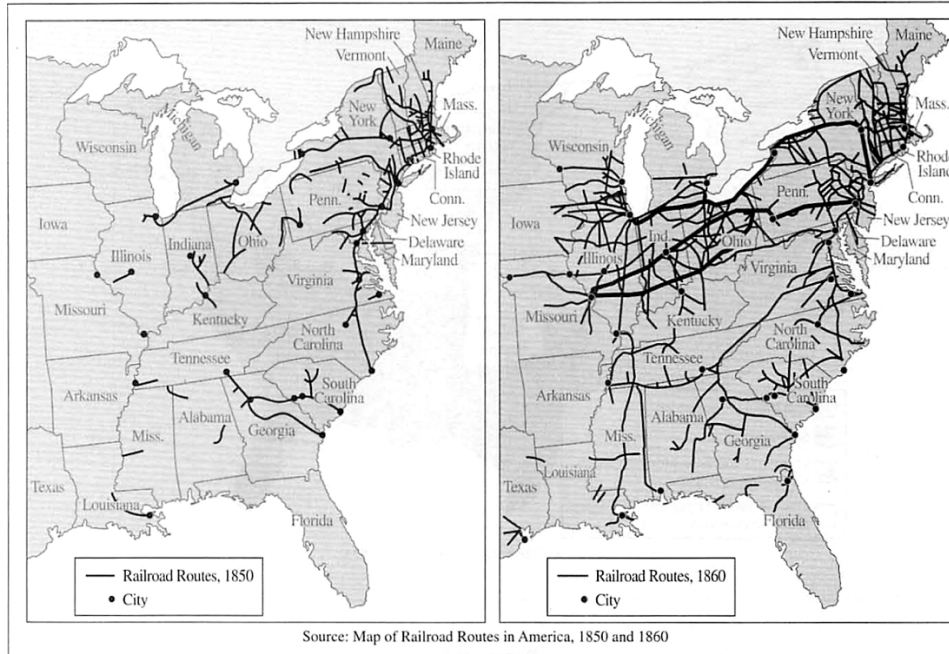


## Document 5

Source: Roger Taney, in the Supreme Court opinion in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 1857

The right of property in a slave is distinctly and expressly affirmed in the Constitution.... No word can be found in the Constitution which gives Congress a greater power over the slave property or which entitles property of that kind to less protection than property of any other description.

## Document 6



## Document 7

