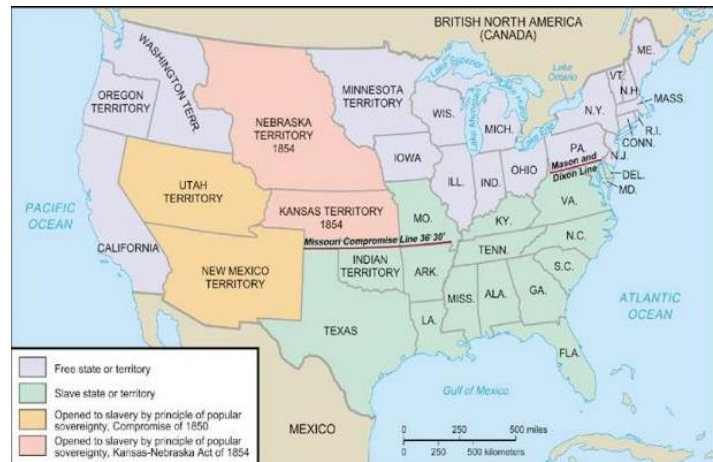


The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854

In January 1854, Senator Stephen Douglas proposed a bill to organize the Kansas and Nebraska Territories and allow the residents of the territories to determine whether they would be free or slave territories. In March the bill passed in the Senate and, in May, it passed in the House of Representatives. President Franklin Pierce signed the bill into law on May 30, 1854. The act catalyzed the formation of the Republican Party and initiated a conflict that served as the prelude to the Civil War. Soon, the newly opened territories were flooded with settlers, initiating disputes over land rights and slavery. John Brown and Henry Beecher were two of the most ardent anti-slavery voices in the region. Both incited violence among fellow abolitionists, leading to what is now known as “Bleeding Kansas”.



Primary Source

<https://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/kansas/kansas-nebraska-act.html>

Secondary Source

The Nebraska-Kansas Act of 1854 by John Wunder and Joann Ross