

Chapter **15** Section 3 (pages 450–454)

Slavery Dominates Politics

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read how increasing tensions over the issue of slavery led to violence.

In this section, you will learn how conflicts over slavery led to the creation of a new political party.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on how the slavery issue affected politics in the mid-1800s

Political Party	Views Toward Slavery	Candidates in 1856 Presidential Election
Democrats		
Republicans		
Whigs		

TERMS & NAMES

Republican Party Antislavery political party that formed in the 1850s

John C. Frémont Republican Party candidate in the 1856 presidential election

James Buchanan 15th president

Dred Scott v. Sandford Court case that extended the rights of slaveholders and limited legal efforts to challenge slavery

Roger B. Taney Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who wrote the lead opinion in the *Dred Scott* case

Abraham Lincoln Illinois Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1858

Harpers Ferry Location of U.S. arsenal in Virginia, which was raided by John Brown

The Republican Party Forms

(pages 450–451)

Why was the Republican Party formed?

The Whig Party split over the issue of slavery. The Southern Whigs were destroyed by the split. A few Southern Whigs joined the Democratic Party. Most searched for leaders who supported slavery and the Union.

The Northern Whigs, however, joined with other slavery opponents and formed the **Republican Party**. The Republicans quickly gained support in the North. Many Northerners blamed the Democratic Party for the violence in Kansas.

In the 1856 presidential election, the Republicans nominated **John C. Frémont**. They supported him because he was in favor of admitting California and Kansas as free states. He was also a young, handsome war hero. But the Republican position on slavery was very unpopular in the South. Frémont's name did not even appear on the ballot there.

1. Why did the Republicans nominate Frémont for the presidency in 1856?

The Election of 1856 (page 451)

Who ran for president in 1856?

The Democrats nominated **James Buchanan** for the presidency in 1856. He said little about slavery. He said his goal was to keep the Union together. Southerners supported him. Some Northerners also supported him because they were afraid that the nation would split apart if Frémont was elected.

The Know-Nothing Party nominated Millard Fillmore. He had been president following the death of President Zachary Taylor. The Know-Nothing Party had little strength because it was divided over slavery.

The 1856 election became two separate races. In the North, it was Buchanan against Frémont. In the