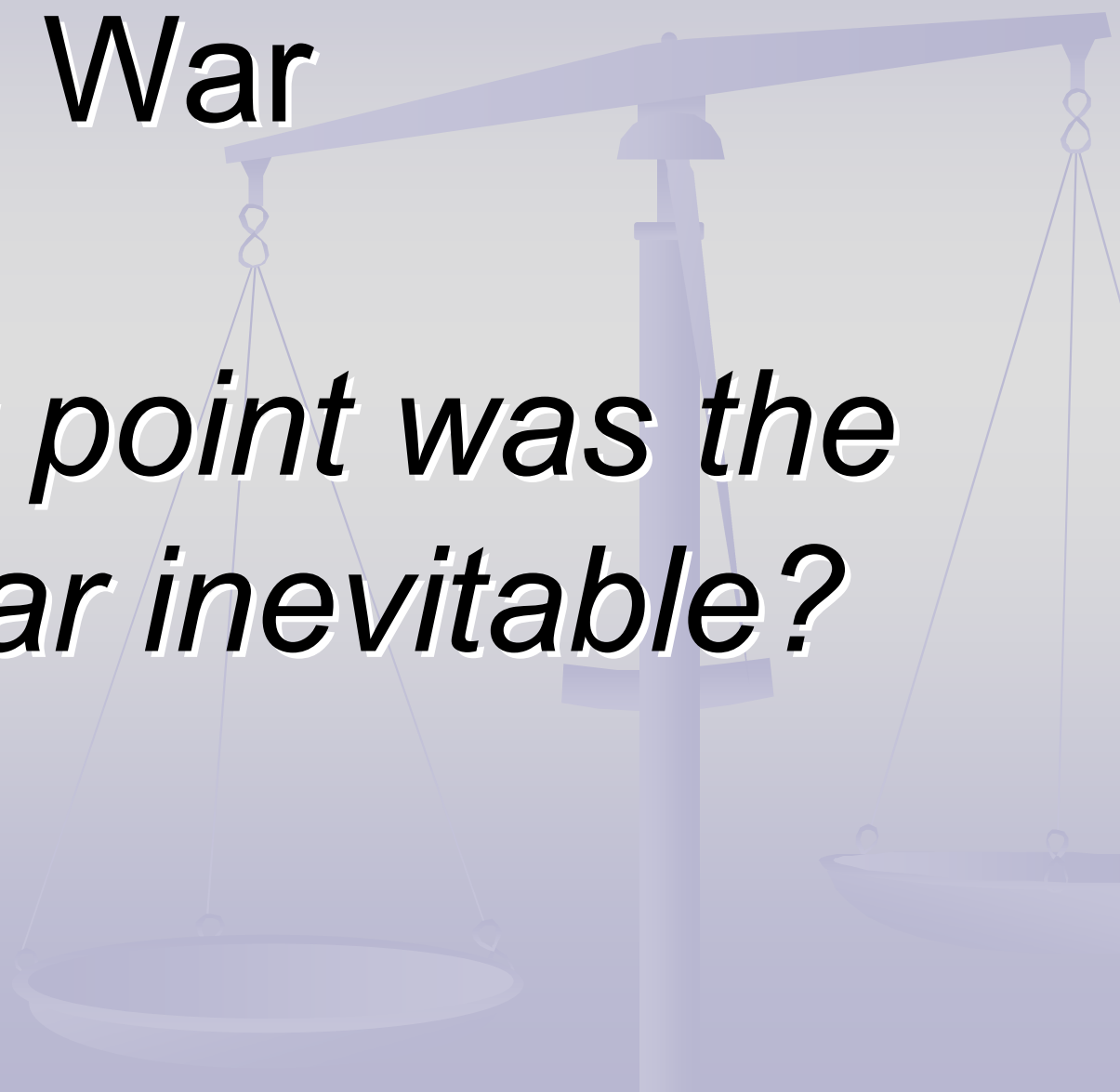


The Causes of the Civil War

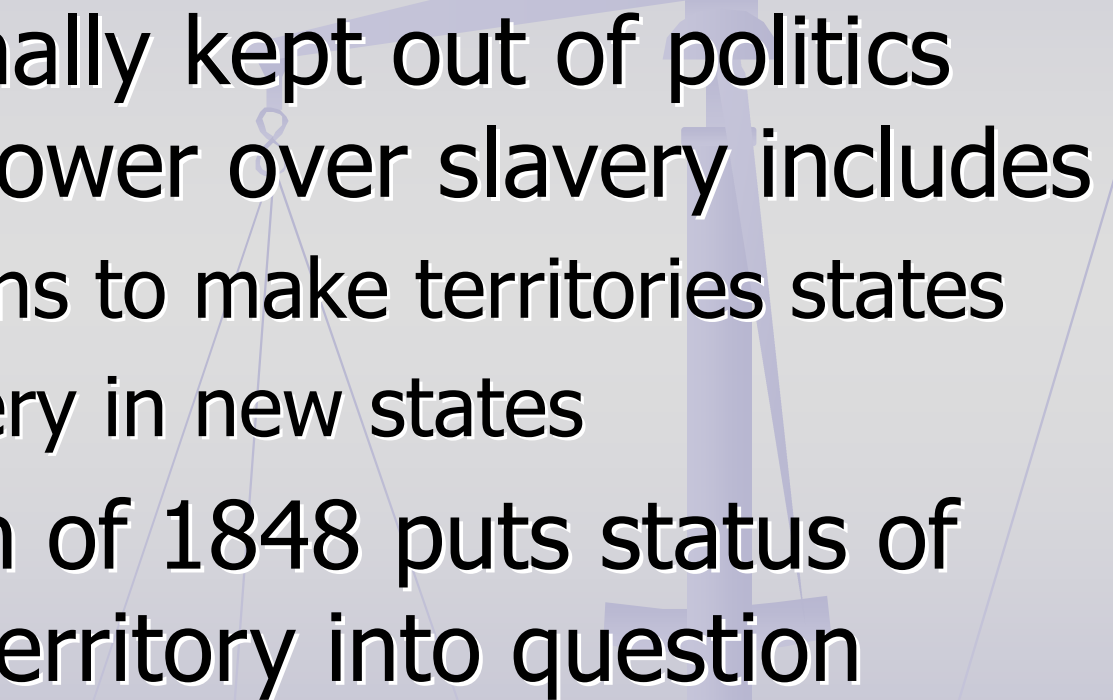


*At what point was the
Civil War inevitable?*

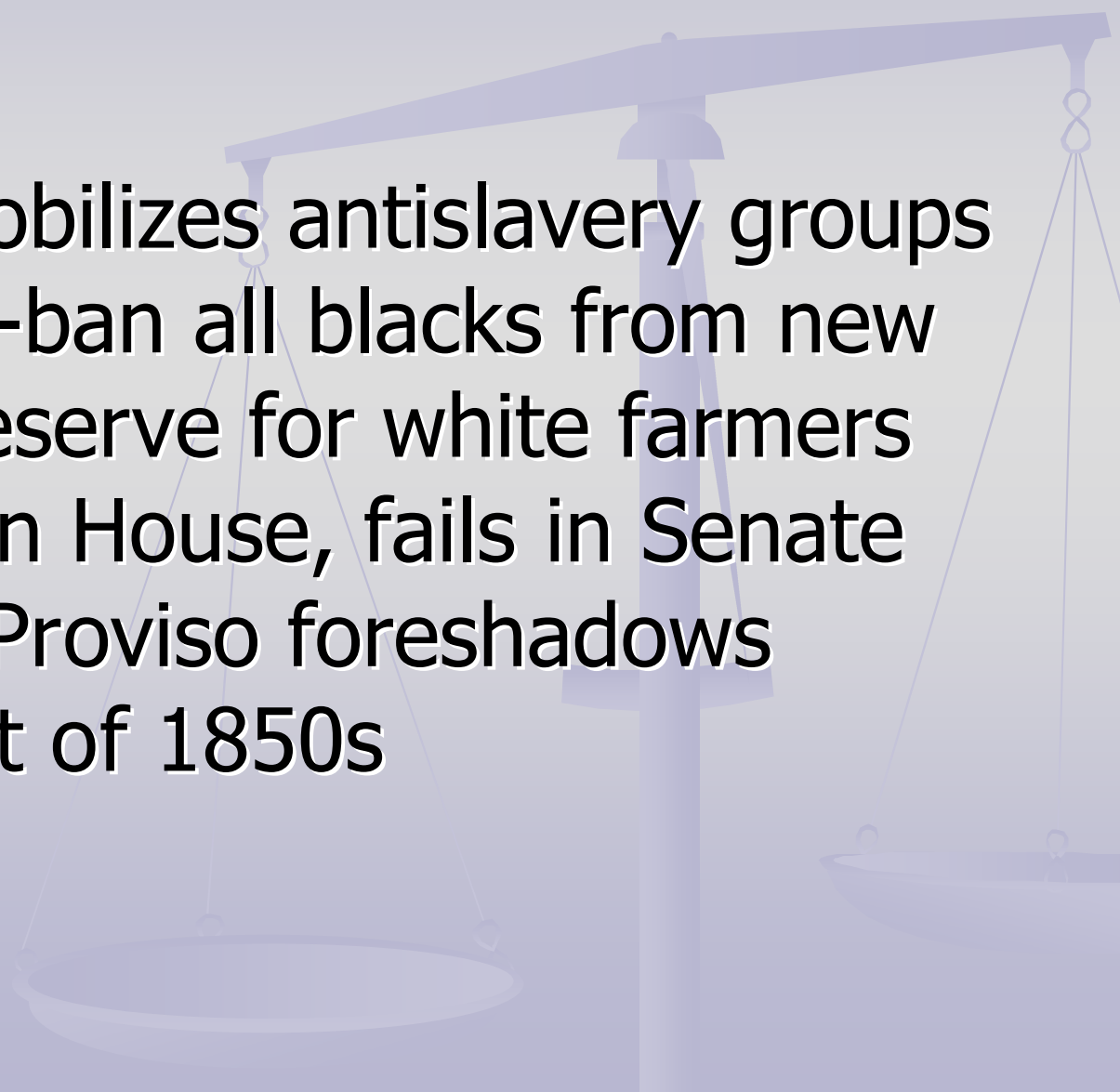
A Growing Conflict

- Though slavery was the proverbial “spark that ignited the powder keg”, the Civil War was more of a political and an economic conflict
 - The South felt that slavery was their constitutional right of personal choice and private property (the slaves were their property and they could do what they wanted with it)
 - The antislavery movement had steadily been gaining support in the North, and conditions in the 1850’s would result in an incredible firestorm of opposition against the “peculiar institution”

The Problem of Slavery in the Mexican Cession

- Slavery traditionally kept out of politics
 - Congressional power over slavery includes
 - setting conditions to make territories states
 - forbidding slavery in new states
 - Mexican Cession of 1848 puts status of slavery in new territory into question
- 

The Wilmot Proviso Launches the Free-Soil Movement

- Mexican War mobilizes antislavery groups
 - Wilmot Proviso--ban all blacks from new territories to preserve for white farmers
 - Proviso passes in House, fails in Senate
 - Battle over the Proviso foreshadows sectional conflict of 1850s
- 

The Free-Soil Movement

- Though they were against one another politically, nearly all Northern Democrats and Whigs supported bills such as the Wilmot Proviso that would contain slavery in the current South
 - They opposed slavery spreading to newly gained lands in the West (i.e. the Mexican Cession lands)
 - Supporters of 'free soil' would found the Free-Soil Party in 1848
 - Adopted the slogan "free soil, free labor, and free men"

Let the People Decide

- Senator Lewis Cass (Michigan) proposed a way to decide the slavery issue, at least in the new territories, in as peaceful a manner as possible...

popular sovereignty

- Also known as squatter sovereignty, it stated that the settlers of a territory should be allowed to vote on the issue of slavery since they were the ones who had to live with the issue

Another Disputed Election

- In the election of 1848 there were three main candidates, the Democrats chose Lewis Cass, the Whigs chose the war hero Zachary Taylor, and the Free-Soil Party chose Martin Van Buren
 - Northern Democrats sided with Van Buren and the resulting loss of northern votes cost Cass and the Democrats the election
 - Taylor won a very narrow victory

A Growing Crisis

- On the eve of 1850 the South actually was doing well politically
 - President Taylor was a slave-owning southerner, as was most of his cabinet
 - The Democrats had a majority in the Supreme Court
 - There was a perfect balance of slave states to free states, 15 to 15

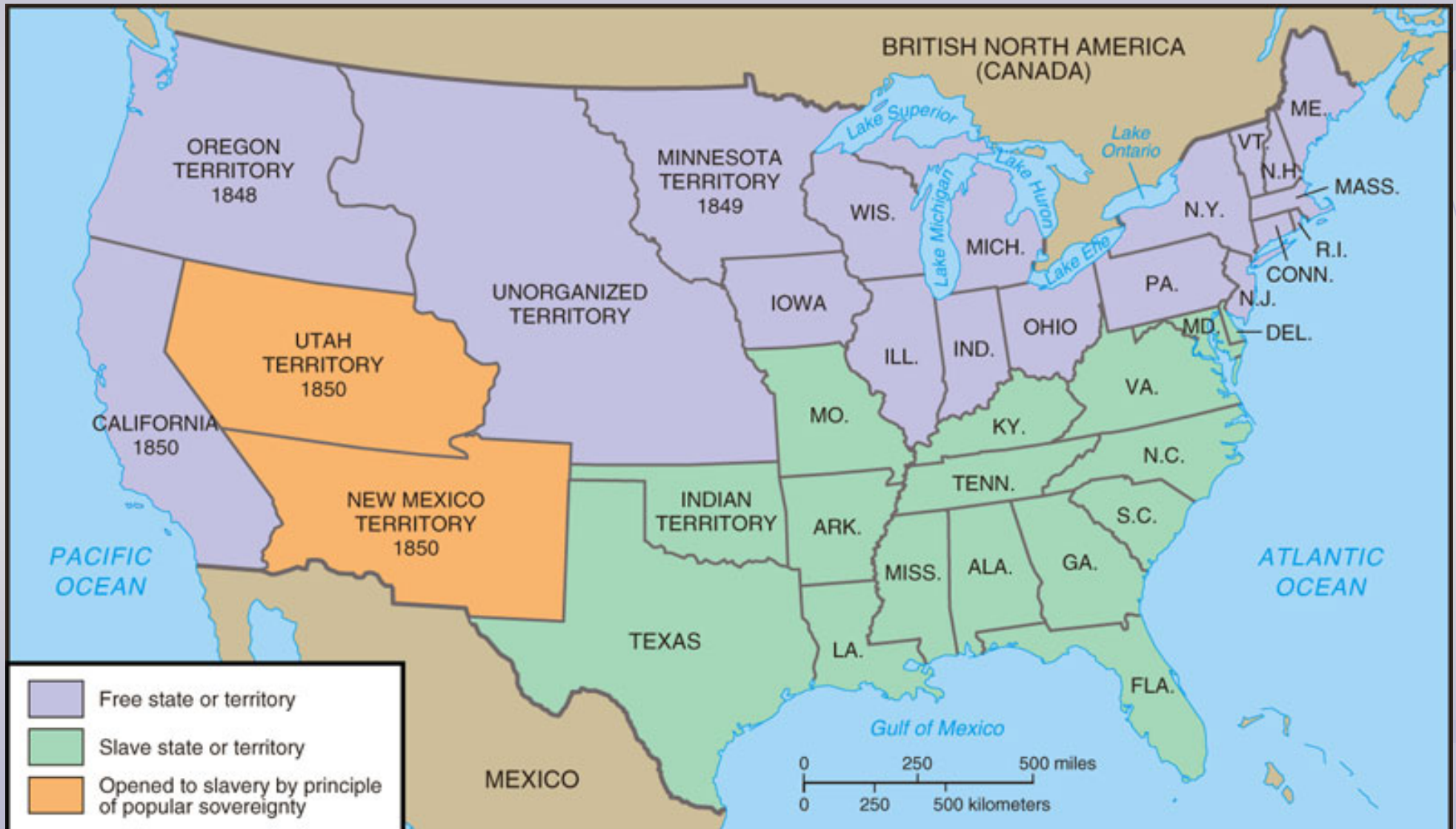
The Growing Crisis

- After the great gold rush of 1849 California's population swelled → it drafted a constitution so that it could apply for statehood, a constitution that outlawed slavery
- President Taylor immediately supported California as a free state, and he pushed for New Mexico as well
- Southern radicals began talking about seceding from the Union... they even met in Nashville to discuss immediate secession
 - With such a large majority of antislavery states in the Senate, the abolitionists would be able to pass a bill that would ban slavery in the US, thus destroying the Southern way of life

Clay Saves the Day... Again...

- Once again Henry Clay would save the Union
 - He proposed the Compromise of 1850
 - California would be admitted as a free state
 - The rest of the Mexican Cession would be divided and the territories would use popular sovereignty to decide upon the issue of slavery
 - No more slaves could be traded in Washington DC, but the current slave-owners were allowed to keep their slaves
 - The South would get the much more strict fugitive slave law that it had been requesting

The Compromise of 1850



Will the Compromise of 1850 Pass?

- In the beginning, it did not appear that the Compromise of 1850 would be approved
 - President Taylor opposed it fiercely, as did the young northern radicals of the Senate
- However, things would change greatly...
 - Taylor's sudden death would bring Millard Fillmore to the office of president, and he strongly supported the Compromise
 - Senator Stephen Douglas was able to maneuver the bill through Congress and it was eventually passed in whole

The Fugitive Slave Law...

- The most divisive issue of the Compromise of 1850 was the Fugitive Slave Law
 - The new law required that any suspected runaway slave had to be returned to the South, and with no right to fair trial
 - The new laws also placed very heavy penalties on northerners who helped any runaway slaves
 - Runaway slaves were now under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and government agents had the right to arrest anyone who they so much as suspected of being a slave

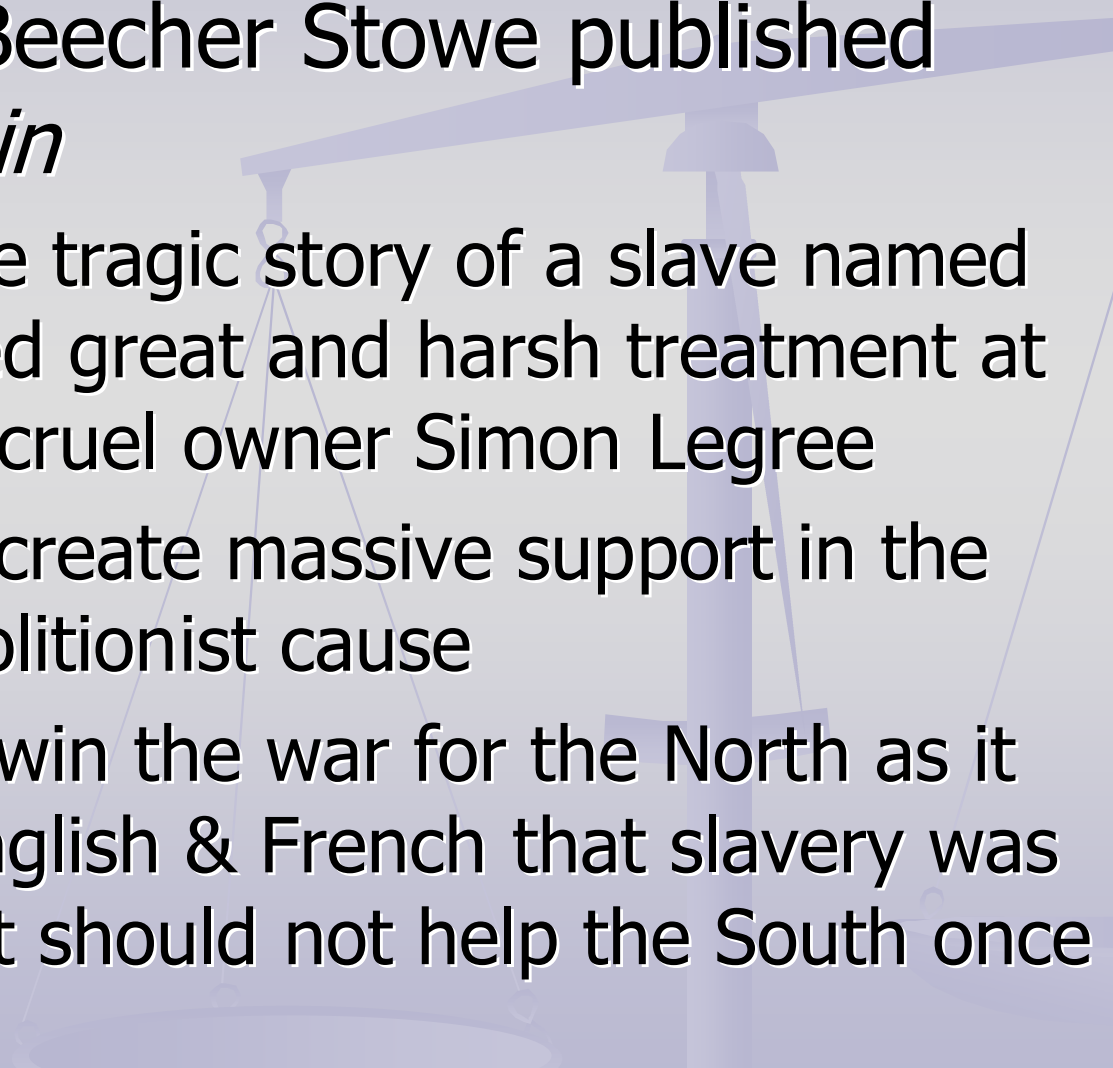
The Fugitive Slave Law...

- The Effects of the new Fugitive Slave Law...
 - Ultimately, although the new Fugitive codes were meant to help the South, the codes actually united the North in its opposition to slavery...
 - Northerners felt that they were now being forced to not only accept the practice of slavery, but now they were forced to be partners in enforcing the practice of slavery... → made even moderate Northerners abolitionists

Another Kind of Railroad...

- The Underground Railroad
 - This was a secret network of abolitionists who smuggled runaway slaves North, and Harriet Tubman was one of its most important leaders
 - Though it would never actually free a significant number of slaves, the very fact that it existed and that it was successful in freeing some slaves was a great source of pride for abolitionists
 - Its role was only strengthened by the new Fugitive Slave Laws

The Book That Started a War

- In 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe published *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
 - The book told the tragic story of a slave named Tom who suffered great and harsh treatment at the hands of his cruel owner Simon Legree
 - The book would create massive support in the North for the abolitionist cause
 - The book would win the war for the North as it convinced the English & French that slavery was wrong and that it should not help the South once the war began
- 

Another Important Book

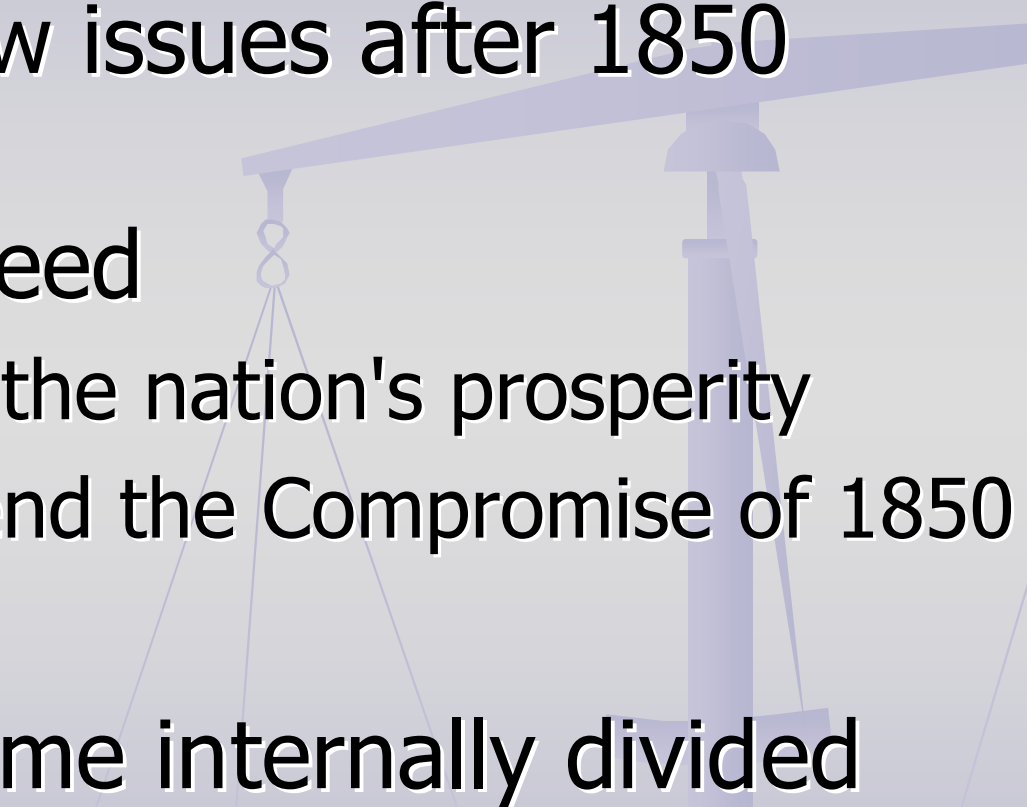
- *Impending Crisis of the South* was published by Hinton R. Helper in 1857
 - Though it was written by a southerner, its main argument was that slavery was actually hurting the Southern economy and that the South would do better to move to a modern economy
 - The book was quickly banned in the South but it was wildly popular in the North

Political Upheaval, 1852-1856

- Whigs and Democrats manage controversy in 1850
- Sectionalism destroys both parties in 1850s



The Party System in Crisis

- Parties need new issues after 1850
 - Democrats succeed
 - claim credit for the nation's prosperity
 - promise to defend the Compromise of 1850
 - Whigs fail, become internally divided
- 

The Election of 1852

- The Whigs chose as their candidate another war hero, General Winfield Scott
- The Democrats this time chose Franklin Pierce, a northerner, but one who could unite both the northern and southern Democrats because he was willing to let slavery exist in the South
- Pierce swept the election after Scott refused to comment on the slavery issue

THE ELECTION OF 1852

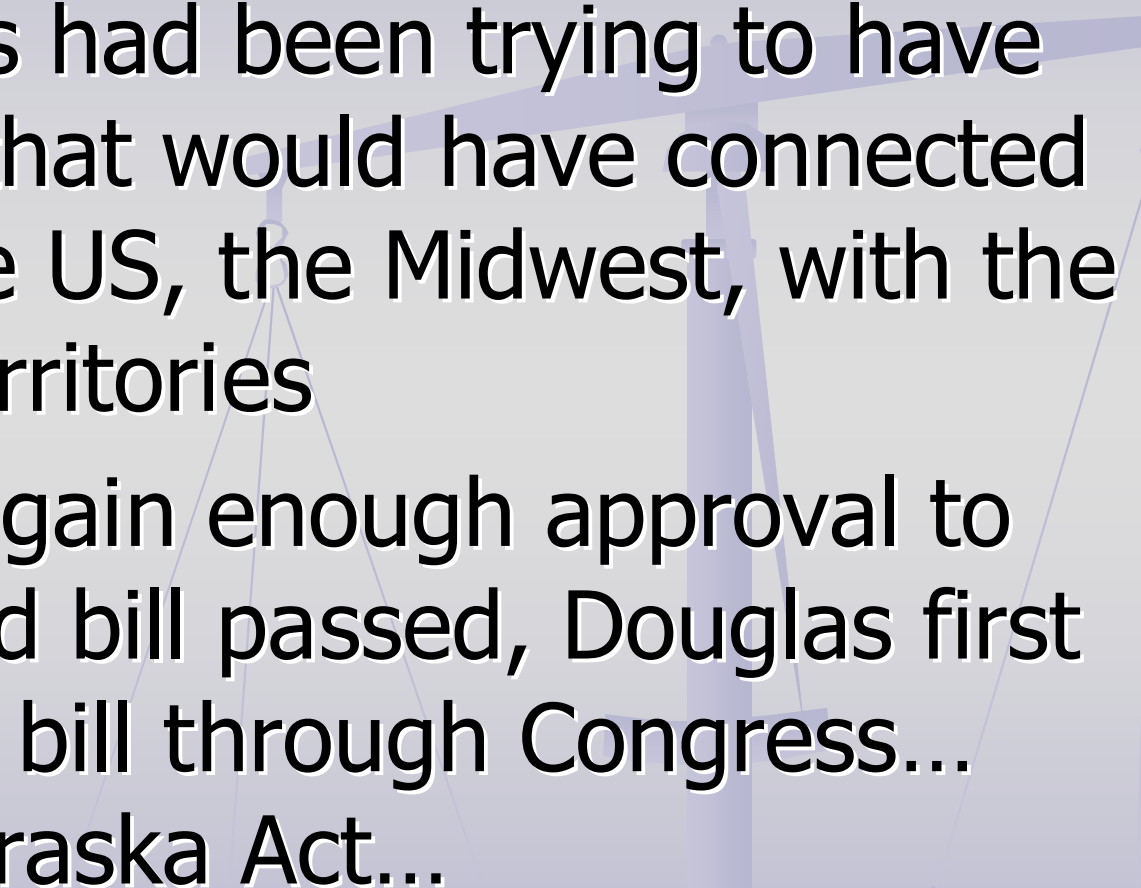
Candidate	Party	Popular Vote	Electoral Vote
Pierce	Democratic	1,601,117	254
Scott	Whig	1,385,453	42
Hale	Free-Soil	155,825	—

Pierce As President

- Pierce proved to be nothing more than a tool to the powerful southerners in his cabinet, men like the future Confederate president Jefferson Davis
- Pierce would infuriate the North after it learned of incidents such as the Ostend Manifesto and his support of the Walker Expedition, both which were schemes that could have greatly strengthened the South

- ***Ostend Manifesto*** - purpose: if Spain refused to sell, the manifesto gave the United States the right to seize the country forcibly. Cuba would then become a slave state.
- ***Walker Expeditions***: Taking the expansionist concept of Manifest Destiny to heart, Walker hired soldiers of fortune and between 1853 and 1860 made several attempts to take over territories in Mexico, Nicaragua and Honduras
 - Mexico: seized region – named himself President – driven out – tried / acquitted in US courts
 - Nicaragua: seized city – named himself President – driven out – tried / acquitted in US courts
 - Honduras: invasion – arrested by British – turned over to Honduran authorities – tried / convicted / executed

The Kansas-Nebraska Act

- Senator Douglas had been trying to have a railroad built that would have connected his region of the US, the Midwest, with the new Western territories
 - But, in order to gain enough approval to have the railroad bill passed, Douglas first pushed another bill through Congress... the Kansas-Nebraska Act...
- 

The Kansas-Nebraska Act

- The Compromise of 1820 had forever denied the South the opportunity of moving slavery north of the $36^{\circ}30'$ line
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act would give them this opportunity, for it would divided the Nebraska Territory into two new territories, Kansas and Nebraska, and it would then allow the settlers of each territory the right of popular sovereignty, or voting on whether to allow slavery or not

The Kansas-Nebraska Act

- The Kansas-Nebraska Act if approved would basically repeal the famed Missouri Compromise of 1820 that had secured US peace for over 30 years
- With the Whigs gone, it was up to Northern Democrats to fight the bill, which they called treasonous...
- The Northern Democrats fighting the bill would leave the party in order to form one of their own, the Republicans...

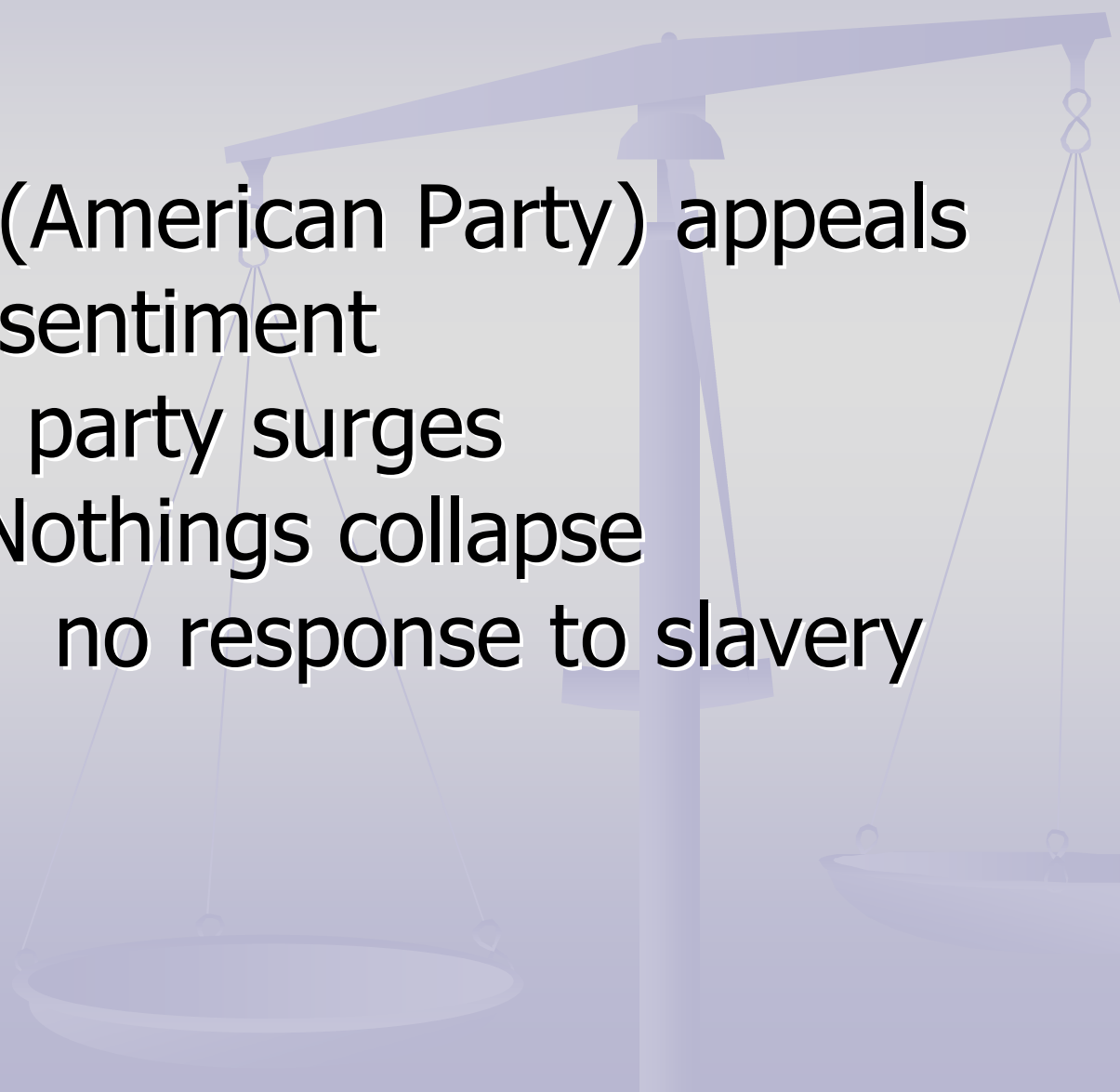
The Kansas-Nebraska Act

■ **Effect**

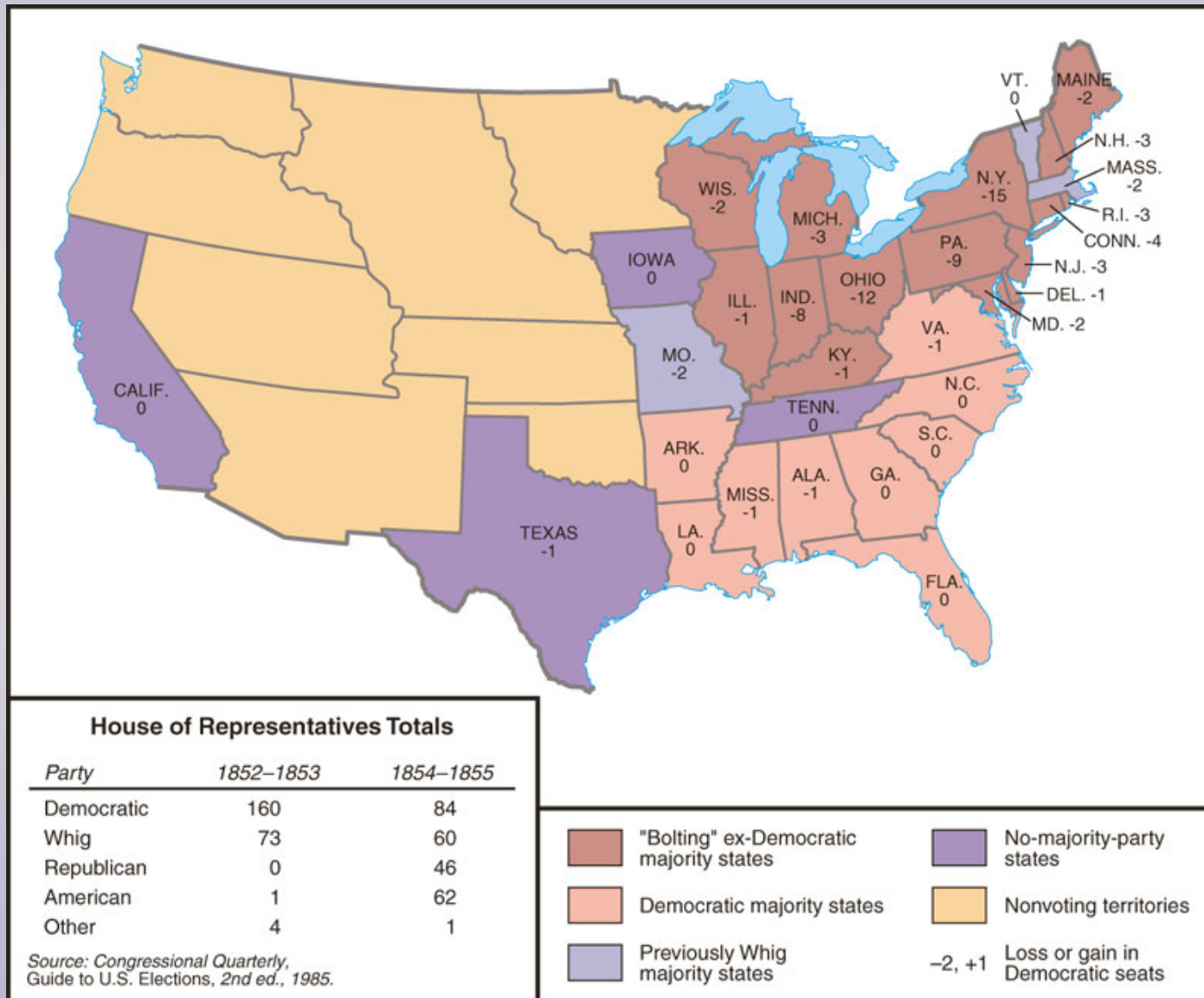
- **Angered North – stopped enforcing FSL**
- **Made slavery debate more violent**
- **Killed Democratic party & set stage for Republican Party**



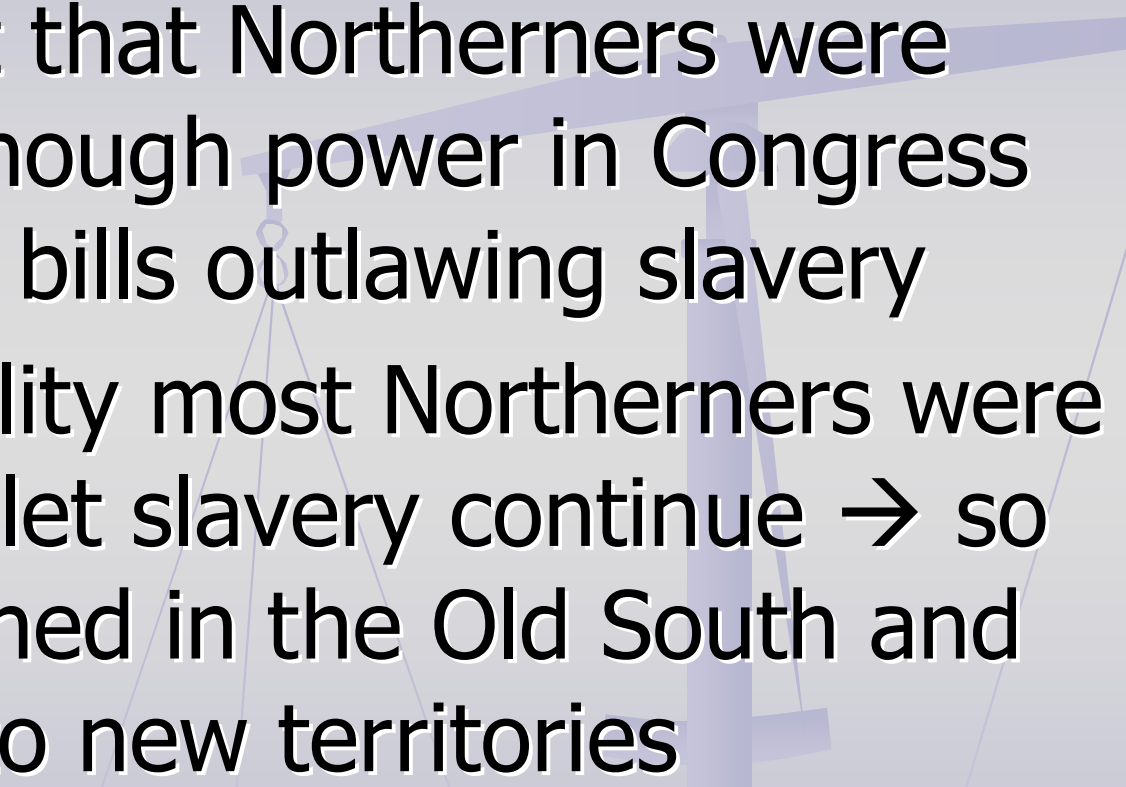
An Appeal to Nativism: The Know-Nothing Episode

- Know-Nothings (American Party) appeals to anti-Catholic sentiment
 - 1854--American party surges
 - By 1856 Know-Nothings collapse
 - Probable cause: no response to slavery
- 

Congressional Election of 1854



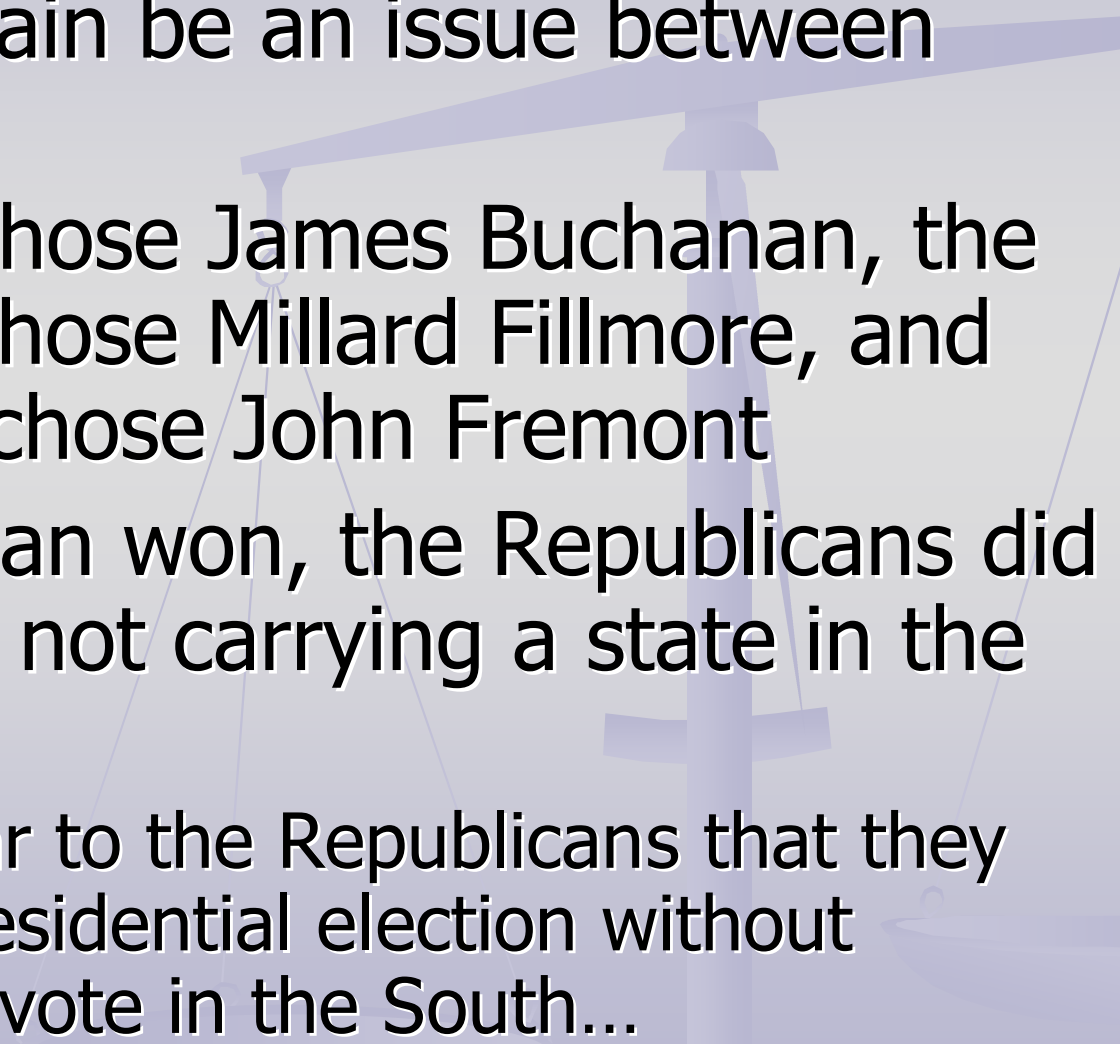
Fighting Philosophies

- Southerners felt that Northerners were trying to gain enough power in Congress in order to pass bills outlawing slavery
 - However, in reality most Northerners were very content to let slavery continue → so long as it remained in the Old South and did not spread to new territories
- 

The Republicans

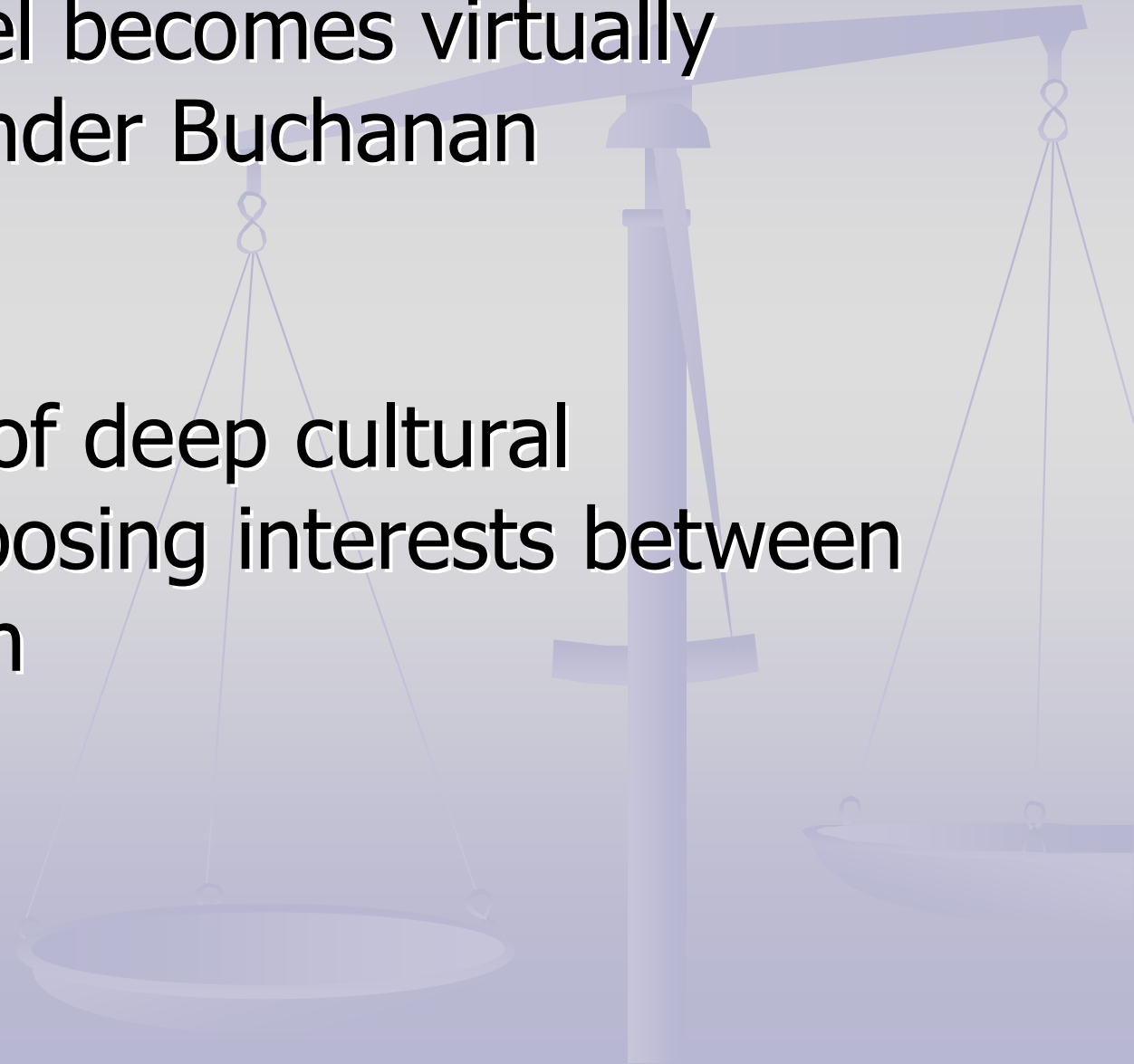
- Republicans were very much opposed to slavery spreading into the new territories
 - In 1854, when creating the party's platform, it was adopted that the Republicans wanted the Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed, as well as the Fugitive Slave Law
 - It was not until the radical abolitionists would join the party around 1860 that the Republicans would begin even discussing the idea of abolishing slavery

The Election of 1856

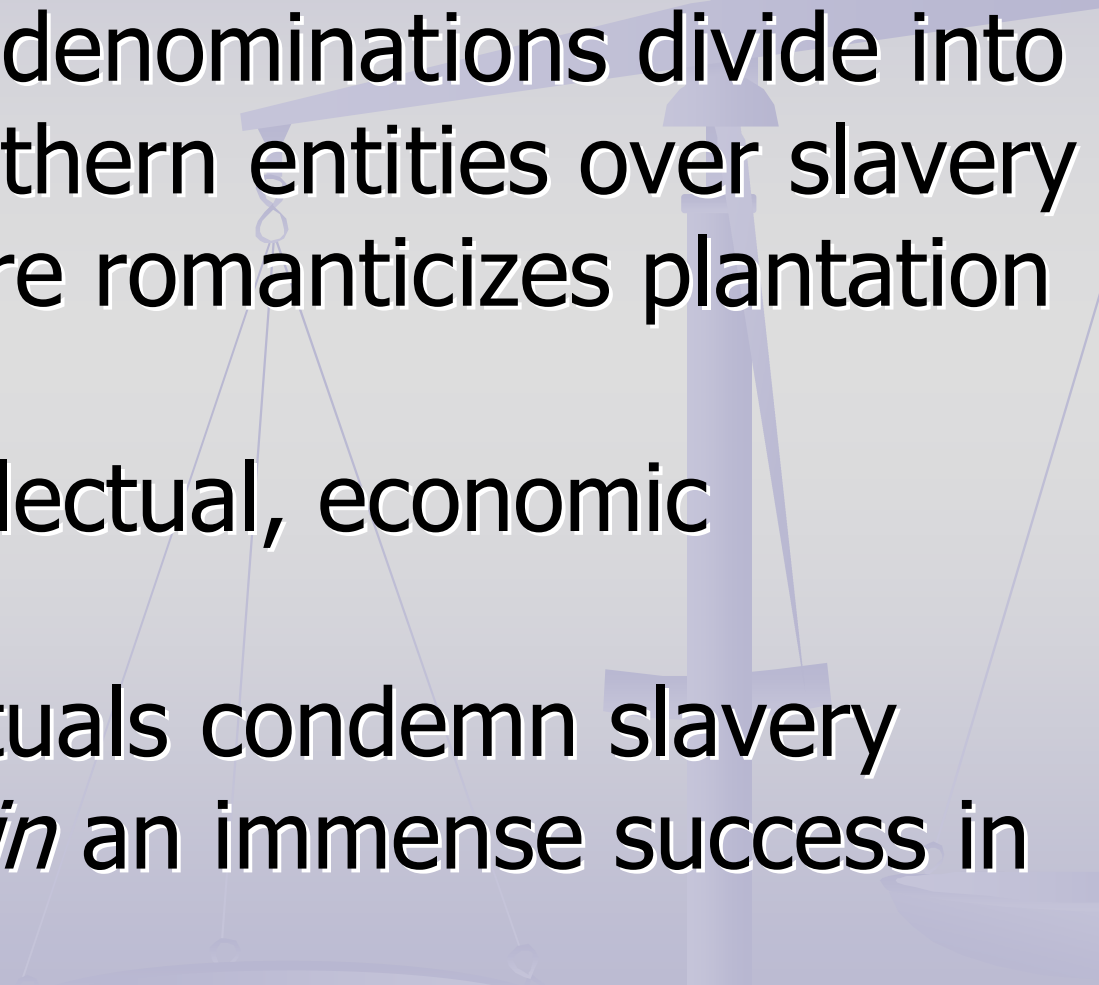
- It would once again be an issue between three parties
 - The Democrats chose James Buchanan, the Know-Nothings chose Millard Fillmore, and the Republicans chose John Fremont
 - Although Buchanan won, the Republicans did very well despite not carrying a state in the South
 - This made it clear to the Republicans that they could win the presidential election without winning a single vote in the South...
- 

The House Divided, 1857-1860

- Sectional quarrel becomes virtually irreconcilable under Buchanan
- Growing sense of deep cultural differences, opposing interests between North and South



Cultural Sectionalism

- Major Protestant denominations divide into northern and southern entities over slavery
 - Southern literature romanticizes plantation life
 - South seeks intellectual, economic independence
 - Northern intellectuals condemn slavery
 - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* an immense success in North
- 

Bleeding Kansas

- As the day approached in the Kansas territory for its settlers to decide on slavery, a literal flood of antislavery northerners poured into the state
- Southerners responded by moving in their own large numbers to the territory
- Southerners won the popular sovereignty election, but northerners refused to acknowledge the election; thus they set up their own illegal government

Bleeding Kansas



- The conflict would turn deadly after a group of pro-slavery raiders attacked the town of Lawrenceburg and killed a number of people
- John Brown brought the situation to a boiling point...
 - He would lead his sons on a counterattack on a pro-slavery farming settlement and they would brutally kill five people at Pottawatomie Creek

Congressional Violence...

- Violence was not confined to the frontier as was seen in Congress in 1856
 - Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner delivered an acidic speech on the Senate floor in which he condemned the South and anyone who supported slavery... his speech also included a personal attack against South Carolina Senator Andrew Butler...
 - Butler's nephew was Representative Preston Brooks - he took great offense at the attack against his uncle... he promptly walked into the Senate and beat Sumner with a cane
 - Brooks was condemned in the North but was celebrated for his violent actions in the South...in fact, many Southerners sent him canes to replace his broken one!!!

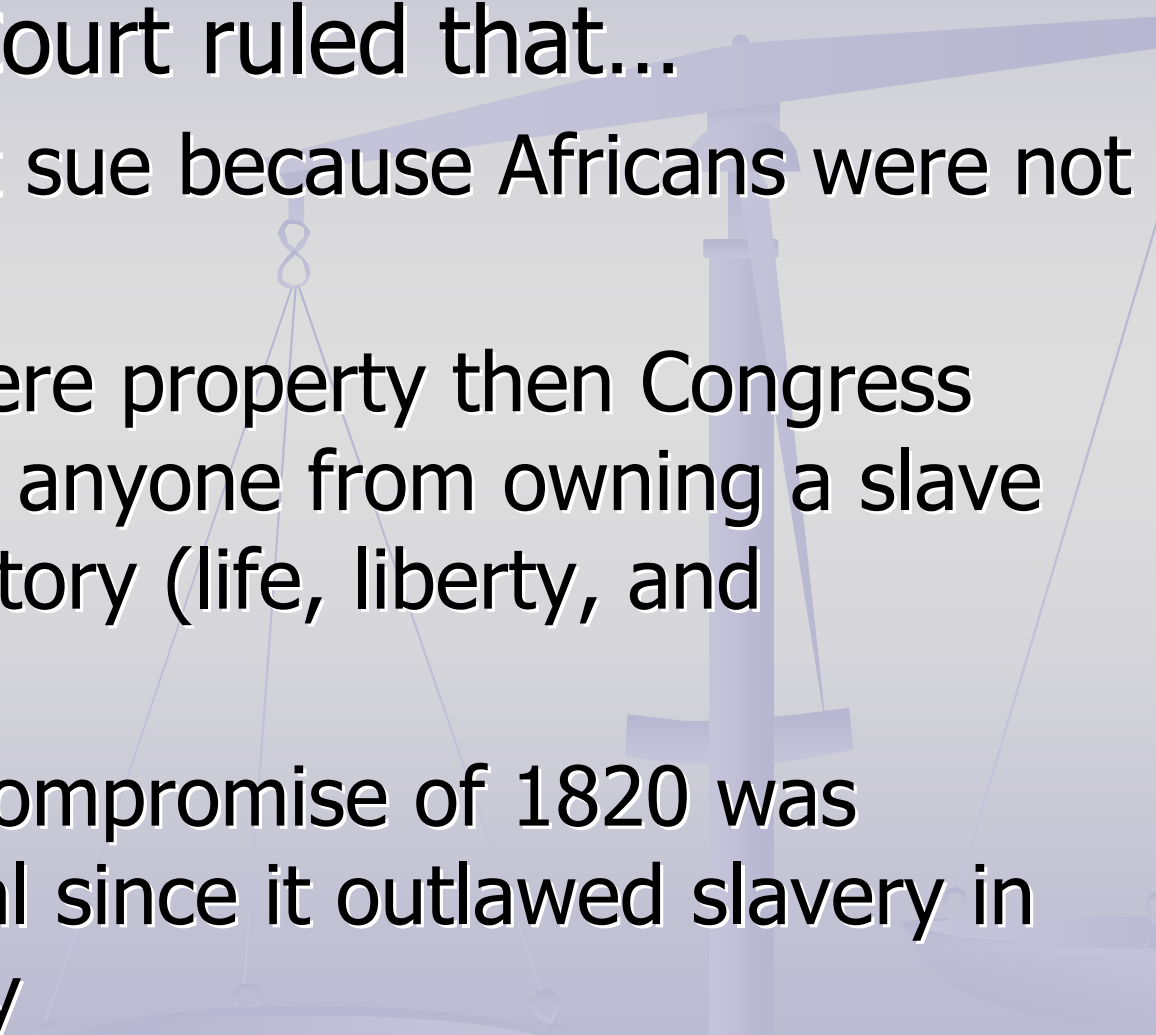
Buchanan Fails

- The pro-slavery elected Kansas legislature drafted a state constitution that established it as a slave state → the Lecompton Constitution
- Buchanan asked Congress to approve the Lecompton Constitution, bringing severe criticism upon him from the North
- The Lecompton Constitution was rejected in Congress and then again by the Kansas voters in 1858

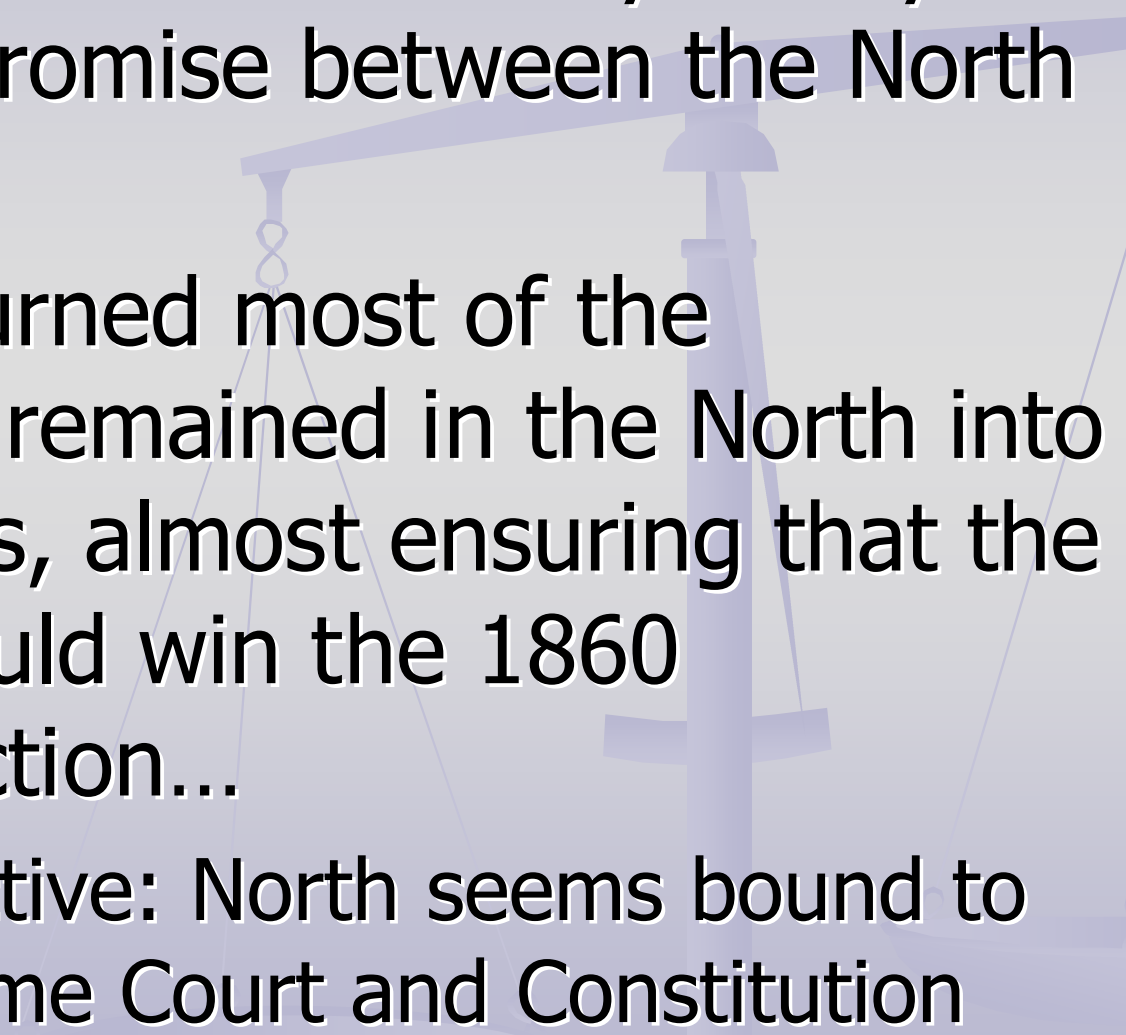
The Dred Scott Bombshell...

- The Supreme Court further brought the nation towards Civil War in 1857...
 - Dred Scott had been a slave in Missouri but had gone with his master to the free state of Minnesota for two years before returning to Missouri
 - Scott sued for his slavery by stating that his time of living in free Minnesota had made him a freed slave

The Dred Scott Bombshell...

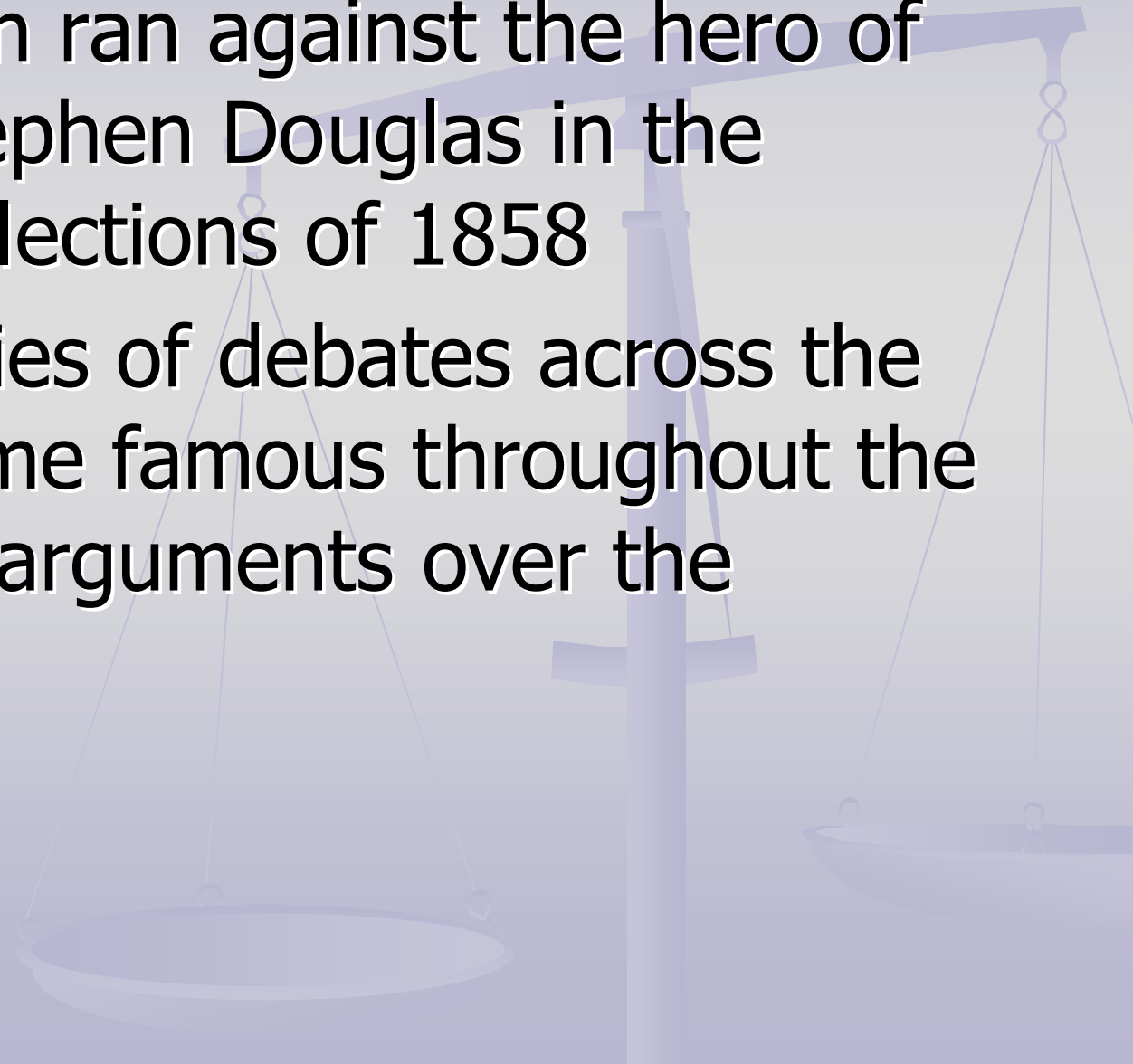
- The Supreme Court ruled that...
 - Scott could not sue because Africans were not US citizens
 - Since slaves were property then Congress could not deny anyone from owning a slave on federal territory (life, liberty, and **property**)
 - The Missouri Compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional since it outlawed slavery in federal territory
- 

The Dred Scott Bombshell...

- The *Dred Scott* decision destroyed any chance of compromise between the North and the South
 - The case also turned most of the Democrats that remained in the North into firm Republicans, almost ensuring that the Republicans would win the 1860 presidential election...
 - Southern perspective: North seems bound to violate the Supreme Court and Constitution
- 

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates

- Abraham Lincoln ran against the hero of compromise Stephen Douglas in the Illinois senate elections of 1858
- They held a series of debates across the state that became famous throughout the nation for their arguments over the slavery issue



Lincoln's Arguments

- Lincoln stated that the nation could not endure half free and half slave
 - "A house divided cannot stand..."
 - His words painted him as a northern radical and southerners were convinced that he wanted to end slavery completely
- Lincoln questioned how Douglas could possibly apply popular sovereignty to the *Dred Scott* decision...

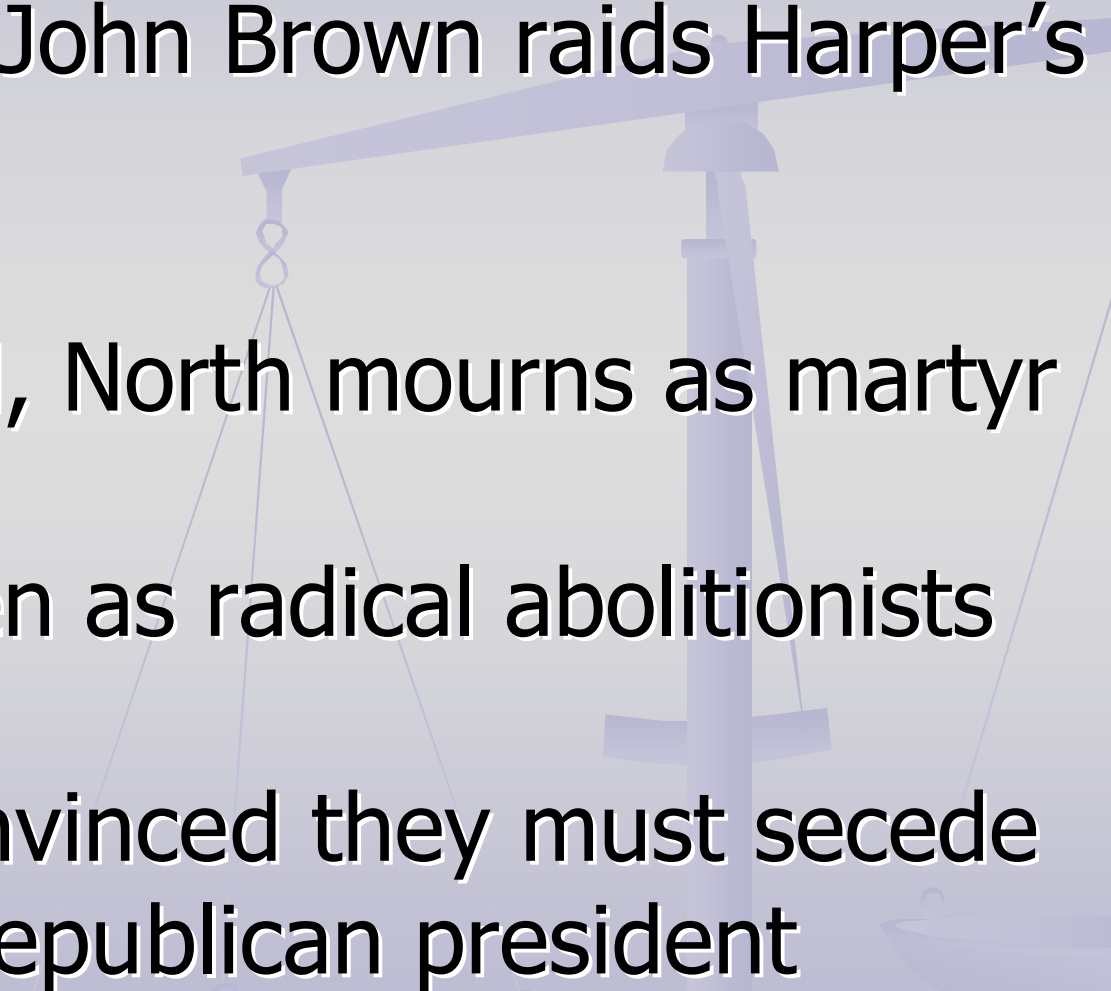
Douglas's Arguments and the Effects of the Debates

- The Freeport Doctrine was Douglas's response to Lincoln's questioning
 - Douglas stated that unless a region passed laws that provided for slavery and enforced them that slavery could not exist anyways
 - Douglas lost much southern support with this argument because they wanted him to champion the slavery cause
- Though Douglas won the state election, Lincoln would emerge a national hero for standing up to the institution of slavery

John Brown Again...

- Brown this time attempted to seize the Harper's Ferry armory in Virginia in order to lead an armed slave uprising in the South
- He was captured by federal troops and then tried and hung
- The South believed the whole ordeal to be a conspiracy by the North to crush the South with slave revolts
 - For many their suspicions were confirmed by northern newspapers who claimed Brown to be a hero

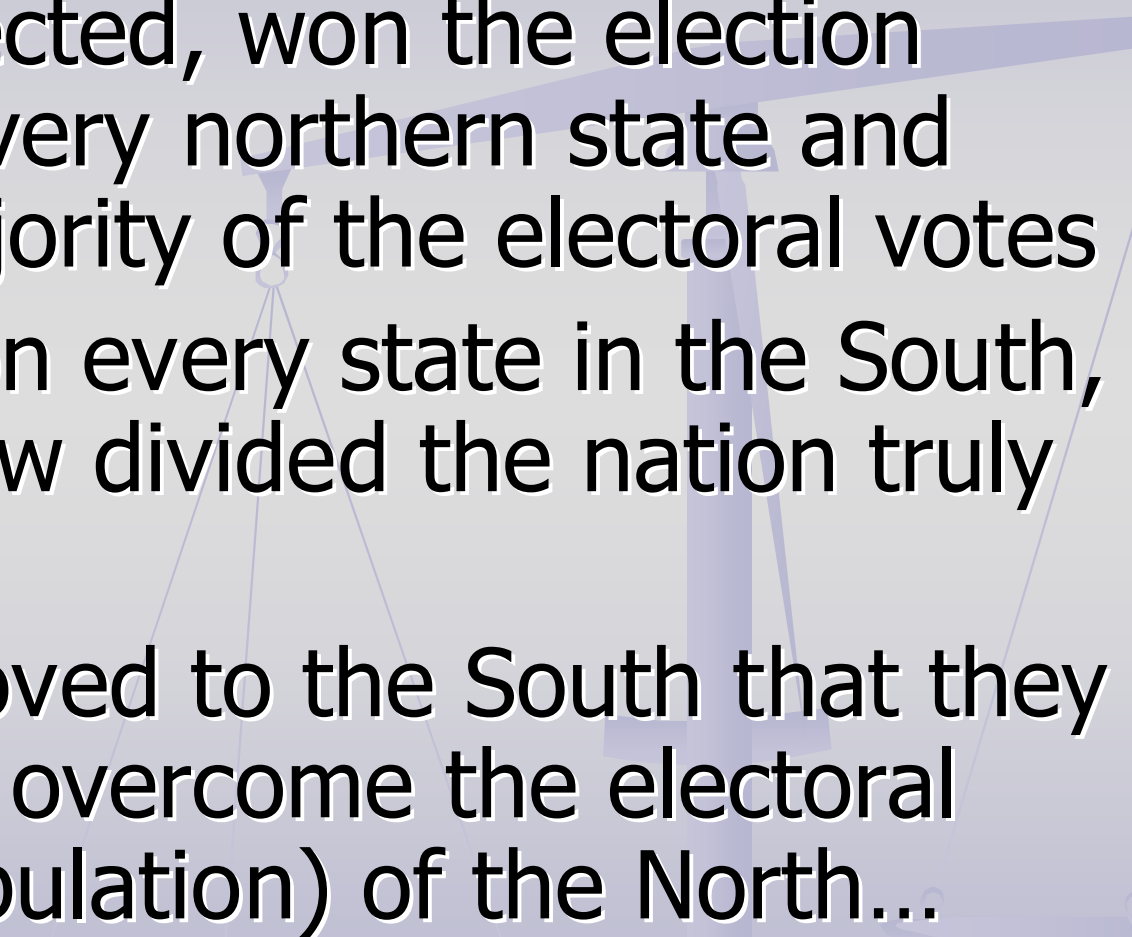
The South's Crisis of Fear

- October, 1859--John Brown raids Harper's Ferry
 - Brown executed, North mourns as martyr
 - Republicans seen as radical abolitionists
 - Southerners convinced they must secede on election of Republican president
- 

The Fateful Election of 1860

- If the Democrats had held together for the election, it's possible that the war could have been avoided for a while longer... but the party split and sealed the nation's fate...
 - Northern Democrats sided with Douglas while southern Democrats chose John Breckinridge
- The Republicans chose Lincoln as their candidate
- Southerners warned the Republicans that if Lincoln won the election that they would secede

Results of the Election

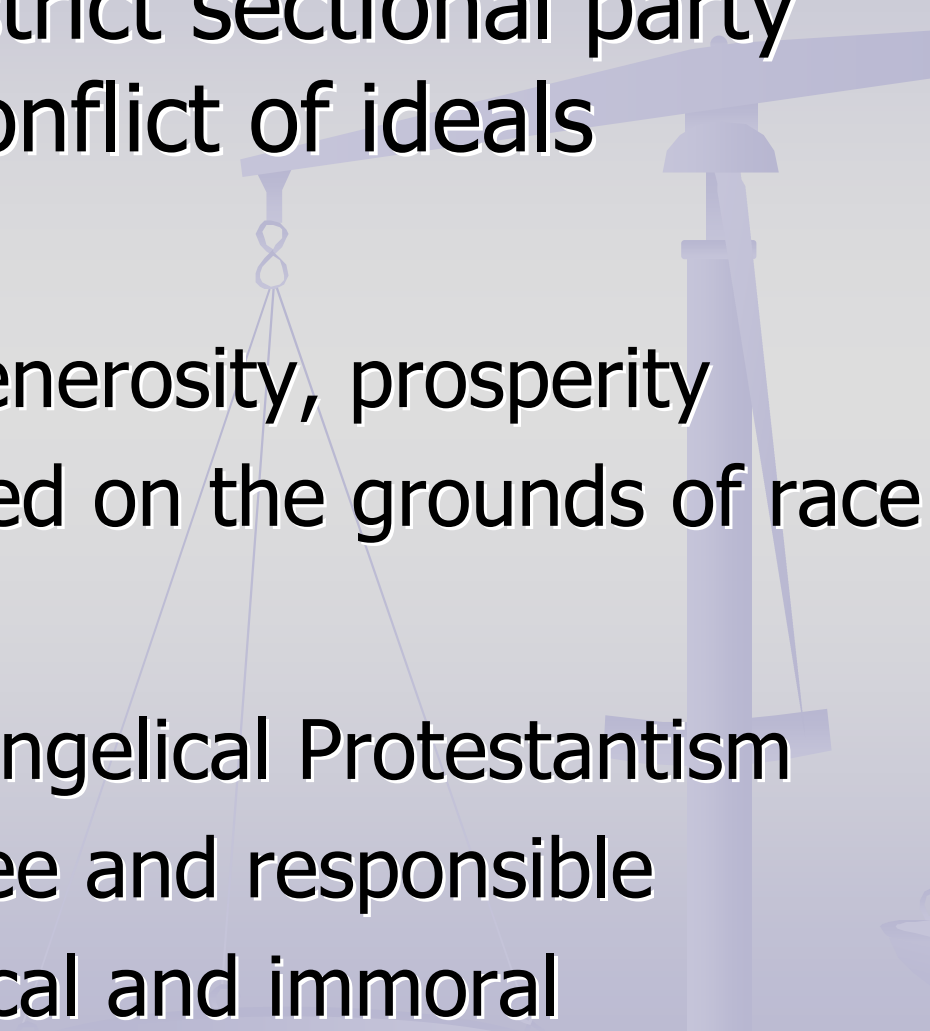
- Lincoln, as expected, won the election after carrying every northern state and winning the majority of the electoral votes
 - Breckinridge won every state in the South, showing just how divided the nation truly was...
 - The election proved to the South that they could no longer overcome the electoral votes (large population) of the North...
- 

Election of 1860

Electoral Vote by State		Popular Vote
REPUBLICAN Abraham Lincoln	180 ●	1,865,593
DEMOCRATIC, SOUTHERN John C. Breckinridge	72 ●	848,356
DEMOCRATIC, NORTHERN Stephen A. Douglas	12 ●	1,382,713
CONSTITUTIONAL UNION John Bell	39 ●	592,906
	<hr style="width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"/> 303	<hr style="width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"/> 4,689,568



Explaining the Crisis

- Republicans a strict sectional party
 - Fundamental conflict of ideals
 - Southern ideals
 - paternalism, generosity, prosperity
 - slavery defended on the grounds of race
 - Northern ideals
 - inspired by evangelical Protestantism
 - each person free and responsible
 - slavery tyrannical and immoral
- 

Secession

- As a 'lame-duck' president waiting in office for Lincoln's inauguration, Buchanan did nothing to preserve the Union...
- Congress presented the Crittenden Compromise to Lincoln, but he rejected it on the grounds that slavery would not be extended into the territories
 - It had stated that slavery would be allowed in all lands south of the famed 36° 30' line

Secession

- Within months state conventions had been held and the “Deep Southern” states – Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas – had all seceded from the Union
- In February 1861 they met and created their own government, the Confederate States of America