

the election of 1860 answer key

the election of 1860 answer key is a vital topic for anyone studying American history, especially the intense period leading up to the Civil War. This comprehensive article explores the pivotal election of 1860, breaking down the main candidates, their platforms, the sociopolitical climate, key events, and the election's lasting impact on the United States. Readers can expect clear, fact-based explanations, detailed insights into how the election unfolded, and a thorough answer key to commonly asked questions about this historic turning point. By understanding the election of 1860, including its causes, controversies, and consequences, you'll gain valuable knowledge about one of the most consequential moments in U.S. political history. This guide will help students, educators, and history enthusiasts alike grasp the essential details of the election, its context, and its enduring significance. Read on for a structured breakdown, including a helpful table of contents, that brings clarity to this complex subject.

- Overview of the Election of 1860
- Political Parties and Candidates
- Key Issues and Campaign Platforms
- Election Results and Electoral Breakdown
- Impact and Aftermath of the Election
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Overview of the Election of 1860

The election of 1860 stands as one of the most critical moments in American history, marking the beginning of the end for the antebellum era and the start of the Civil War. The nation was sharply divided over issues such as slavery, states' rights, and economic policy. With sectional tensions at an all-time high, the presidential race was fiercely contested and ultimately led to a seismic shift in American politics. Understanding the election of 1860 involves examining the candidates, their parties, the issues at stake, and the broader historical context. The answer key to this election includes a review of the political landscape, voter concerns, and the far-reaching consequences that followed Abraham Lincoln's victory.

Political Parties and Candidates

The Fragmented Political Landscape

By 1860, the American political system had become deeply fractured. The two-party system of Democrats and Whigs had given way to new alliances and parties, reflecting the deep sectional divisions over slavery. Four main candidates represented distinct political camps, each with a unique platform and regional appeal.

Main Candidates and Their Parties

- **Abraham Lincoln (Republican Party):** Lincoln, a former congressman from Illinois, stood firmly against the expansion of slavery into new territories.
- **Stephen A. Douglas (Northern Democratic Party):** Douglas advocated for popular sovereignty, allowing territories to decide the slavery issue for themselves.
- **John C. Breckinridge (Southern Democratic Party):** Breckinridge supported the protection of slavery in the territories and states.
- **John Bell (Constitutional Union Party):** Bell sought compromise, emphasizing the preservation of the Union above all else.

Regional Support and Party Strategies

Each candidate's support base was heavily influenced by regional interests. Lincoln's appeal was strongest in the North, where anti-slavery sentiment ran high. Douglas, while popular in the Midwest, struggled to gain traction in the South. Breckinridge carried the Deep South with his pro-slavery stance, and Bell drew support from border states seeking a peaceful solution to mounting tensions. The split within the Democratic Party was particularly significant, as it virtually guaranteed a Republican victory by dividing the opposition vote.

Key Issues and Campaign Platforms

Slavery and States' Rights

The expansion of slavery into western territories was the defining issue of the election of 1860. Lincoln and the Republican Party opposed any further spread of slavery, seeing it as morally wrong and economically backward. In contrast, Breckinridge and the Southern Democrats insisted on the right of states and territories to permit slavery. Douglas promoted popular sovereignty as a moderate alternative, while Bell tried to sidestep the slavery issue by focusing on national unity.

Economic Policies and Tariffs

Economic concerns also played a role, with tariffs and internal improvements debated among the candidates. Republicans favored policies that supported Northern industrial growth, including protective tariffs and infrastructure investment. Democrats were split, with Northern Democrats more open to compromise and Southern Democrats prioritizing the interests of plantation agriculture.

Union Preservation

Preserving the Union was a central theme for Bell and the Constitutional Union Party. Their platform avoided taking a firm stand on slavery, instead calling for adherence to the Constitution and the rule of law. This message resonated in states where the threat of secession loomed but there was hope for peaceful resolution.

Election Results and Electoral Breakdown

Popular and Electoral Vote Totals

The election of 1860 produced highly polarized results. Lincoln won the presidency without carrying a single Southern state, demonstrating the depth of national division. He received about 40% of the popular vote but a decisive majority in the Electoral College.

1. **Abraham Lincoln:** 180 electoral votes, approximately 1,865,000 popular votes
2. **John C. Breckinridge:** 72 electoral votes, around 848,000 popular votes
3. **John Bell:** 39 electoral votes, roughly 592,000 popular votes

4. **Stephen A. Douglas:** 12 electoral votes, nearly 1,383,000 popular votes

Geographical Patterns in Voting

Lincoln dominated the North and West, while Breckinridge won the Deep South. Bell captured much of the border states, and Douglas managed to win only Missouri and a fragment of New Jersey. The regional split in voting reflected the broader sectional conflict that would erupt into war.

Impact and Aftermath of the Election

Immediate Reactions and Secession

Lincoln's election as president was the catalyst for the secession of Southern states. South Carolina led the way, seceding in December 1860, followed by six other states before Lincoln took office. The election of 1860 answer key must include the fact that these events were directly linked to the outcome of the presidential race and the perceived threat to slavery.

Long-Term Political Consequences

The election of 1860 reshaped the American political landscape. The Republican Party became the dominant force in the North, while the Democratic Party was deeply weakened by its internal divisions. The onset of the Civil War would further define party identities and set the stage for future battles over civil rights, federal power, and sectional interests.

Historical Significance

This election marked a turning point in U.S. history, setting the stage for the Civil War and the eventual abolition of slavery. The issues and outcomes of 1860 continue to be studied for their relevance to debates about democracy, federalism, and race relations in America.

Frequently Asked Questions: The Election of

1860 Answer Key

Q: Who were the main candidates in the election of 1860?

A: Abraham Lincoln (Republican), Stephen A. Douglas (Northern Democrat), John C. Breckinridge (Southern Democrat), and John Bell (Constitutional Union Party).

Q: What was the central issue in the election of 1860?

A: The expansion of slavery into new territories was the key issue, along with states' rights and the preservation of the Union.

Q: Why did the Democratic Party split in 1860?

A: Deep divisions over slavery and states' rights led Northern and Southern Democrats to nominate separate candidates, weakening their electoral prospects.

Q: How did Abraham Lincoln win the presidency with less than half the popular vote?

A: Lincoln won a majority in the Electoral College due to his strong support in the North and the division of the opposition among three other candidates.

Q: What regions did each candidate win in the 1860 election?

A: Lincoln dominated the North and West, Breckinridge won the Deep South, Bell captured border states, and Douglas won Missouri and part of New Jersey.

Q: What was the immediate consequence of Lincoln's election?

A: Southern states began to secede from the Union, starting with South Carolina, leading to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Q: What role did the Constitutional Union Party play

in the election?

A: The Constitutional Union Party, led by John Bell, focused on preserving the Union and appealed to voters seeking compromise.

Q: How did the election of 1860 change American politics?

A: The election led to the dominance of the Republican Party in the North and further divided national politics along sectional lines.

Q: Why is the election of 1860 considered a turning point in U.S. history?

A: It triggered the secession of Southern states, led to the Civil War, and set the stage for major social and political changes, including the end of slavery.

Q: What lessons can be learned from the election of 1860?

A: The election demonstrates how deep divisions over critical issues can reshape political parties and lead to transformative events in a nation's history.

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The Election of 1860: Answer Key to a Nation Divided

The election of 1860 remains a pivotal moment in American history, a watershed election that irrevocably propelled the nation towards the Civil War. Understanding its complexities, the candidates, and the ultimate outcome is crucial to grasping the deep-seated divisions that fractured the United States. This comprehensive guide serves as your "Election of 1860 answer key," providing in-depth analysis and clarifying the key factors that shaped this turbulent election. We'll unpack the candidates, their platforms, the sectional tensions, and the results that ultimately

foreshadowed the nation's tragic descent into conflict.

The Contenders: A Deep Dive into the 1860 Candidates

The election of 1860 saw a fractured Democratic Party and a surge of sectionalism. Four major candidates vied for the presidency, each representing a distinct political ideology and geographical base:

Abraham Lincoln (Republican):

Lincoln, a relatively unknown Illinois lawyer, championed the Republican Party platform focused on preventing the expansion of slavery into new territories. His campaign was surprisingly successful in the North, attracting a broad coalition of anti-slavery activists, free-soil advocates, and those concerned about the balance of power between the North and South. His stance on slavery, while not advocating for abolition in existing slave states, was a key factor in securing his victory.

Stephen A. Douglas (Northern Democrat):

Douglas, the incumbent Senator from Illinois, advocated for popular sovereignty—allowing territories to decide the issue of slavery through their own votes. His position, while attempting to appeal to both North and South, ultimately alienated both, leaving him without a clear path to victory. His focus on national unity was overshadowed by the escalating sectional tensions.

John C. Breckinridge (Southern Democrat):

Representing the pro-slavery faction of the Democratic Party, Breckinridge staunchly defended the institution of slavery and advocated for its protection and expansion. His candidacy solidified the deep South's commitment to preserving slavery, further exacerbating the already fragile national unity.

John Bell (Constitutional Union Party):

Bell, from Tennessee, represented the Constitutional Union Party, a group advocating for maintaining the Union and avoiding the issue of slavery altogether. His platform, while aiming for national reconciliation, ultimately failed to gain significant traction amidst the polarized political climate.

The Sectional Divide: Understanding the Underlying Tensions

The election of 1860 wasn't simply about choosing a president; it was a referendum on the future of slavery and the very fabric of the nation. The deep-seated sectional divisions between the North and South, fueled by economic differences, differing social structures, and fundamentally opposing views on slavery, were at the heart of the election.

Economic Disparities:

The industrial North and the agrarian South held vastly different economic interests. The North's burgeoning industrial economy thrived on free labor, while the South's economy relied heavily on enslaved labor. These economic differences created a fundamental conflict of interest.

Social Structures:

The North's social structure was increasingly diverse and urbanized, while the South remained largely agrarian with a rigid social hierarchy based on race and ownership of slaves. These contrasting social structures fueled cultural and ideological differences.

The Results and Their Ramifications: The Election's Legacy

Lincoln's victory, while decisive in the North, was entirely absent in the South. This stark regional division highlighted the irreconcilable differences between the sections. The Southern states, fearing the eventual demise of slavery under a Lincoln administration, quickly initiated secession, leading to the formation of the Confederate States of America and the outbreak of the Civil War.

Lincoln's victory was not a mandate for abolition; however, it was interpreted by the South as a direct threat to their way of life. This misinterpretation, coupled with the already fragile state of the Union, accelerated the secession process and plunged the nation into a bloody conflict.

The Election of 1860: An Answer Key to the Road to Civil War

The election of 1860 wasn't simply an election; it was a turning point, a stark revelation of the deep-seated divisions within the United States. Understanding the candidates, their platforms, and the underlying sectional tensions is crucial to comprehending the causes of the Civil War. Lincoln's victory, while seemingly decisive in the North, became the catalyst for the South's secession and the subsequent four years of devastating conflict. This "answer key" provides a clearer understanding of this pivotal moment in American history and its enduring legacy.

Conclusion: The Election of 1860 remains a significant turning point in American history, a potent symbol of the nation's fragility and the destructive power of unchecked sectionalism. By understanding its intricacies, we gain valuable insight into the complex dynamics that shaped the nation's past and continue to inform its present.

FAQs:

1. Why didn't the Constitutional Union Party gain more support? The Constitutional Union Party's attempt to avoid the slavery issue proved ineffective in a climate where the issue dominated political discourse. Their platform lacked the strong ideological appeal of the other candidates.
2. What role did popular sovereignty play in the election? Popular sovereignty, advocated by

Douglas, aimed to allow territories to decide the slavery question themselves. However, it failed to resolve the underlying tensions and ultimately alienated both Northern and Southern voters.

3. How did Lincoln's victory directly contribute to secession? Lincoln's election, while not explicitly advocating for abolition in existing slave states, was perceived by the South as an existential threat to their way of life and their economic system based on slavery. This fear fueled the secession movement.

4. What were the long-term consequences of the 1860 election? The election's long-term consequences were profound and far-reaching, culminating in the Civil War, the abolition of slavery, and the reshaping of the American political landscape.

5. What were the key differences between the Northern and Southern Democrats? Northern Democrats, represented by Douglas, favored popular sovereignty, while Southern Democrats, represented by Breckinridge, championed the expansion and protection of slavery. This fundamental difference led to a split in the party and contributed significantly to the outcome of the election.

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roots. In *American Nations* he takes readers on a journey through the history of our fractured continent, offering a revolutionary and revelatory take on American identity, and how the conflicts between them have shaped our past and continue to mold our future. From the Deep South to the Far West, to Yankeedom to El Norte, Woodard (author of *American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good*) reveals how each region continues to uphold its distinguishing ideals and identities today, with results that can be seen in the composition of the U.S. Congress or on the county-by-county election maps of any hotly contested election in our history.

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Hinton Rowan Helper, 1860 This book condemns slavery, by appealed to whites' rational self-interest, rather than any altruism towards blacks. Helper claimed that slavery hurt the Southern economy by preventing economic development and industrialization, and that it was the main reason why the South had progressed so much less than the North since the late 18th century.

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Lee, Gaston, 2018-01-02 The Civil War: The War Between the States resource book for middle grades provides reading selections, photographs, and graphic organizers to bring this era to life for students. This Civil War book for middle school encourages students to examine the historical decisions of the leaders of the time, as well as everyday people, while completing activities that develop reading comprehension skills. Mark Twain Media Publishing Company specializes in providing engaging supplemental books and decorative resources to complement middle- and upper-grade classrooms. Designed by leading educators, this product line covers a range of subjects including mathematics, sciences, language arts, social studies, history, government, fine arts, and character.

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Breckinridge rose to prominence during one of the most turbulent times in our nation's history. Widely respected, even by his enemies, for his dedication to moderate liberalism, Breckinridge's charisma and integrity led to his election as Vice President at age 35, the youngest ever in America's history. After a decade of being out-of-print, *Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol* returns as the quintessential biography of one of Kentucky's great moderates. Historian William C. Davis sheds light on Breckinridge's life throughout three key periods, spanning his career as a celebrated statesman, heroic soldier, and proponent of the reconciliation. A true Kentucky hero, Old Breck's bravery in battle, dedication to the pursuit of truth, and unique ability to win the loyalty of others rank him alongside Henry Clay and Simon Kenton. Drawing from a remarkable collection of sources, including previously unknown documents and letters, as well as the papers of his associates and extensive aid from the Breckinridge family, Davis presents the legacy of a man often overlooked.

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doing so, the approach seeks to provide instructors with ample opportunities to open discussions, extend and update concepts, and drive deeper engagement.

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could resolve its moral crises peacefully faced its ultimate test. The Zealot and the Emancipator is the thrilling account of how two American giants shaped the war for freedom.

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the Compromise of 1850, and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Freehling vividly recounts each crisis, illuminating complex issues and sketching colorful portraits of major figures. Along the way, he reveals the surprising extent to which slavery influenced national politics before 1850, and he provides important reinterpretations of American republicanism, Jeffersonian states' rights, Jacksonian democracy, and the causes of the American Civil War. But for all Freehling's brilliant insight into American antebellum politics, *Secessionists at Bay* is at bottom the saga of the rich social tapestry of the pre-war South. He takes us to old Charleston, Natchez, and Nashville, to the big house of a typical plantation, and we feel anew the tensions between the slaveowner and his family, the poor whites and the planters, the established South and the newer South, and especially between the slave and his master, Cuffee and Massa. Freehling brings the Old South back to life in all its color, cruelty, and diversity. It is a memorable portrait, certain to be a key analysis of this crucial era in American history.

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and polish his public persona. Although he had accounted himself well in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, the man from Springfield, Illinois, he was nevertheless seen as the darkest of dark horses for the highest office in the land. Upon hearing Lincoln speak, one contemporary said, I will not say he reminded me of Satan, but he certainly was the ungodliest figure I had ever seen. The reader sees how this ungodliest of figures shrewdly spun his platform to crowds far and wide and, in doing so, became a public celebrity on par with any throughout the land. This is a story teeming with drama and intrigue about an event that no one could fathom occurring today...yet it absolutely happened in with America seven score and eight years ago, when Lincoln, the man, took his first steps on the way toward becoming Abraham Lincoln, the legendary leader and most respected president of American history.

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American Revolution we call the Civil War, a war that transformed a nation and expanded our heritage of liberty.

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Although the United States has always portrayed itself as a sanctuary for the world's victims of poverty and oppression, anti-immigrant movements have enjoyed remarkable success throughout American history. None attained greater prominence than the Order of the Star Spangled Banner, a fraternal order referred to most commonly as the Know Nothing party. Vowing to reduce the political influence of immigrants and Catholics, the Know Nothings burst onto the American political scene in 1854, and by the end of the following year they had elected eight governors, more than one hundred congressmen, and thousands of other local officials including the mayors of Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Chicago. After their initial successes, the Know Nothings attempted to increase their appeal by converting their network of lodges into a conventional political organization, which they christened the American Party. Recently, historians have pointed to the Know Nothings' success as evidence that ethnic and religious issues mattered more to nineteenth-century voters than better-known national issues such as slavery. In this important book, however, Anbinder argues that the Know Nothings' phenomenal success was inextricably linked to the firm stance their northern members took against the extension of slavery. Most Know Nothings, he asserts, saw slavery and Catholicism as interconnected evils that should be fought in tandem. Although the Know Nothings certainly were bigots, their party provided an early outlet for the anti-slavery sentiment that eventually led to the Civil War. Anbinder's study presents the first comprehensive history of America's most successful anti-immigrant movement, as well as a major reinterpretation of the political crisis that led to the Civil War.

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This study assesses the extent to which African decolonization resulted from deliberate imperial policy, from the pressures of African nationalism, or from an international situation transformed by superpower rivalries. It analyzes what powers were transferred and to whom they were given. Pan-Africanism is seen not only in its own right but as indicating the transformation of expectations when the new rulers, who had endorsed its geopolitical logic before taking power, settled into the routines of government.

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From the signing of the Constitution to the eve of the Civil War there persisted the belief that slaveholding southerners held the reins of the American national government and used their power to ensure the extension of slavery. Later termed the Slave Power theory, this idea was no mere figment of a lunatic fringe's imagination. It was, as Leonard L. Richards shows in this innovative reexamination of the Slave Power, endorsed at midcentury by such eminent and circumspect men as Abraham Lincoln, William Henry Seward, Charles Sumner, the editors and owners of the New York Times and the Atlantic Monthly, and the president of Harvard College. With *The Slave Power*, Richards reopens a discussion effectively closed by historians since the 1920s—when the Slave Power theory was dismissed first as a distortion of reality and later as a manifestation of the "paranoid style" in the early Republic—and attempts to understand why such reputable leaders accepted this thesis wholeheartedly as truth and why hundreds of thousands of voters responded to their call to arms. Through incisive biographical cameos and narrative vignettes, Richards explains the evolution of the Slave Power argument over time, tracing the oft-repeated scenario of northern outcry against the

perceived slaveocracy, followed by still another “victory” for the South: the three-fifths rule in congressional representation; admission of Missouri as a slave state in 1820; the Indian removal of 1830; annexation of Texas in 1845; the Wilmot Proviso of 1847; the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850; and more. Richards probes inter- and intraparty strategies of the Democrats, Free-Soilers, Whigs, and Republicans and revisits national debates over sectional conflicts to elucidate just how the southern Democratic slaveholders—with the help of some northerners—assumed, protected, and eventually lost a dominance that extended from the White House to the Speaker’s chair to the Supreme Court. The Slave Power reveals in a direct and compelling way the importance of slavery in the structure of national politics from the earliest moments of the federal Union through the emergence of the Republican Party. Extraordinary in its research and interpretation, it will challenge and edify all readers of American history.

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