

Kansas Nebraska Act and John Brown's Raid



<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/odyssey/archive/03/0320001r.jpg>; & http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer_pol_hist/thumbnaill74.html

The Kansas - Nebraska Act stated that states joining the union could decide on slavery based on a vote by the people, this is called popular sovereignty. It also repealed the Missouri Compromise by allowing slavery north of the 36°30' latitude that had previously been outlawed to allow slavery. On Election Day the proslavery settlers won by a huge margin. However, those who were anti-slavery claimed that slave supporters from Missouri voted illegally. A pro slave mob entered into Lawrenceburg, Kansas to arrest anti-slave leaders, burned a hotel, and wrecked much of the town. Abolitionist leader John Brown was outraged by the events and led an armed band of followers to retaliate in Kansas. The conflict became known as "Bleeding Kansas" as 200 people had died and it became apparent that the time for compromise was over.

Background Information for Teacher:

- Use guiding questions for discussion .
- Describe the Kansas-Nebraska Act.
- Why did this act cause conflict between the Northern and Southern States?
- What is popular sovereignty?
- Do you agree or disagree with the way John Brown dealt with the situation? Explain.