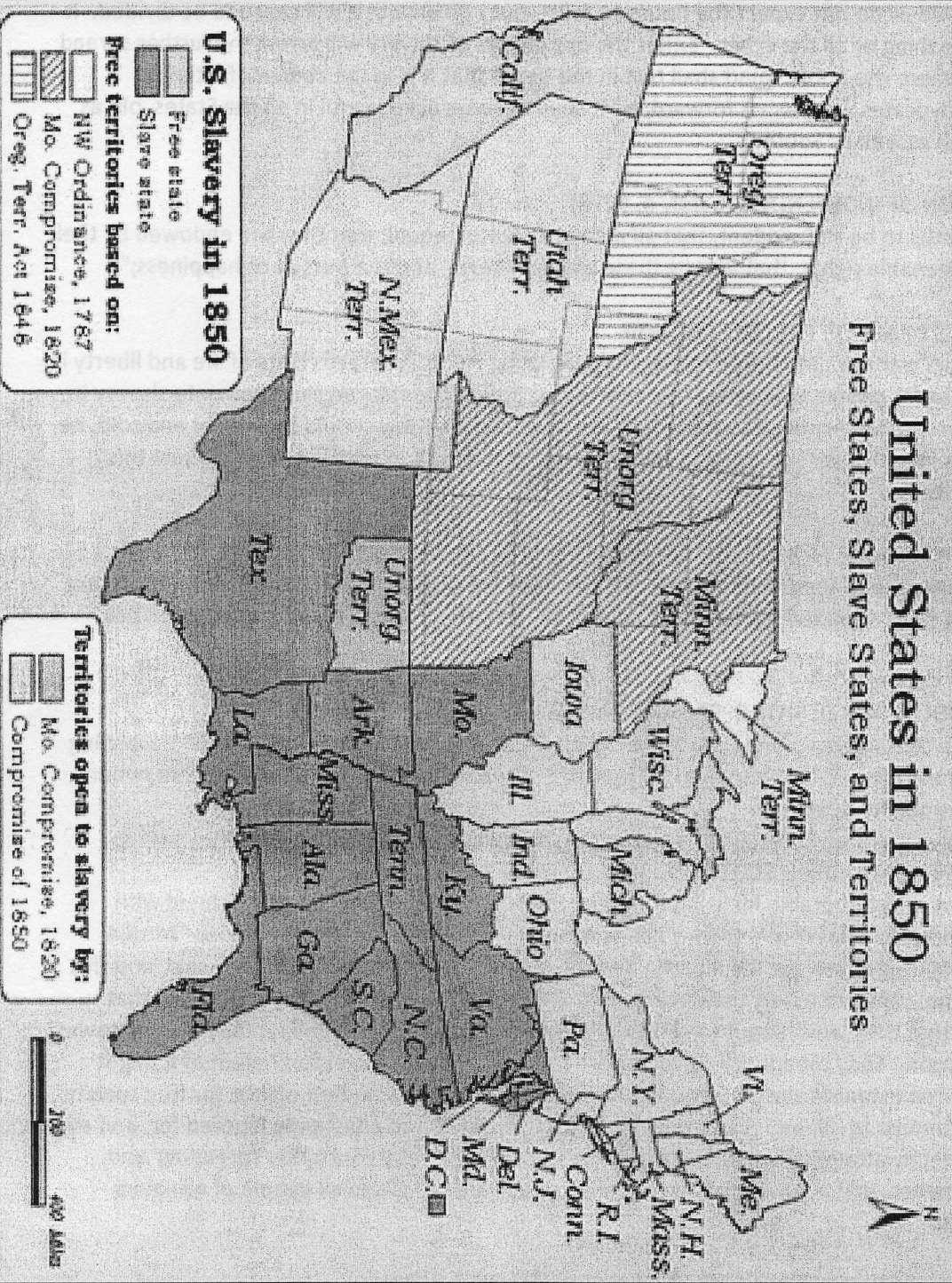


The United States in 1850

United States in 1850
Free States, Slave States, and Territories



FROM LINCOLN'S HOUSE DIVIDED SPEECH (June 16, 1858)

"I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new—North as well as South."

FROM DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (July 4, 1776)

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;"

FROM JEFFERSON'S DRAFT OF THE DECLARATION

"He has waged cruel war against human nature itself violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, Determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce."

FROM CHIEF JUSTICE ROGER TANEY'S OPINION IN DRED SCOTT DECISION (March 6, 1857)

Referring to the language of the Declaration "...it is too clear for dispute that the enslaved African race were not intended to be included, and formed no part of the people who framed and adopted this declaration"

FROM STEPHEN DOUGLAS'S DEBATE SPEECH AT GALESBURG (October 7, 1858)

"The signers of the Declaration of Independence never dreamed of the negro when they were writing that document. They referred to white men, to men of European birth and European descent, when they declared the equality of all men. "

FROM LINCOLN SPEECH ON DRED SCOTT DECISION (June 26, 1857)

"I think the authors of that notable instrument intended to include all men, ...(and)...defined with tolerable distinctness, in what respects they did consider all men created equal—equal in "certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This they said, and this meant. They did not mean to assert the obvious untruth, that all were then actually enjoying that equality, nor yet, that they were about to confer it immediately upon them. In fact they had no power to confer such a boon. They meant simply to declare the right, so that the enforcement of it might follow as fast as circumstances should permit. They mean to set up a standard maxim for free society, which should be familiar to all, and revered by all; constantly looked to, constantly labored for, and even though never perfectly attained, constantly approximated, and thereby constantly spreading and deepening its influence, and augmenting the happiness and value of life to all people of all colors everywhere."

FROM ALEXANDER STEPHEN'S CORNERSTONE SPEECH (March 4, 1861)

"Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea (from that of the Declaration); its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests upon the great truth, that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery—subordination to the superior race—is his natural and normal condition."