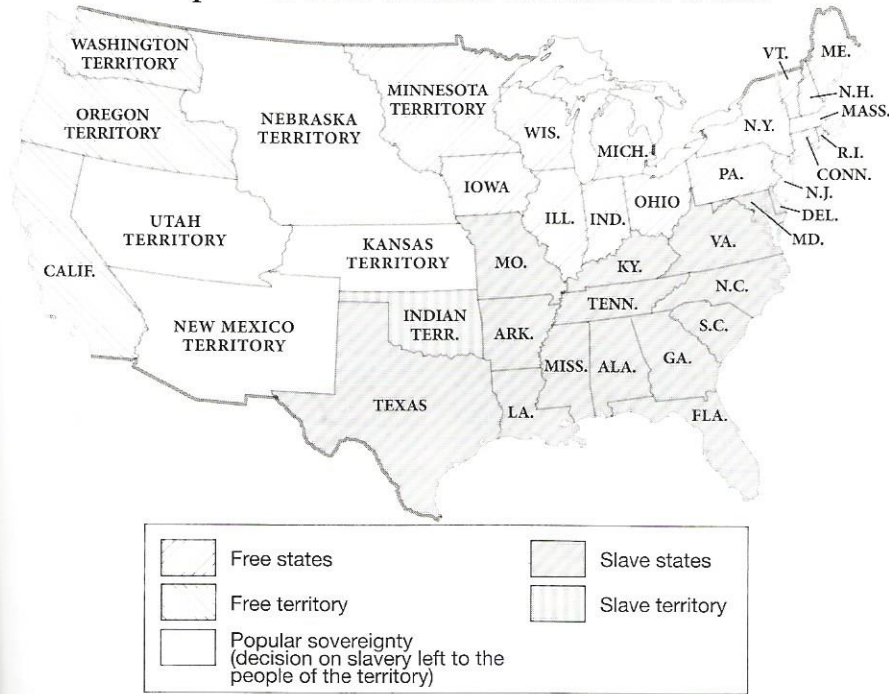


DOCUMENT 11.4 Map of Kansas-Nebraska Act

1854

The Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) allowed the Kansas and Nebraska Territories to be available for a transcontinental railroad but gained Southern support only because it also allowed popular sovereignty (that is, a vote by residents) to decide whether slavery would be allowed in any states that might be created in the territories. By opening territories to slavery north of Missouri's southern border, the Kansas-Nebraska Act negated the Missouri Compromise (1820) and led to attacks and counterattacks by pro- and antislavery forces in Kansas between 1854 and 1861.

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY ESTABLISHED
Compromise of 1850/Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854



PRACTICING Historical Thinking

Identify: Examine the borders of the territory that were affected by the Kansas-Nebraska Act. How would voters' decisions in the open territories affect the balance of slave and free states and territories?

Analyze: How could both the North and the South stand to gain economically from the Kansas-Nebraska Act?

Evaluate: To what extent could popular sovereignty have contributed to the Civil War?