

The impact of a book and a court decision

- I. The book- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (best selling novel of the 19th century).
 - A. Written in 1852 by Harriet Beecher Stowe
 - B. Described the story of challenges and suffering of multiple slaves in the United States
 - 1. Reaction #1- Many in the North were shocked and outraged by the book's contents.
 - 2. Reaction #2- Many in the South saw the book as lies and felt that slavery was not properly portrayed.
 - C. The book caused further division over the issue of slavery.

The impact of a book and a court decision

➤ II. The court decision- *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857)

A. **Dred Scott** was a slave who was taken by his master to free territory, later returning to a slave state.

B. He sued for his **freedom** since he had been in a free state.

C. The Supreme Court ruled **against** Scott 7-2 and shared the following:

1. Dred Scott had no rights to **sue** in court since slaves were not **citizens**.

2. The court said that the **Missouri Compromise** was unconstitutional since it was not allowing owners to take their **property** (slaves) into a territory.

3. Because of this court decision, slavery had the potential to **expand** with no laws against it.



Reaction



- ▶ Please look at one of the numbered points under Section C of your notes on the Dred Scott case. Focus just on that.
- ▶ Pretend that you were living back then and were an abolitionist. Write a 3-4 sentence reaction and your thoughts to that statement (just that particular one)