Define Sectionalism:

**Problems in the 1850s**

I. Republican Party

II. The Kansas Issue

III. Bleeding Kansas

IV. John Brown

V. Brooks/Sumner Incident

VI. Dred Scott v. Sanford

1. Quote Analysis: In your own words, what is Lincoln saying here? (see if you can incorporate the word “sectional” or “sectionalism” into your answer)

VII. John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry

VIII. Paranoia

IX. Lincoln’s Election in 1860

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| **Northern Advantages** | **Southern Advantages** |
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## Northern vs Southern Prospects for Victory

In the Civil War, geography, political leadership, manpower and industrial capacity played a role in the advantages of the North and South. The South had the upper hand in the case of geography. It was a large area with poor roads and rugged terrain, making it more difficult to conquer by the North. It also had a long coastline that would take a lot of time to capture. The South had the “home-field advantage” because they were defending their area – an area that was 750,000 square miles – as opposed to taking the offensive. Therefore, familiar with the landscape**,** Southerners could harass the Northern invaders and wait for the Northern moral to erode. Further, the Confederate Army seemed superior to that of the Union. More Southerners had attended West Point or other military academies and had served as army officers. At the beginning of 1861, the U.S. army consisted of only 16,000 men, most of who served on the frontier fighting Indians. One reason for this low number was the fact that at the start of the war one third of the nation’s military officers resigned and returned to their homes in the South in preparation to join the call to arms from the Confederate government. The most important factor, however, in the Confederacy’s confidence and strength was their morale: they were fighting to maintain their way life, traditions and culture.

The North had the upper hand in manpower and industrial capacity. On paper, the Union outweighed the Confederacy in almost every way. In 1861, the Union states had 22.5 million people, compared to just 9 million in the Confederate states – in which 3.7 million of that number were slaves. This large population, then, allowed for the Union Army to quickly multiple in numbers. Not only did the Union have more manpower, it also had a larger navy (one that could easily blockade the South and suffocate it), a more developed railroad system, and a stronger manufacturing base. The North had 1.3 million industrial workers, compared to the South's 110,000. In fact, northern factories manufactured nine times as many industrial goods as the South; 33 times as many firearms; and twenty-four times as many railroad locomotives, making transportation of supplies to the Union regiments quicker and more efficient. The Confederacy, on the other hand, slow to industrialize, had a lack of extensive railroad networks and relied on horses and mules to draw wagons to camps, causing serious transportation and communication problems. It was their steadfast hold on their agrarian way of life and economy that contributed greatly to their scramble in finding sufficient resources and supplies that would hold up against those of the more advanced north.

The war also saw the participation of people who, otherwise, were deemed inferior during the antebellum time period – women and African Americans. Women in the North, during the war, were more apt to be found working their farms, working in industry and working as nurses. The new job opportunities offered good wages, a sense of economic independence and a pride for contributing to the war effort. Southern white women also took an active role in the war. Some served as spies or smuggled military supplies into the South. Women also sewed and knitted clothes for the soldiers as well as taking control of the agricultural production, including the supervision of slaves. For African Americans, their participation not only contributed to the outcome of the war but also to their own freedom. Even before federal troops entered the area, slaves started individually revolting and acting as they pleased, rather than being under control of their master; thus, slavery soon disintegrated. Moreover, Lincoln allowed African Americans to serve in the army and navy for the war. Eventually, almost 200,000 African Americans served in the Union forces – 10 percent of its military manpower.

No matter how far apart they might have been in 1861, at the start of the war, there was one resounding belief that still connected the Union and Confederacy – the war was going to be quick and easily won. Four years later that “quick” war came to be known as the bloodiest war in American history.

