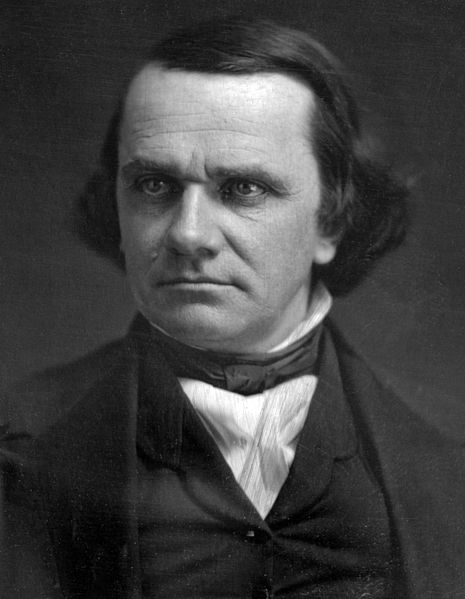
**LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES (1858)**

**DOCUMENTS**

****Document #1 – “A House Divided” – Abraham Lincoln - June 17, 1858**

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.” I believe the 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 come 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.”

1. ***What was the house Lincoln was referring to? What was dividing it?***
2. ***What did Lincoln mean when he said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand”?***

**Document #2 – Reply by Stephen A. Douglas – July 9, 1858**

“The framers of our government never contemplated uniformity in its internal concerns. …They well understood that the great varieties of soil, of production and of interests…required different local and domestic regulations in each locality. …

In my opinion our government can endure forever, divided into free and slave States as our fathers made it, - each State having the right to prohibit, abolish, or sustain slavery, just as it pleases. This government was made upon the great basis of the sovereignty of the States, the right of each State to regulate its own domestic institutions to suit itself; and that right was conferred with the understanding and expectation that inasmuch as each locality had separate interests, each locality must have different and distinct local and domestic institutions, corresponding to its wants and interests…”

1. ***Whose position do you agree with more – Lincoln’s or Douglas’? Why?***

**Document #3 – The Freeport Doctrine – Stephen A. Douglas - August 27, 1858**

“The next question propounded to me by Mr. Lincoln is: Can the people of a territory in any lawful way, against the wishes of any citizen of the United States, exclude slavery from their limits prior to the formation of a state constitution? I answer emphatically, as Mr. Lincoln has heard me answer a hundred times from every stump in Illinois, that in my opinion the people of a territory can, by lawful means, exclude slavery from their limits. … It matters not what way the Supreme Court may hereafter decide as to the abstract question of whether slavery may or may not go into a territory under the Constitution, the people have the lawful means to introduce it or exclude it as they please…the right of the people to make a slave territory or a free territory is perfect and complete under the Nebraska Bill…”

**Document #4 – Response by Abraham Lincoln – September 15, 1858**

“In the first place, the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that any congressional prohibition of slavery in the territories is unconstitutional; that they have reached this proposition as a conclusion for their former proposition, that the Constitution of the United States expressly recognizes property in slaves and…that no person shall be deprived of property without due process of law…I understand that Judge Douglas adheres most firmly to that decision; and the difficulty is: How is it possible for any power to exclude slavery from the territory unless in violation of that decision?”

1. ***Why was the Freeport Doctrine a contradiction of the Dred Scott decision?***
2. ***How might the Freeport Doctrine hurt Douglas’ political chances in the South?***