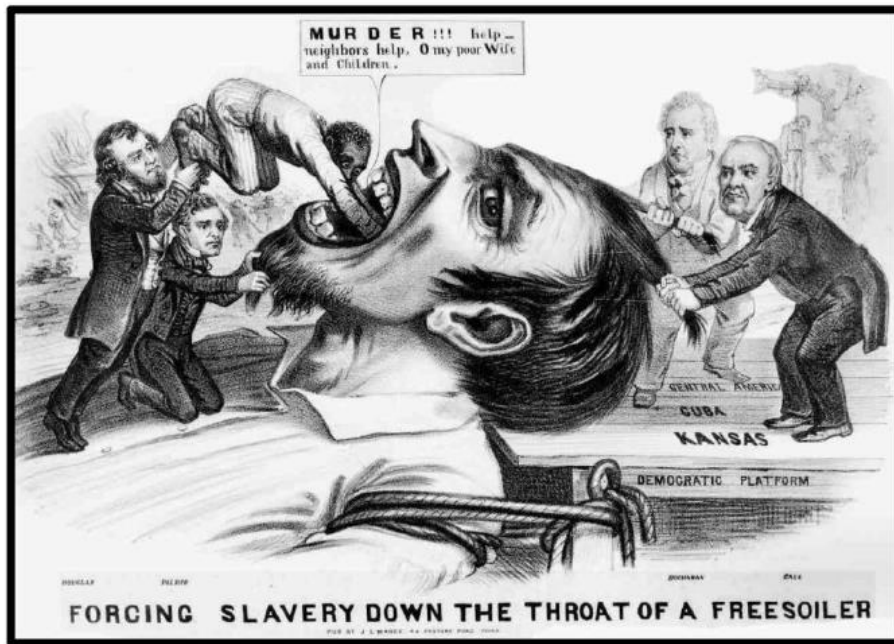


# Sectionalism DBQ

This political cartoon was published in *Harper's Weekly* in 1856. *Harper's Weekly* was a popular American periodical of the time, publishing articles and commentary relating to current events of the day. At the time of publishing, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 was an issue of political contention, the Dred Scott case was in the Supreme Court, and the 1856 presidential elections were at stake.



Source: "Forcing Slavery down the Throat of a Freesoiler," 1856.

What objects and/or people do you see in the cartoon? What is their significance and how are they characterized?

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Which words or phrases in the cartoon are important? Why do you think so?

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A close-up of the cartoon is available on the website

Ch2.2 Political Cartoon DBQ

What action is taking place in the cartoon? What is the significance/meaning?

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What is the tone/mood of the cartoon? Is it light and cheery or violent/tense? What kind of effect could this have on the viewer/reader?

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What issues are being discussed? How are they being portrayed?

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Using your historical knowledge, how does the social and political context (era, mood, environment) of America at that time influence your analysis of the cartoon? What background would you take into consideration?

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What is the cartoonist's opinion of slavery? How can you tell? Use specific details.

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A close-up of the cartoon is available on the website