

History 225

Notes: With Davis' essay "A Different Kind of War"

Source: Goodrich, Bloody Dawn

Unlike the battlefields further east, the western border for the most part (Missouri/Kansas w/ the Indian Territory to the South) was not a stage where armies clashed in bloody conflict. The war in the West was instead a very personal war, a war between neighbors, a war of theft and arson, a war of midnight raids and murder and torture-- a remorseless vendetta.

The roots of this war goes back to the "Troubles". The 1850s when the Kansas-Nebraska Territory was opened and the Missouri Compromise was declared inoperative by President Franklin Pierce.

This led to what was called "Bleeding Kansas" Missouri border raiders crossed over into Kansas to assure that the territorial govt. was pro-slave. they were resisted by the majority of Kansian settlers who was anti-slavery and some who were out-right abolitionists supported by NE abolitionists like Garrison and Wendell Phillips. What ensued in the 1850s was a bloody struggle for control of territorial politics and claims staked.

Missouri border raiders ("pukes") under the inspiration of Missouri Senator David Rice Atchison set up an illegal government in LeCompton and this was followed by the establishment of an equally illegal government under the free soil people at Topeka.

The raid on Lawrence and the burning of the Free-state Hotel.

✓ This was all climaxed by John Brown's massacre of a ~~half~~ dozen men identified as pro-slavery along the Pottowatomie Creek.  
*innocent men*

Bad blood all around even before the Civil War broke out.