

Wedges of Separation

Nobody disagrees about the sequence of major events from 1850 to 1861 that led ultimately led to the outbreak of the Civil War. What is more interesting is the WHY the war broke out when it did. The events are called the wedges of separation. It is your task to decide the relative importance of each wedge and the role it played in causing the Civil War. Using your textbook and notes, complete the following chart.

Wedge of Separation	Description or Explanation	How did the wedge create tension/conflict between the North and South?	Would you categorize the wedge as a political, social, or economic cause of the Civil War?
Missouri Compromise of 1820			
Tariffs of 1828, 1832, 1833			
Wilmot Proviso of 1846			
Abolitionism			
Compromise of 1850			

<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin,</i> 1852			
Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854			
<i>Dred Scott v. Sandford,</i> 1857			
Lincoln-Douglas Debates, 1858			
Raid at Harpers Ferry, 1859			
Election of 1860			