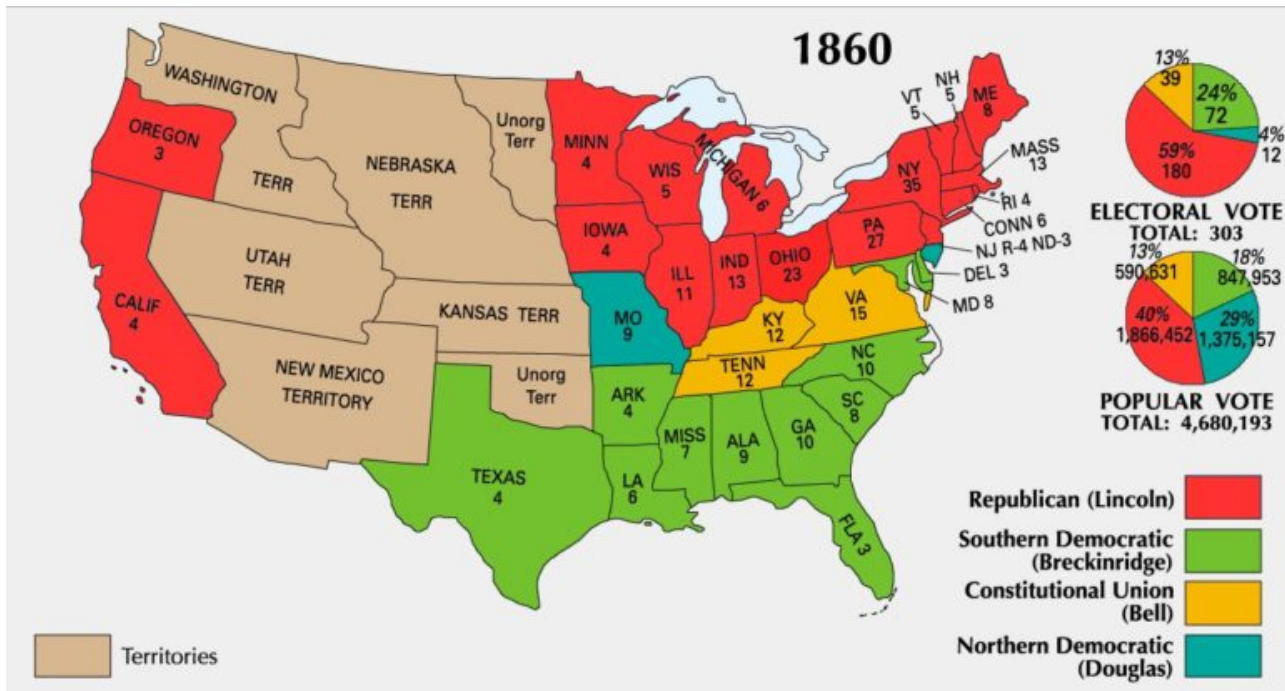
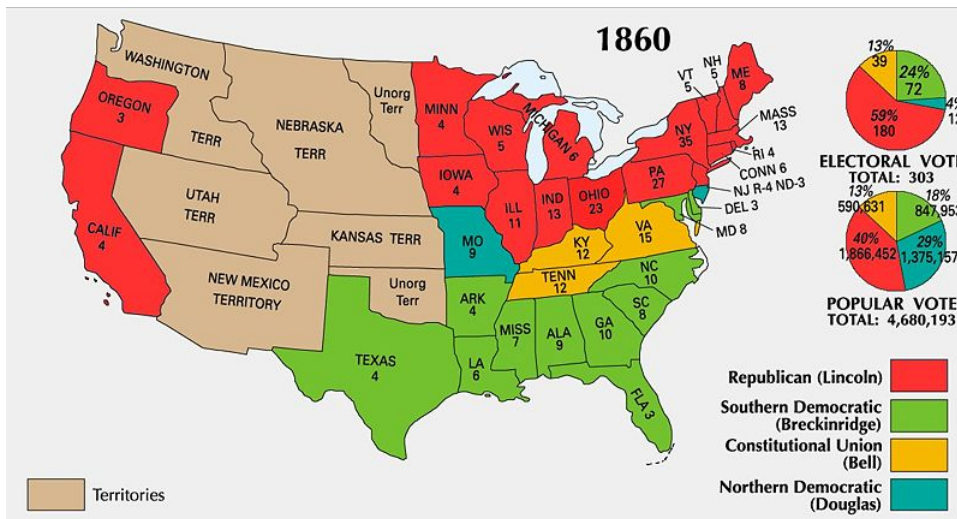


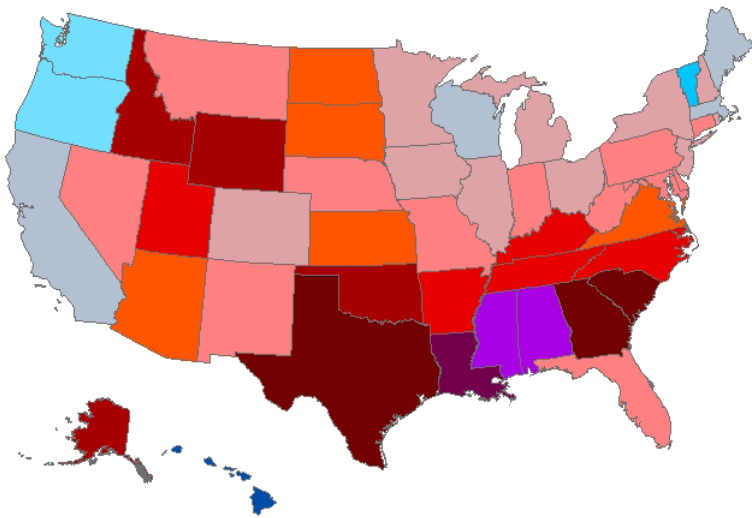
# Fun with Political Geography



My students and I had fun discussing political geography today. For instance, take a look at these two maps side by side. First, we have the presidential electoral map from 1860, from the *National Atlas of the United States*:

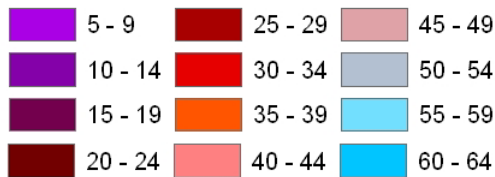


Then we have this recent study, from [Open Left](#), depicting how white men (the only ones eligible to vote in 1860) voted in 2008:



Percent Vote For Obama  
White Men

Nationwide: 41%, 51 EV



Now, obviously it would be very easy to overdraw an analysis from these two maps. And indeed, I think Open Left is a bit too [Whiggish](#) (despite trying not to be Whiggish) about the links between the expansion of voting rights and the election of Progressive presidential candidates—after all, the expanded electorate has certainly elected its share of conservative Presidents.

But it's still pretty interesting.

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