Perspective of the South:

1. Southerners, on the one hand, were pleased with recent developments:

* Federal Fugitive Slave Law
* Dred Scott decision

1. However, Southerners realized:

* most western lands were unsuitable for growing cotton
* the South was losing the battle for western support
* the South would remain a minority in the Union

1. John Brown’s Raid aroused fear and hysteria.

Politically, the South was becoming desperate.

South believed in **states’ rights**:

Since the states had created the federal government, each state could reject federal law within its territory or even leave the Union when it wished.