**Bibliography**

Bennett, William J. *America: The Last Best Hope*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Current, 2006. Print.

 This book about general American history. It is an authoritative secondary source. It has footnotes and is intended for a reader interested in an in-depth analysis of American history. There are multiple volumes, and volume one includes Bleeding Kansas. It was very helpful to me because it gives me a broad context of what America looked like at the time of Bleeding Kansas. It helped me understand why people reacted so strongly when Kansas was designated as a state that popular sovereignty would determine if slavery was legal there. I learned that there was a delicate balance between the free and slave states, and if that balance was upset, it would tilt important votes one way or the other. That is why people from both sides flooded into Kansas when the opportunity presented itself for them to advance their own cause.

*Border Ruffian Code in Kansas*  (1856). New York: Tribune Office.

The Border Ruffian Code in Kansas is a very interesting primary source. In its introduction, it states that its purpose for being written is to combat border ruffians from Missouri. It then outlined a multitude of laws for the territory such as punishments for pro-slavery rebellions, who qualifies as a voter, what to do with escaped slaves, and more. I found an inconsistency in the document, meaning I didn’t understand if the writers were for or against slavery in Kansas based on conflicting laws. Still, it is a very useful source and I intend to explore it further and hopefully understand more.

*Compromise of 1850 (Clay’s Resolutions)*. 31st Congress, Record Group 46. Government document.

 Clay’s Resolutions were an important primary source to use to get context for the Kansas-Nebraska Act. It is reliable because it is a real document from that time. It was useful for me because I saw the origin of popular sovereignty, which is a key aspect of why there was violence in Kansas. I learned that people were very serious about each state’s status and each law pertaining to slavery, and finding middle ground was extremely difficult.

Davis, Kenneth C. *Don't Know Much about the Civil War: Everything You Need to Know about America's Greatest Conflict but Never Learned*. New York: William Morrow, 1996. Print.

 The purpose of this source was for me to get more context on America pre-Bleeding Kansas. Davis’ book was very helpful because it was extremely organized and arranged a timeline that showed the causes of the Civil War. From the book, I learned about the delicate balance that existed between free and slave slates. This balance was essential to each side because it would determine what laws pertaining to slavery would pass. Between the years of 1803 and 1837, there was a back and forth of states entering the union, alternating between free and slave. This knowledge allowed me to further understand the immense importance lying on whether Kansas became a free or slave slate, and why both views went to great lengths to sway the vote to their opinion. I also understood that the country was enveloped by the fight for or against slavery, and that most attention was focused on the growing tension surrounding the issue.

Dershowitz, Alan M. *America on Trial: Inside the Legal Battles That Transformed Our Nation*. New York: Warner, 2004. Print.

 Another important aspect of Bleeding Kansas was the national politics and legal issues occurring at that time. John Brown, a key player in Bleeding Kansas and the entire prelude to the Civil War. As an avid abolitionist, Brown went to extremes and was therefore put on trial for his violent and drastic actions. His actions and court case, in which he was sentenced to hang, are discussed in this book. His passion and violent actions offer an explanation for his followers’ actions, which was a large part of the violence in Kansas.

Etcheson, Nicole. *Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era*. Lawrence: University of Kansas, 2004. Print.

Nicole Etcheson’s book is a very authoritative source. Her book was noted in other scholarly articles. It is a very dense book with a great deal of information, all of which is related to Bleeding Kansas. She is definitely an expert on the subject. I learned about the migration of many people, including border ruffians, into Kansas at record rates. Also, I began to learn about the political situation, with the duel governments.

Goodrich, Thomas. *War to the Knife: Bleeding Kansas, 1854-1861*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole, 1998. Print.

 In looking at this source, my aim was to learn about the actual violence in Kansas. The structure of the book was very informative, with narrative by the author explaining and commentating on a situation, with direct quotes, journal entries, or newspaper articles to also explain. I found this very helpful because it provided me with specific instances of violence, as well as a broad understanding of the violent tendencies and extreme tension existing in Kansas at the time.

Kahler, Bruce R. "Etcheson, Nicole: Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era." *History: Review of New Books* Summer 2004: 140. *U.S. History In Context*. Web. 3 Mar. 2013.

 Kahler’s scholarly journal article discusses the important themes of Nicole Etcheson’s book on Bleeding Kansas. He gave insight into the causes of the eruption of violence in Kansas, which is my research question. One of these causes the political liberties that popular sovereignty granted to white men. Also, when both sides denied the political legitimacy of the other, violence erupted to preserve their freedom to vote on slavery in their territory. Furthermore, his article confirmed that John Brown was a key cause of not only violence in Kansas, but the mindset of otherwise non-violent abolitionists. This article was helpful in deciphering the many important aspects of Etcheson’s book, and lent insight into causes of the violence.

*Kansas-Nebraska Act* (1854). Records of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and Its Predecessors, Record Group 11. Government document.

The primary source of the Kansas-Nebraska act is of extreme importance to Bleeding Kansas. It is actual legislation from right before the conflict that directly led to the massive migration to Kansas. I learned from it the direct links between the legislation and the events that transpired. For example, the people of the territories were given the power to vote on the slavery issue and they caused chaos in the territory to achieve their personal goals.

"Louisiana Purchase." *About.com Geography*. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 May 2013.

 This website was a quick and easy way for me to gain background knowledge on what lead to the Missouri Compromise, and ultimately Bleeding Kansas.

McArthur, Debra. *The Kansas-Nebraska Act and "Bleeding Kansas" in American History*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2003. Print.

This source is extremely helpful. It is a simple but detailed account of the passing of the acts through Bleeding Kansas. It gave me a clear chronology of they events and clues of what to look for in denser books. It gave me a clear view of how the violence began and how dangerous and passionate it became. It also explained Clay’s Resolutions and the Kansas and Nebraska Acts by demonstrating their importance in this subject.

"Mexican Cession - 1848." *Mexican Cession*. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 May 2013.

 This source illustrated the land situation following the Mexican Cession and described what happened. This was helpful in my context understanding in what led to the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

"Missouri Compromise." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Web. 08 May 2013.

 This website allowed me to understand the Missouri Compromise, which directly led to Bleeding Kansas.

Nichols, Alice. *Bleeding Kansas.* New York: Oxford UP, 1954. Print.

 Nichols’ book is very helpful. It discusses, in its initial chapters, some newspapers and how they represented the different opinions circulating in Kansas. This book also confirmed and reinforced many ideas I came across in other readings. I learned more about the build-up and actual violence. Nichols’ book is very factual, enhanced by anecdotes of different types of personalities inhabiting Kansas. I found it interesting and informative.

Phillips, Christopher. "'The crime against Missouri': slavery, Kansas, and the cant of Southernness in the border West." *Civil War History* 48.1 (2002): 60+. *U.S. History In Context*. Web. 3 Mar. 2013.

The scholarly journal by Christopher Phillips was an interesting angle on Bleeding Kansas. His article took interest in the causes of the events through the mindset of pro and anti slavery citizens, and why they decided to conduct themselves how they did, and how the atmosphere of the country provoked the violence. Also, the article discusses the culture of the middle territories at that time. Phillips explains how for many, their freedom was tethered to their ability to have slavery. Many Missourians and border ruffians saw themselves victimized by others infringing on their southern rights. Free soilers had opposite opinions, illustrated in the article. Phillips, like many others, addresses the strain popular sovereignty put on the delicate balance between free and slave states. The tension between the pro and anti slavery groups throughout the country erupted in Kansas. In the article, the importance of the democratic process to both sides is discussed, which is interesting.

Rawley, James A. *Race and Politics: "Bleeding Kansas" and the Coming of the Civil War.* Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1969. Print.

 *Race and Politics*, as its title suggests, is a book focusing on the racial and political controversies going on in Kansas that influenced the events that transpired. In a chapter titled “the government has been nothing but an obstruction,” the book discusses the political turmoil the Kansas territory was in. There were many political parties and opinions in and surfacing in Kansas. Pro and anti slavery legislation was all over the place, obviously in conflict with each other and making compromise and negotiation difficult with two (or more) different governments. The politics going on in Kansas were essential in the violence eruption, because when conflict could not be solved legally, it snowballed into violence.

Reynolds, David S. *John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. Print.

John Brown is a fascinated character not just in Bleeding Kansas, but also in the entire pre-civil war time period. Whether a fanatic turned criminal by his murders during Bleeding Kansas, or a heroic, passionate abolitionist for the northerners to admire. In the context of Bleeding Kansas, Brown took drastic measures to save the state from going to the slavery supporters. He responded to the pro-slavery threats of violence with his own. This biography does an excellent job of painting the whole picture of John Brown from all angles, and offers an insight into why he fought the way he did and how he and his followers’ actions impacted the events in Kansas and, ultimately, the war.

Sherow, James E. "War to the Knife: Bleeding Kansas, 1854-1861." *Journal of Southern History* 66.4 (2000): 874. *U.S. History In Context*. Web. 3 Mar. 2013.

 This article about *War to the Knife* points out the gaps in the "tell-it-like-it-was” book. Sherow argues that Goodrich’s telling of the events paints the violent abolitionists as selfish and immoral, while Sherow believes that they were acting on noble values, despite their violent actions. He finds Goodrich sympathetic with pro slavery groups, and failed to elaborate on quotes where context would have changed the perceived meaning. Sherow suggests that the importance of Bleeding Kansas may have been its national symbolism rather than a “violent precursor” or the Civil War. This article is useful to be because it gives me a fuller picture of the points brought up in Goodrich’s book, showing more than one opinion. It also explains the importance of Bleeding Kansas differently than some of my other sources.

*Squatter Sovereign.* Kansas City Community College database.

 This source is a jackpot. It is a collection of newspapers from Atchison, Kansas from 1855-1857. It is a primary source because it is reports of what was happening in the thicket of the political and physical turmoil by people living through it. It offers an incredible insight into the inhabitants of Kansas’ lives, through their accounts of the current events later known as “Bleeding Kansas”, and just the overall atmosphere. It is very valuable and is undoubtedly enhancing the facts I learn from secondary sources.

“The Kansas-Nebraska Act." *The Kansas-Nebraska Act [ushistory.org]*. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 May 2013.

 This source was useful in identifying Stephen Douglas and the way the Kansas-Nebraska Act originated.

“The Pottawatomie Creek Massacre." *The Pottawatomie Creek Massacre [ushistory.org]*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 May 2013.

 This internet source was useful in providing a general, factual outline of a major violent act during Bleeding Kansas, the Pottawatomie Massacre.