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Nota di contenuto	The emergence of a democratic press -- Impeding civilization: the Brooks-Sumner incident -- The Dred Scott decision and a society of laws -- Kansas and the Lecompton constitution: does the majority rule? -- John Brown's raid: violence in a republican society -- Lincoln's election: could a republican lead the republic? -- Firing on Fort Sumter: a republic at war with itself -- Conclusion: the shattered republic.