

The Growing Split Between North and South

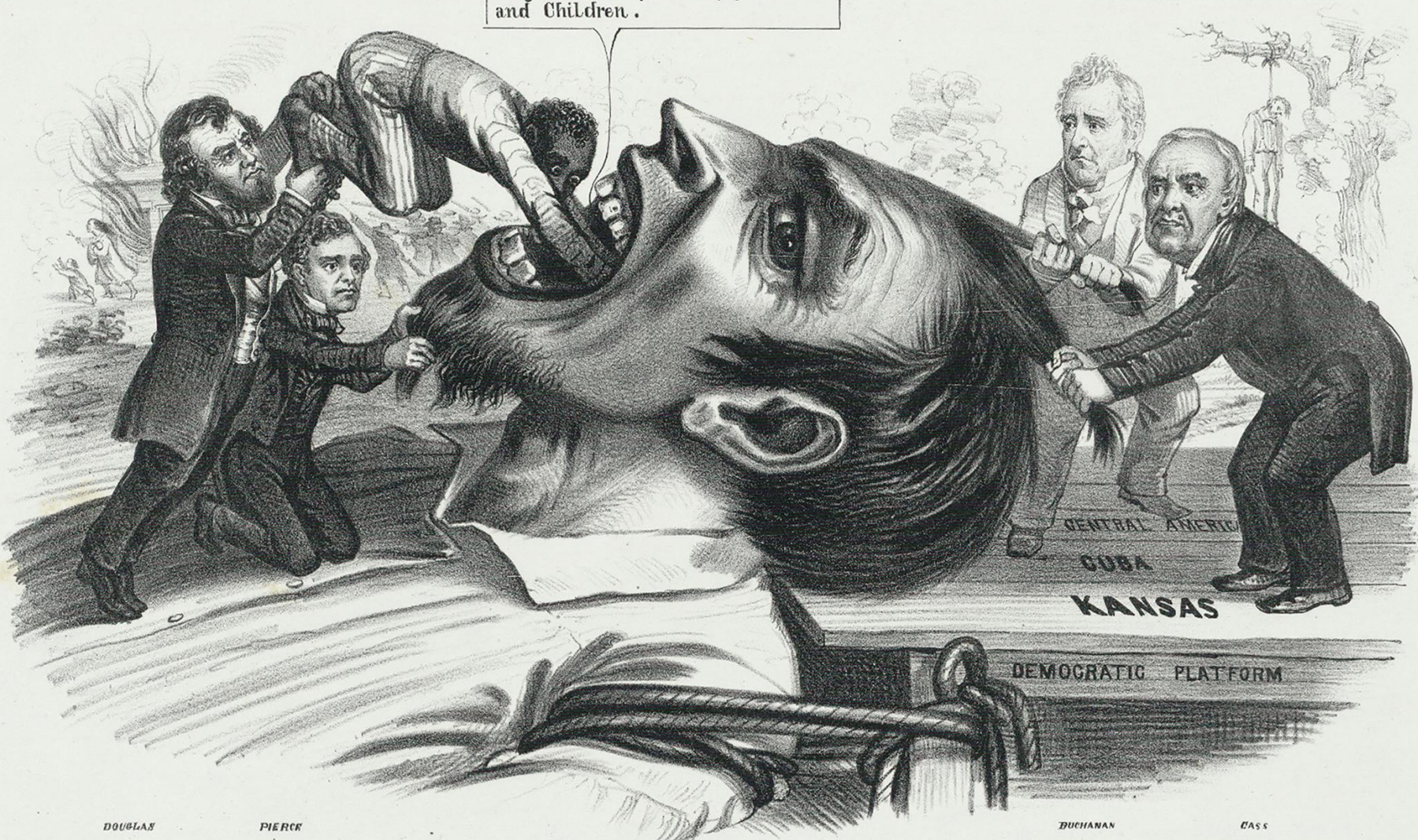
The Dividing of America

- The Free Soil Party was a minor political party that came into the national scene from about 1848 to 1854. They focused primarily on blocking slavery into the new western territories that pretty much everyone agreed would become states.
- The party's main focus was on prohibiting slavery because its extension would devalue the work performed by those migrating to the West.
- Their slogan was “free soil, free speech, free labor, and free men”.

The Dividing of America

- Despite the fact that the party remained small, they contributed to bring the issue of slavery in the West to national attention.
- Look closely at the following political cartoon, and decide what it might be saying.

MURDER !!! help—
neighbors help, O my poor Wife
and Children.



DOUGLAS

PIERCE

BUCHANAN

CASS

FORCING SLAVERY DOWN THE THROAT OF A FREESOILER

PUB BY J. L. MAGEE * 8 PASYUNK ROAD PHILA

The Dividing of America

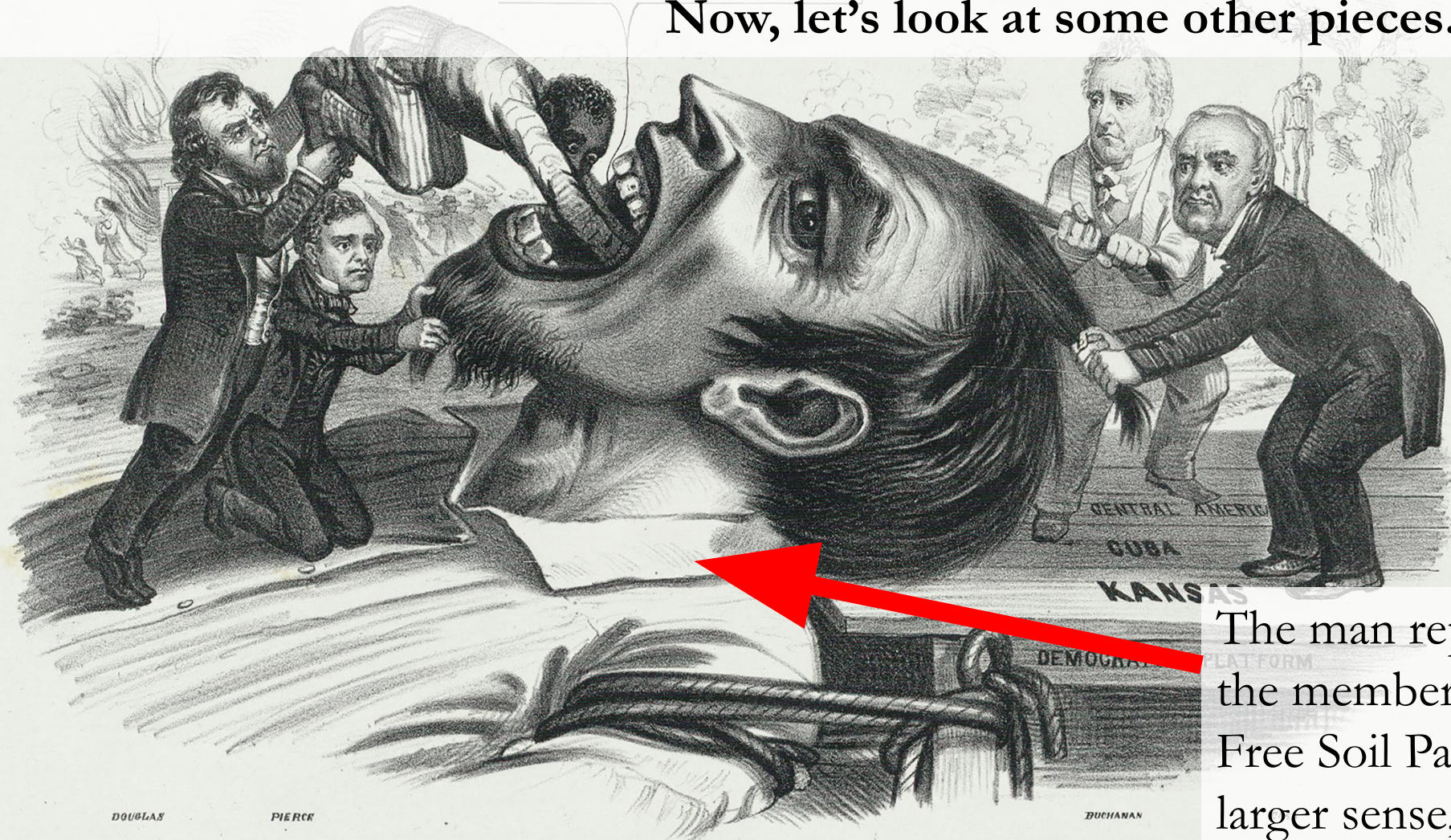
- What are your impressions?
- What did you see?

Now look again.

You probably noticed the brutality of the scene. The man being forced down as another enslaved man is being forced down his throat. That's pretty horrible.

MURDER!!! help - neighbors help, O my poor Wife and Children.

Now, let's look at some other pieces.

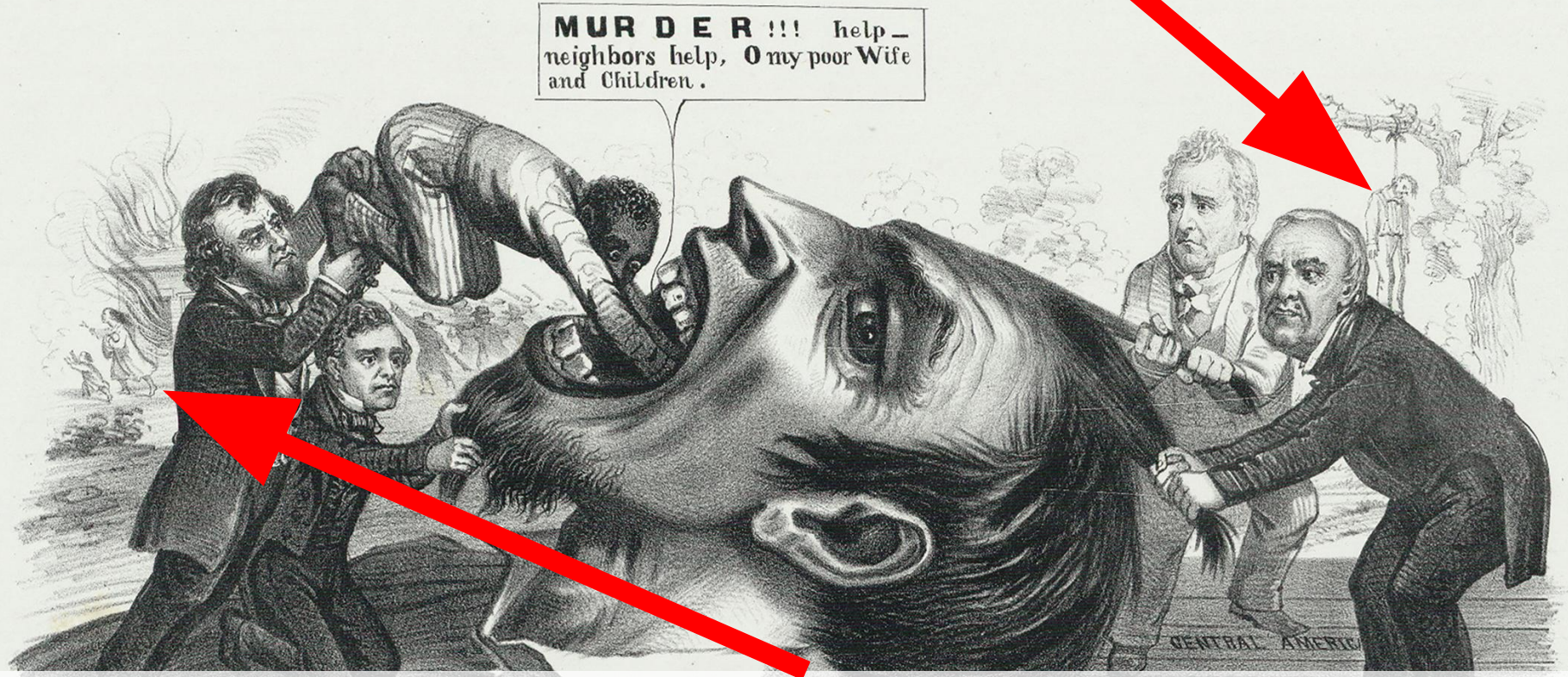


FORCING SLAVERY DOWN THE THROAT OF A FREESOILER

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The man represents the members of the Free Soil Party, or in a larger sense, anyone opposed to slavery.

Did you see the man being murdered in the background?



How about the woman and child fleeing from a burning home?



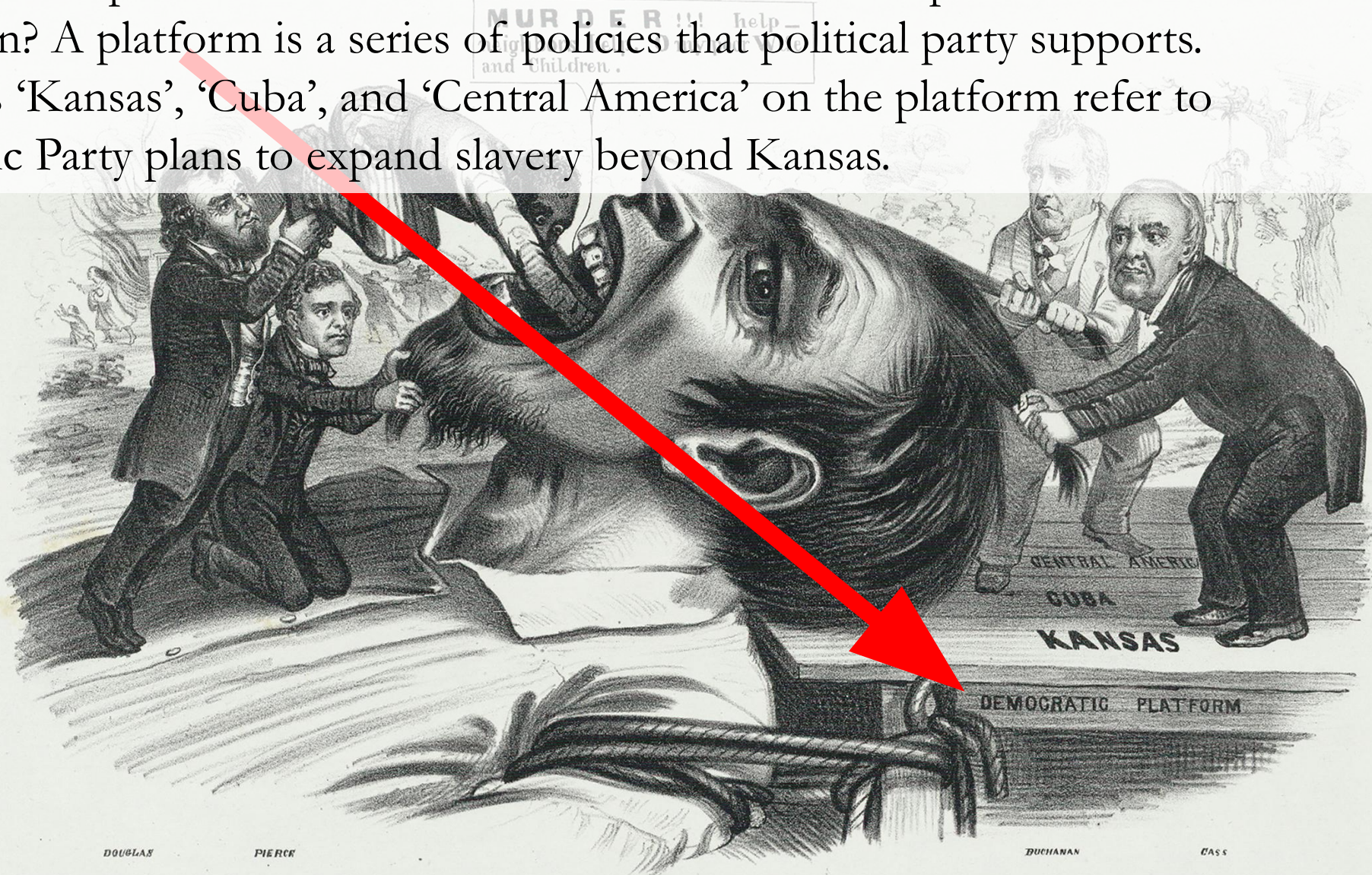
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Now let's look at the big pieces.

Did you see the phrase 'Democratic Platform' on the literal platform the men are standing on? A platform is a series of policies that political party supports.

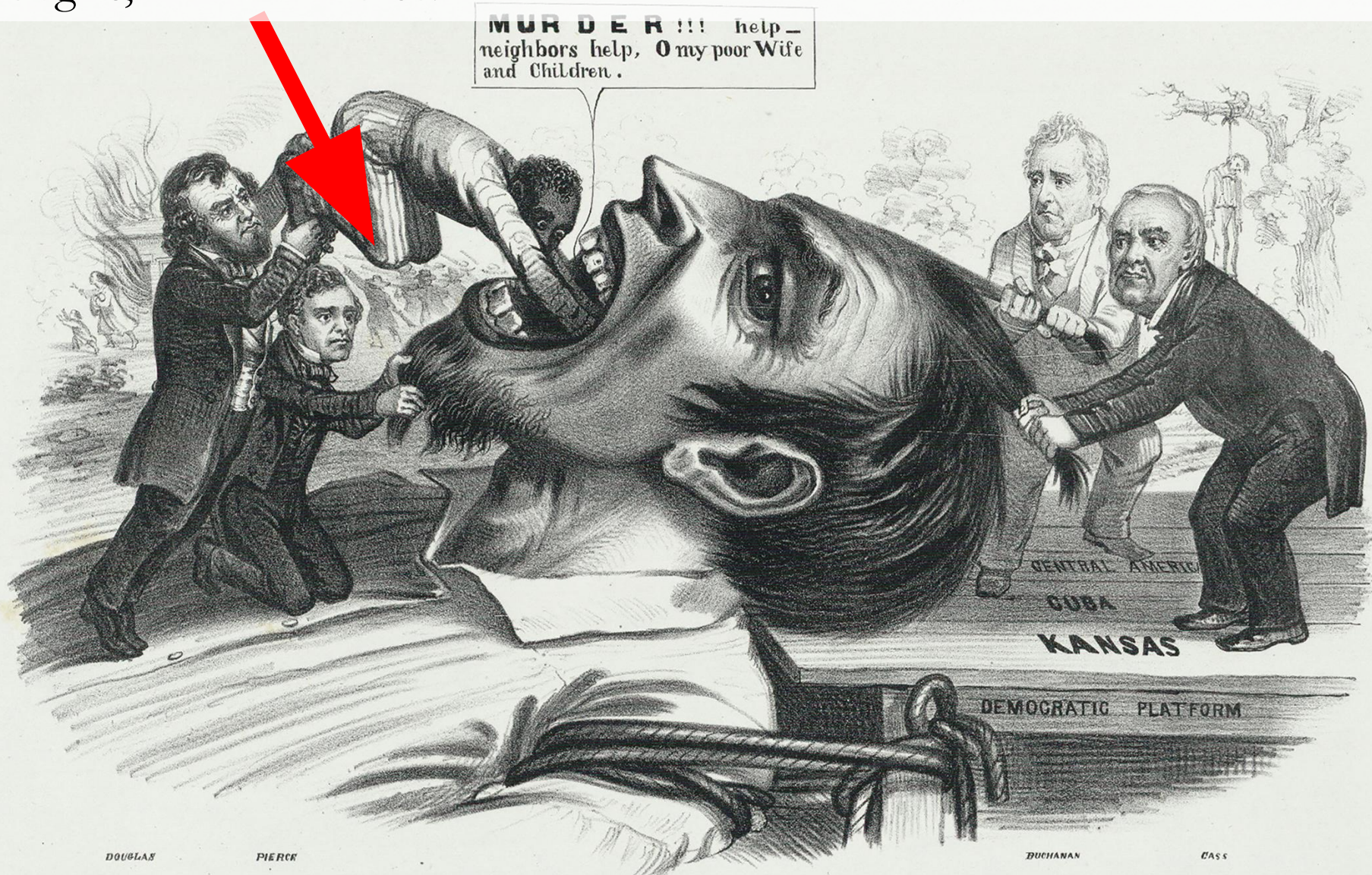
The words 'Kansas', 'Cuba', and 'Central America' on the platform refer to Democratic Party plans to expand slavery beyond Kansas.



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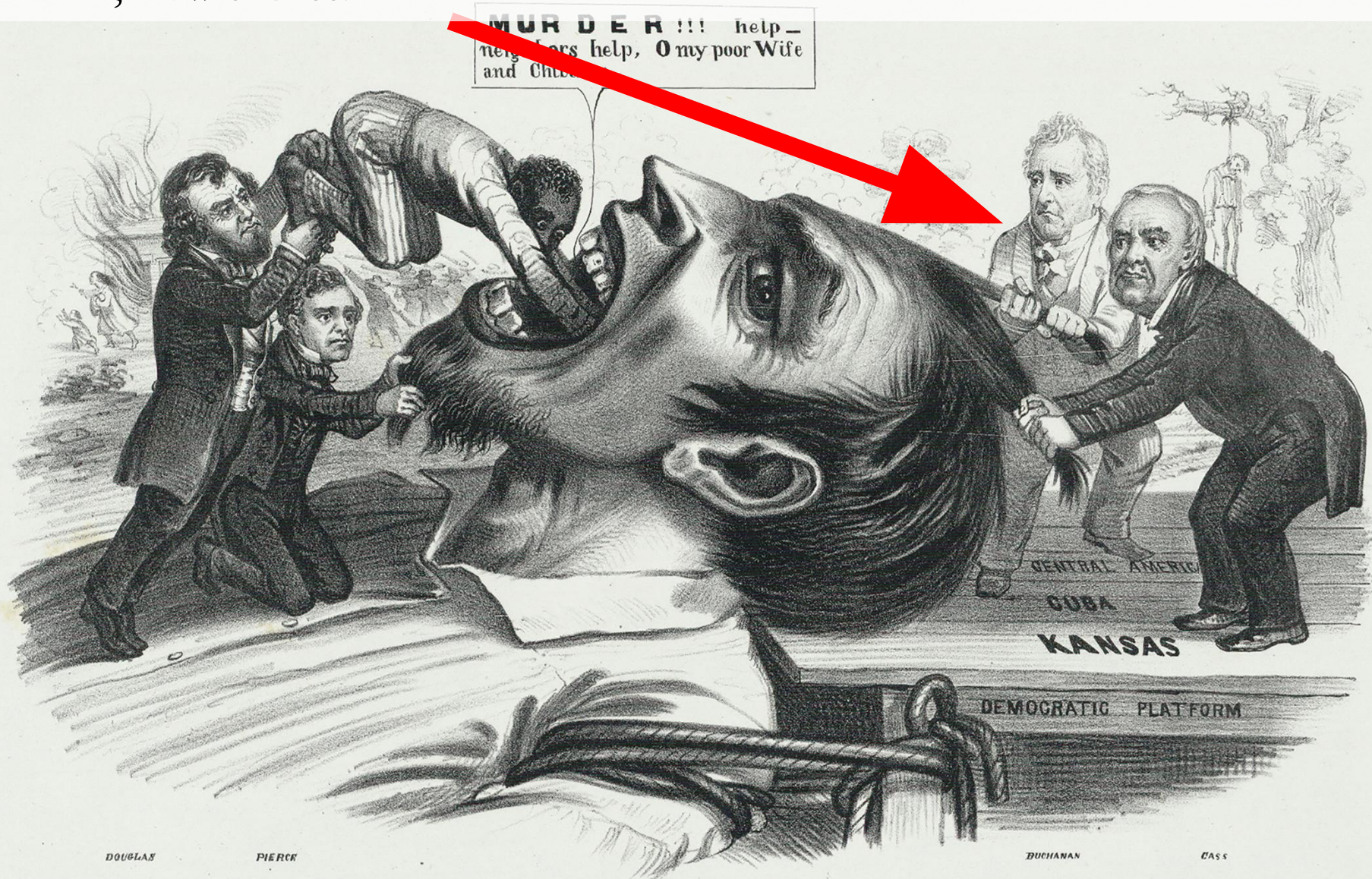
How about the people? They were all extremely powerful politicians of the time. Stephen Douglas, Franklin Pierce.



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How about the people? They were all extremely powerful politicians of the time.
James Buchanan, Lewis Cass.



DOUGLAS

PIERCE

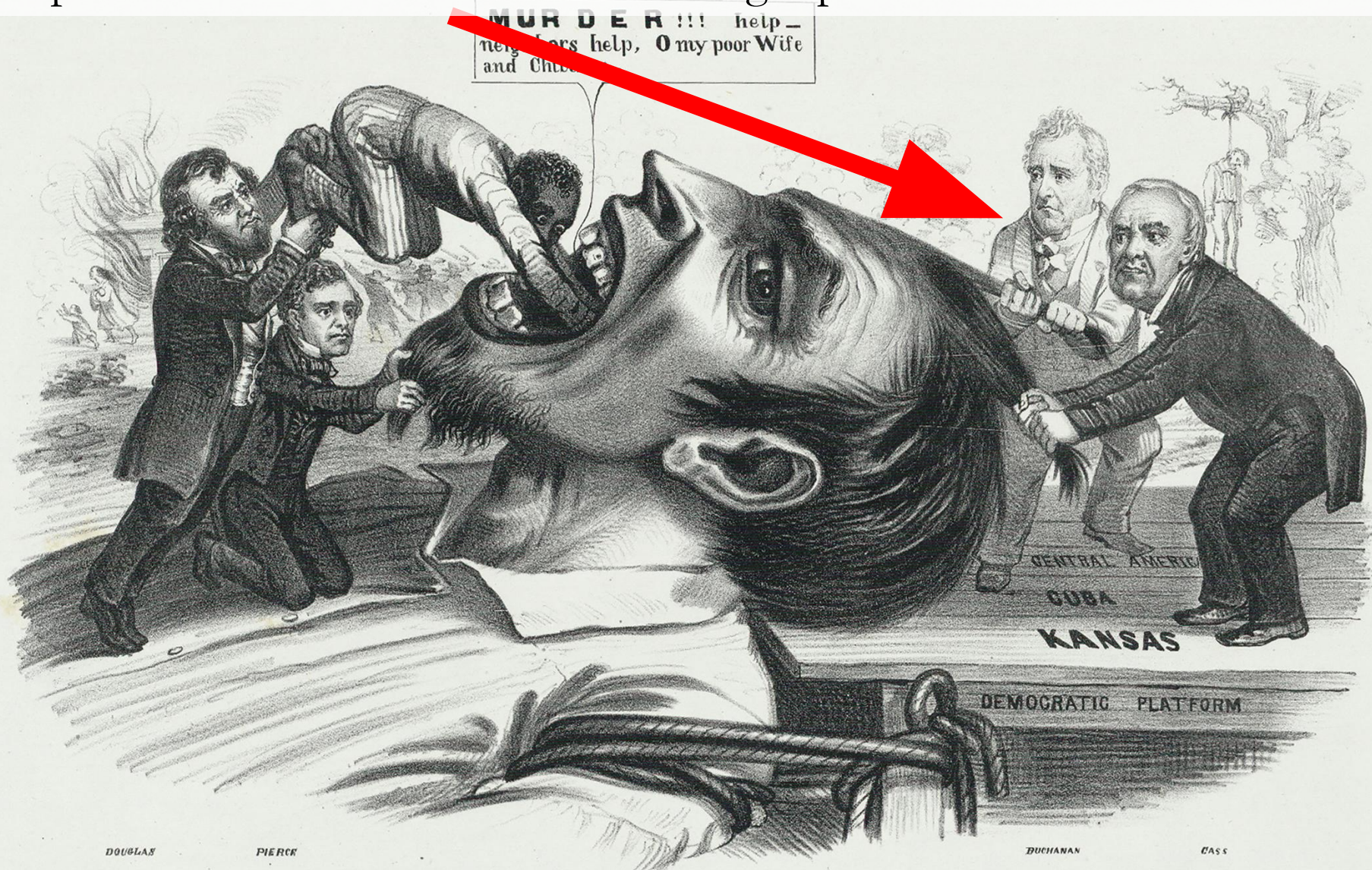
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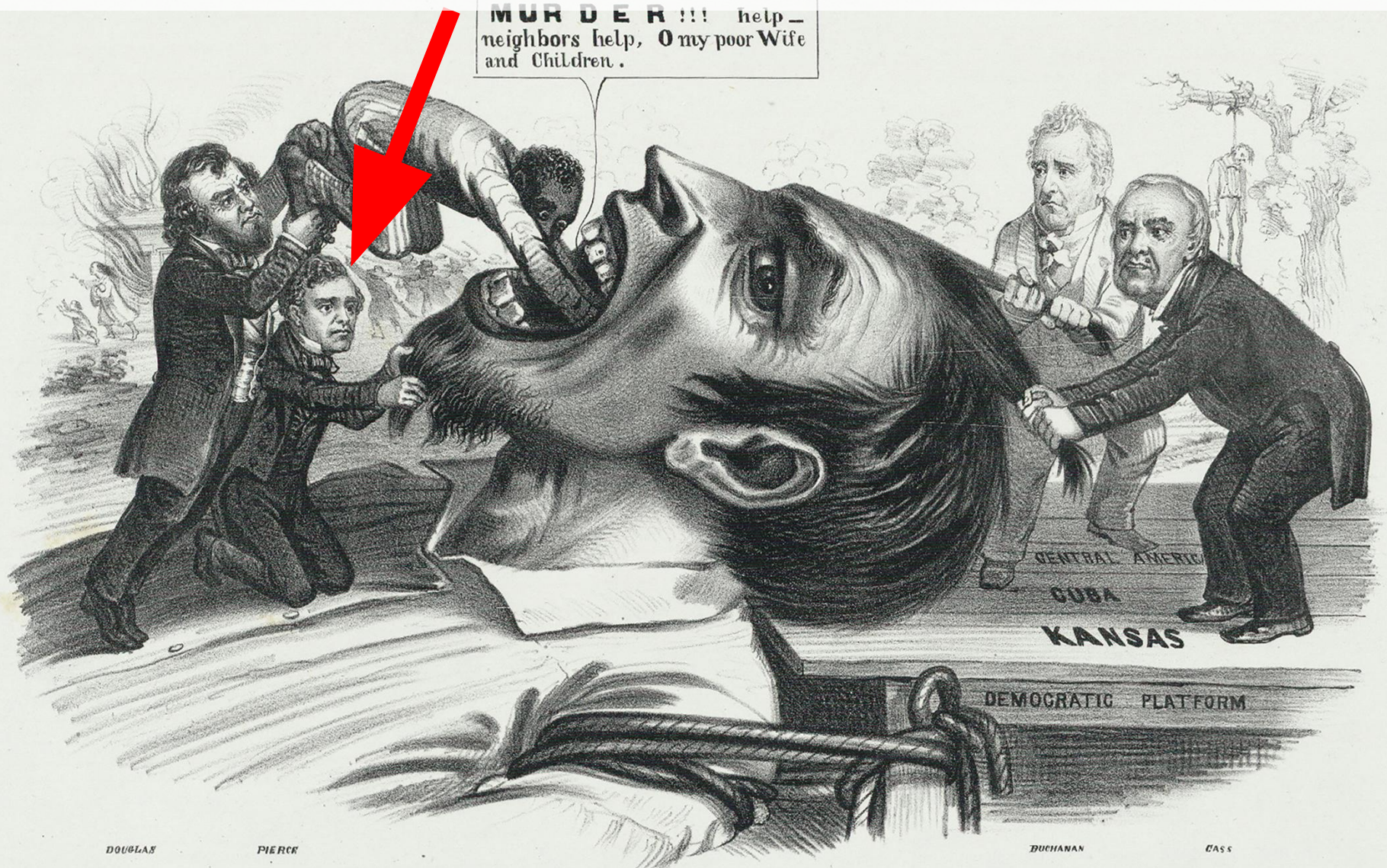
How about the people? James Buchanan became President in 1856. He is portrayed as being complicit in the murders and torture being represented.



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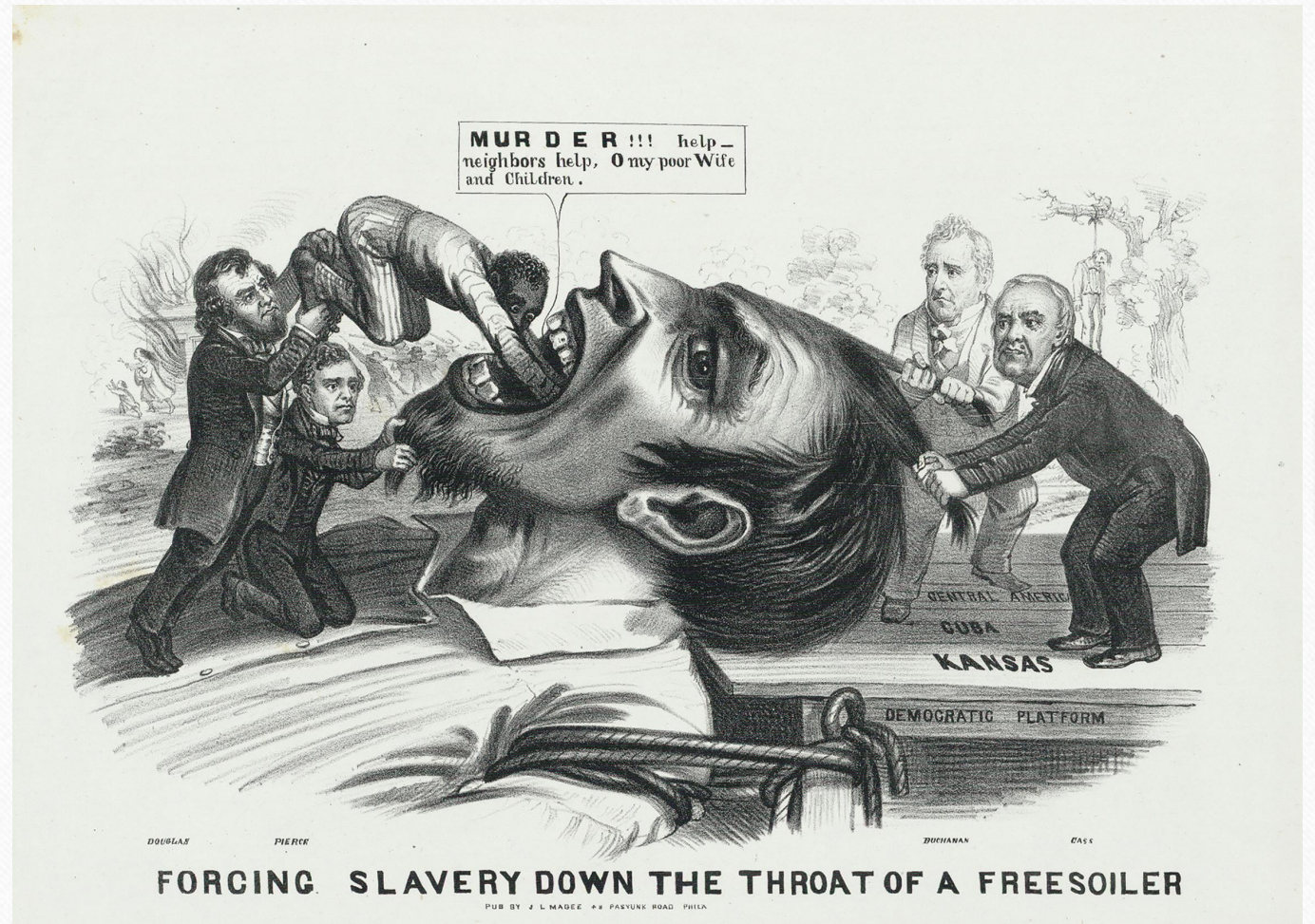
How about the people? Stephen Douglas had pretty much created the Kansas Nebraska Act, and he wanted to become President. He lost to Lincoln in 1860.



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- So, how does this cartoon portray the leaders of the Democratic Party 1856?
- To what extremes does this cartoon imply they would go in order to support, and possibly expand, slavery?



- How would you describe the overall tone of the cartoon?
- How do think people at the time might have responded to it?
- How do you respond to it now?

