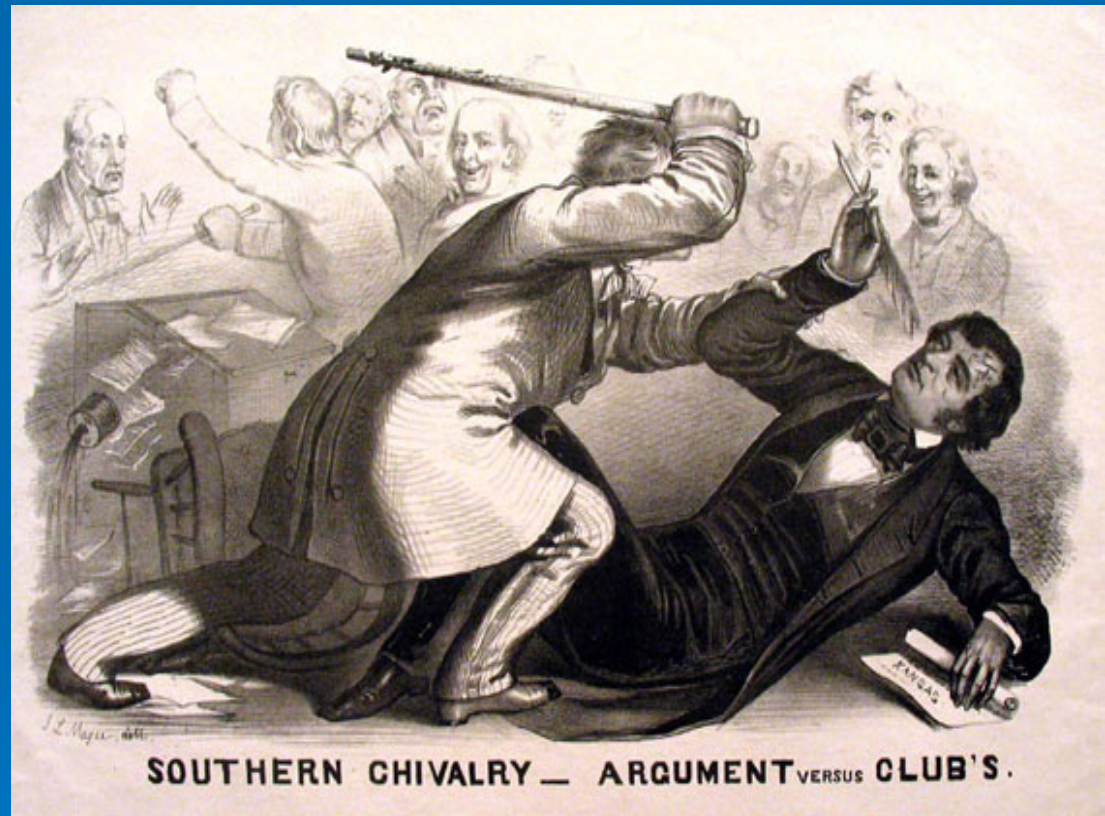


The 5 C's of Historical Thinking (the "C" words)



Context

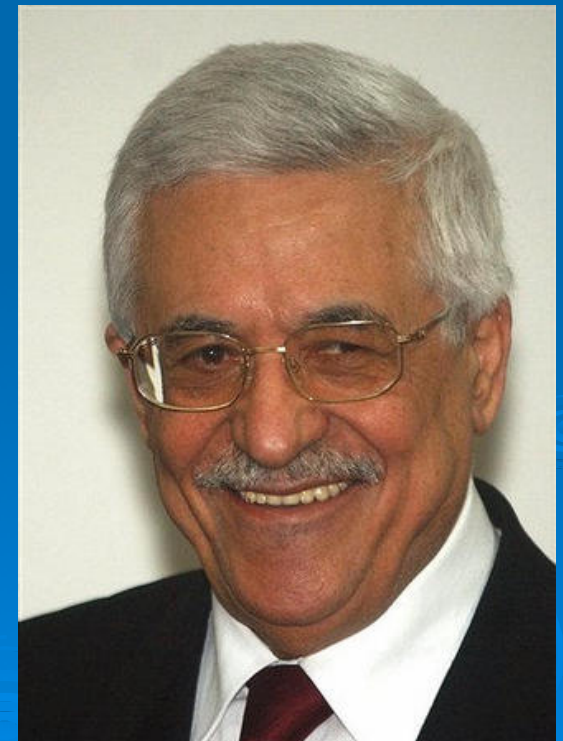
- the surroundings, circumstances, environment, background or settings which determine, specify, or clarify the meaning of an event
 - *i.e. In what context did your attack on him happen? - We had a pretty tense relationship at the time, and when he insulted me I snapped.*



Preston Brooks' attack on Charles Sumner

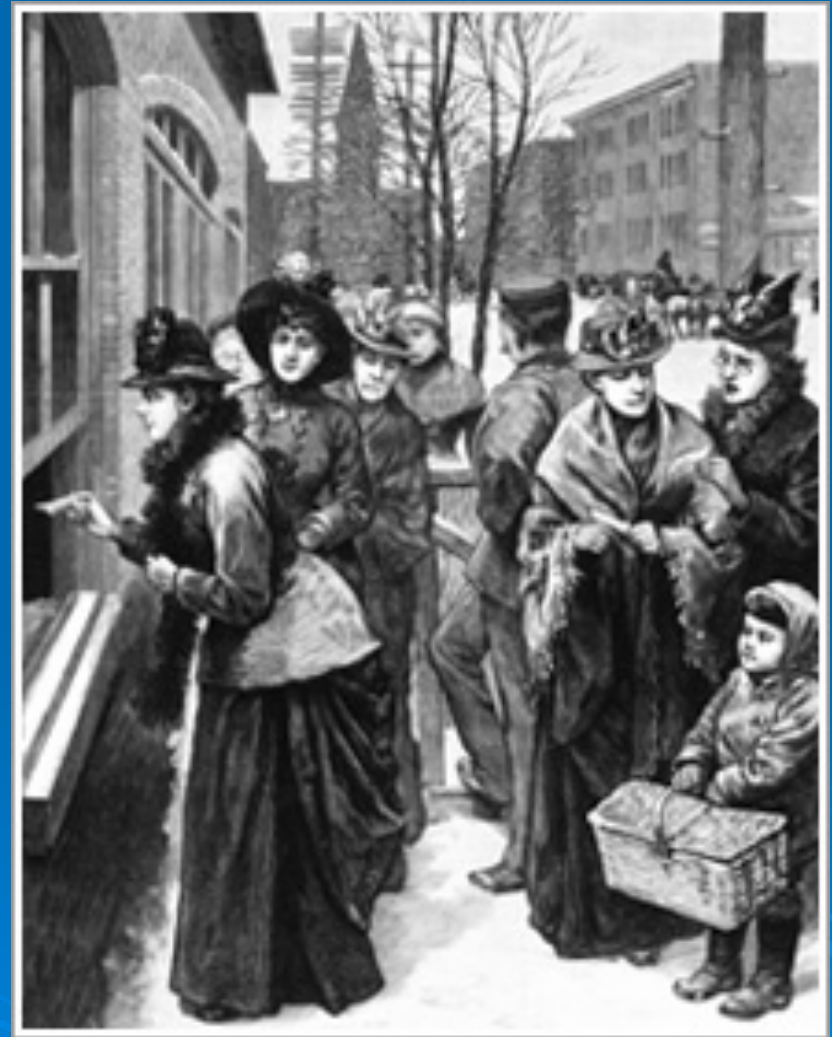
Complexity

- something complex: *the complexities of foreign policy*
 - i.e. achieving peace between Israel and Palestine



Change Over Time/ Continuity

- Do certain events/ issues change over time or do they stay the same?
 - i.e. women's rights- right to own property, voting etc...



Women voting in Wyoming

Causation

- We tend to care about the “why”
 - i.e. historians tend to argue over the causes of various events, i.e. the Cold War.
 - We can't settle on the why.
 - Our experiences have us change our opinion of events in the past

Contingency

- Ideas and events happen for a range of reasons, but take a factor out and maybe the idea or event would not have occurred as it did. The “what if” scenario
 - What if slavery had never been introduced in America?
 - What if Abraham Lincoln had not been elected in 1860?
- Things always could have happened a different way.