



GRADE 7 LOUISIANA SOCIAL STUDIES



Louisiana Tiger

A Nation at War

Student Volume

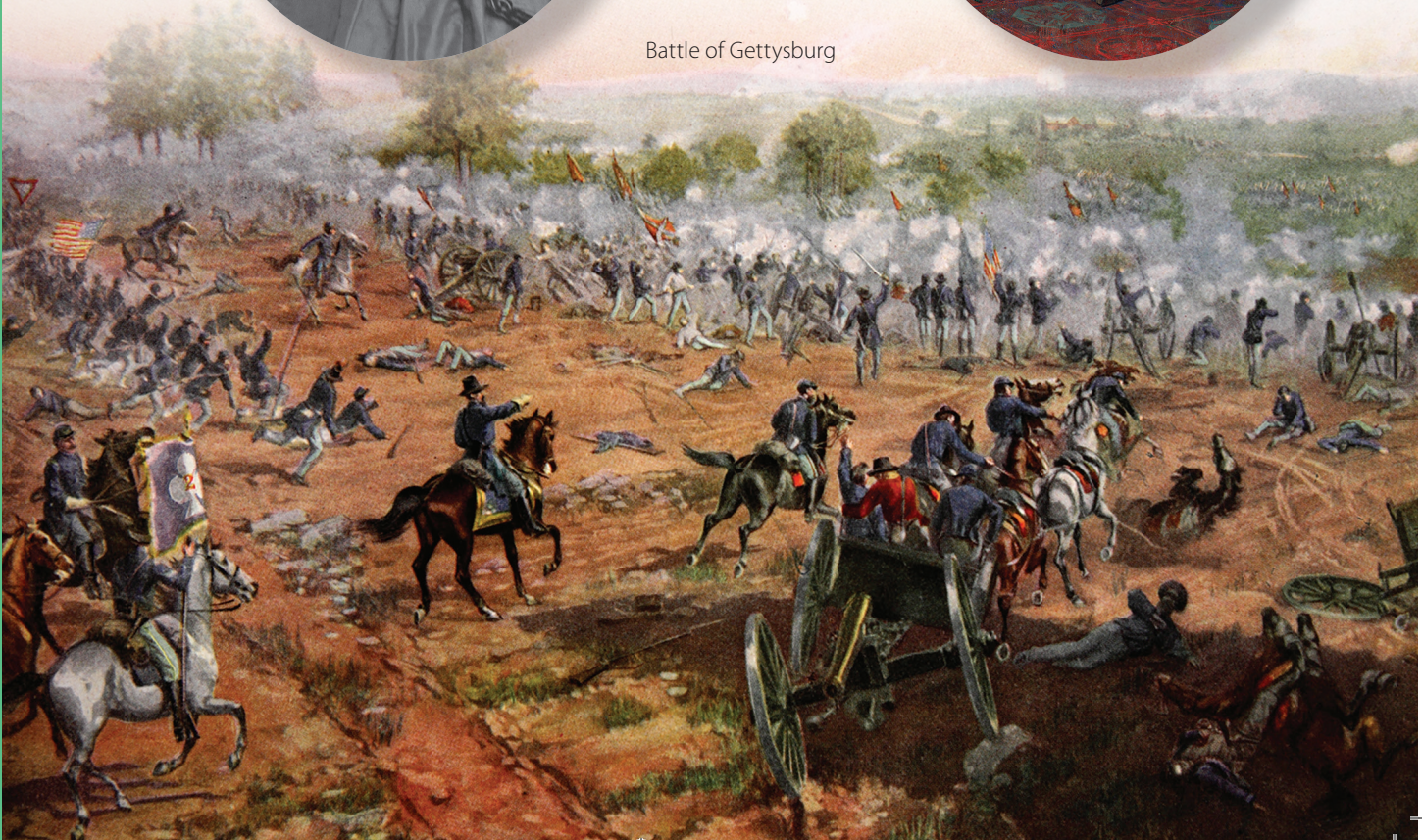
Clara Barton



Ulysses S. Grant and Union officers



Battle of Gettysburg



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A Nation at War

Student Volume



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A Nation at War



Table of Contents

01	Chapter 1: Prelude to Secession and War	2
02	Chapter 2: The Course of the Civil War	12
	Glossary	39



Chapter 1

Prelude to Secession and War



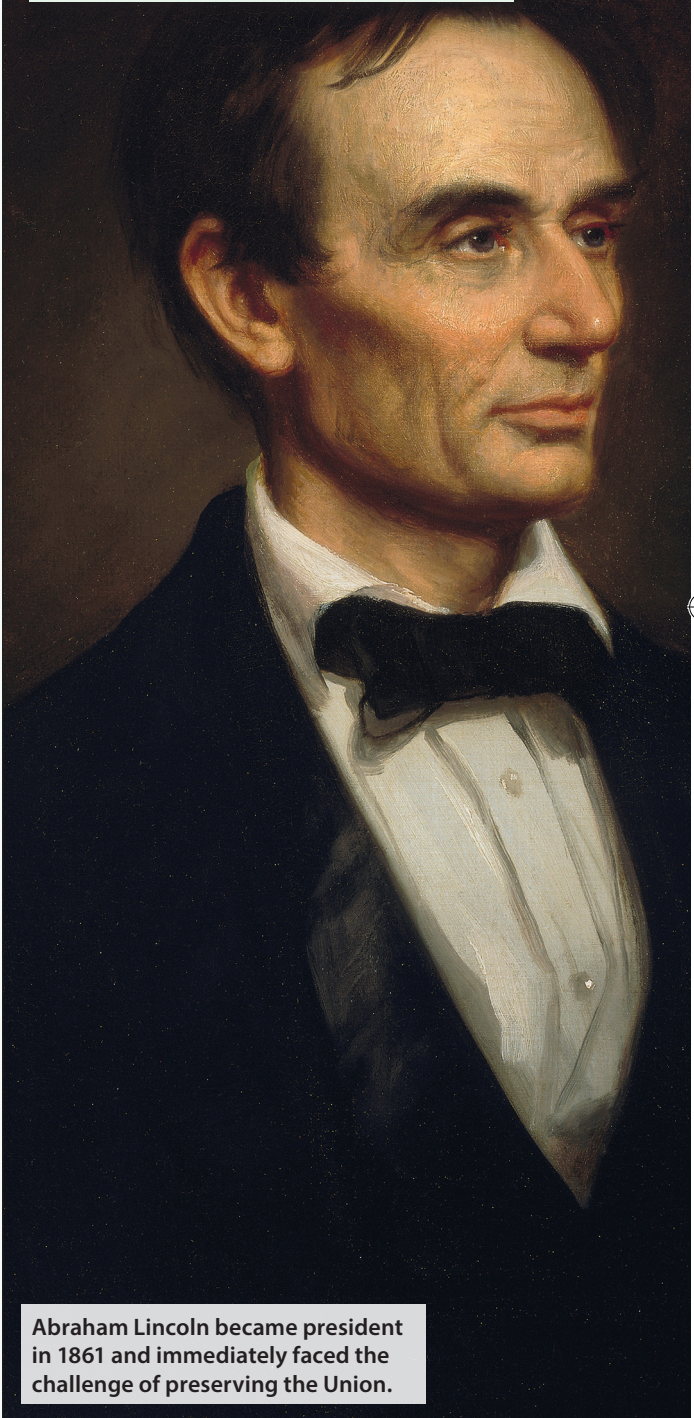
The House Divided

Arguments over slavery and the growth of sectionalism before 1860 revealed that the United States was deeply divided. Although many compromises had been reached over the issue of slavery, none had ever resolved the issue.

By the 1850s, the slavery debate had reached a crisis point. Conflict between abolitionists and supporters of slavery had erupted in Kansas. A new political party, the Republican Party, had been founded with a mission of opposing slavery. Supporters of the practice dug in their heels. On the eve of the presidential election of 1860, it was not certain that the United States could survive without addressing the crisis. The stakes could not be higher—the election would determine the future of the nation.

The Framing Question

What factors led to the outbreak of the American Civil War?



Abraham Lincoln became president in 1861 and immediately faced the challenge of preserving the Union.



The Argument Over Slavery

The events of the 1850s, including the *Dred Scott* decision, meant that slavery was the key issue at stake in the presidential election of 1860. The main concern was whether slavery would be allowed to spread into the territories to the west. The Republican Party chose Abraham Lincoln as their presidential candidate. Although many in the Republican Party wanted slavery to end, the party took a **pragmatic** approach to the election. Lincoln did not run as an **abolitionist**. Instead, Lincoln and the Republicans guaranteed that slavery would continue in the states where it currently existed, but they also promised to keep slavery out of the territories. Lincoln feared the issue would tear the country apart. As you may recall, he said, "A house divided

Vocabulary

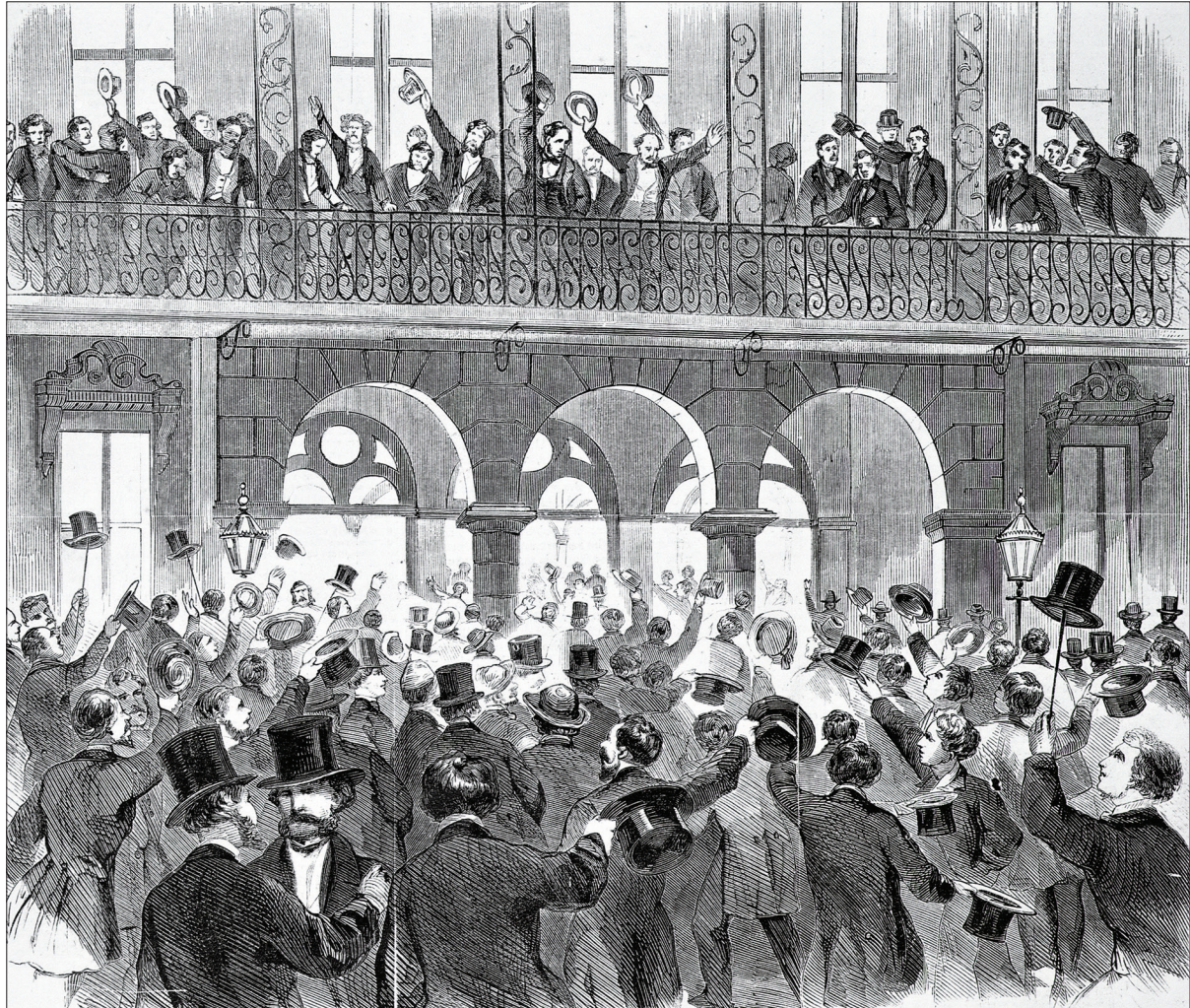
pragmatic, adj. realistic or accepting of limits

abolitionist, n. a person who worked to end slavery during the 1700s and 1800s

against itself cannot stand." He saw that the argument over slavery would have to be resolved if the Union, the United States, were to continue.

The issue of slavery caused a split in the Democratic Party. In the North, the Democratic Party selected Lincoln's old rival Stephen A. Douglas as its candidate. It adopted a platform that proposed a compromise: let territories decide for themselves to allow slavery or not. But Democrats in the South rejected this platform and broke with the Northern Democrats. They nominated their own candidate, John C. Breckinridge, and issued their own platform, calling for slavery to spread to the West.

The split was evidence of the extreme sectionalism that had taken hold in the South. Many Southern leaders believed strongly that slavery was a good, moral, and productive system. Southerners were defensive about a practice that was a vital part of their society and economy. They saw Republican proposals to end the expansion of slavery as a first step to ending slavery entirely. Some argued that the Tenth Amendment made slavery an issue for the states to decide.



As the election neared, support for secession grew in the South. This engraving shows a meeting in support of secession in South Carolina in 1860.

To these Southerners, their state governments were the final defense for the institution of slavery. They believed that states had the right to secede from the Union if the federal government passed laws they deemed unconstitutional. These ideas are sometimes summarized as the argument for “states’ rights.”

Republicans did not accept this argument. They viewed the federal government established by the Constitution as the final authority in the Union. They pointed to the preamble to the Constitution—it was not the states but “we the people” who established the Constitution, to ensure justice and liberty for the people of the United States.

Justice and liberty, to the Republicans, needed the Union to be strong and whole, not divided by sectional or state interests.



Think Twice

Why didn't the pragmatic approach of the Republicans and Northern Democrats work?



The Election of 1860

The election of 1860 was held on November 6. It was fought among the Republicans, the Northern and Southern Democrats, and a fourth party, the Constitutional Union Party. The Constitutional Union Party and its candidate, John Bell, avoided the issue of slavery entirely. But voters rejected further compromise. The issue of slavery and sectional interests guided how voters cast their ballots.

Abraham Lincoln was the winner of the election. He received almost 40 percent of the popular vote and 180 votes in the electoral college. Lincoln won every state in the North and the western states of California and Oregon. This result was partly thanks to the unity of the

Republican Party. Lincoln's campaign had aimed to keep the party and its supporters together. This was especially important because they knew that the split in the Democratic Party meant that neither Northern nor Southern Democrats would have enough support to win the election. The Republicans were correct. Stephen Douglas and the Northern Democrats won nearly 30 percent of the national vote, but they only won the state of Missouri and split New Jersey's electoral college votes. Breckinridge and the Southern Democrats received 18 percent of the vote and won many states in the South. Bell won the states of Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

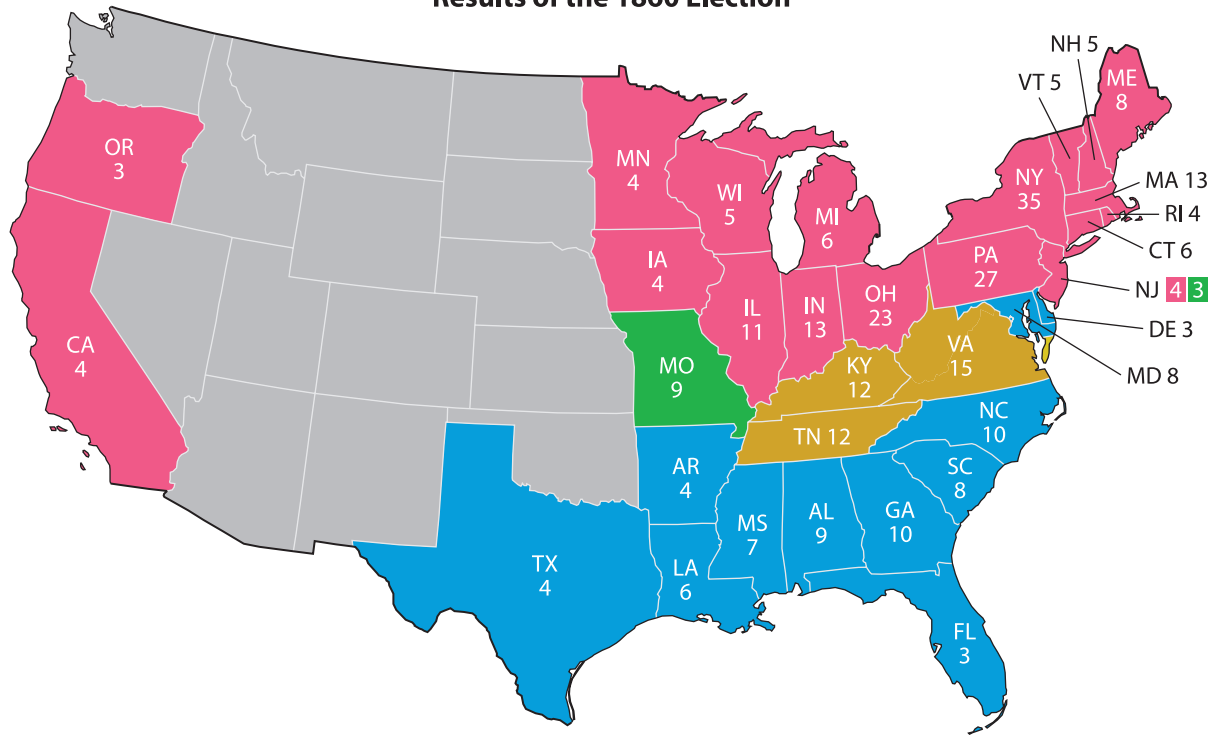
The result showed the divides between and within the North and South clearly. Northern states were divided between Lincoln and Douglas; Southern states, between Breckinridge and Bell. Lincoln was not even on the ballot in the Southern states that would later secede. He had virtually no support among whites in the South.

Think Twice

Why might voters in Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee have voted for Bell and the Constitutional Union Party?



Results of the 1860 Election



■	Abraham Lincoln, Republican: 39.9%, 1,865,908 votes
■	John Breckinridge, Southern Democratic: 18.1%, 848,019 votes
■	John Bell, Constitutional Union: 12.6%, 590,901 votes
■	Stephen Douglas, Northern Democratic: 29.5%, 1,380,202 votes

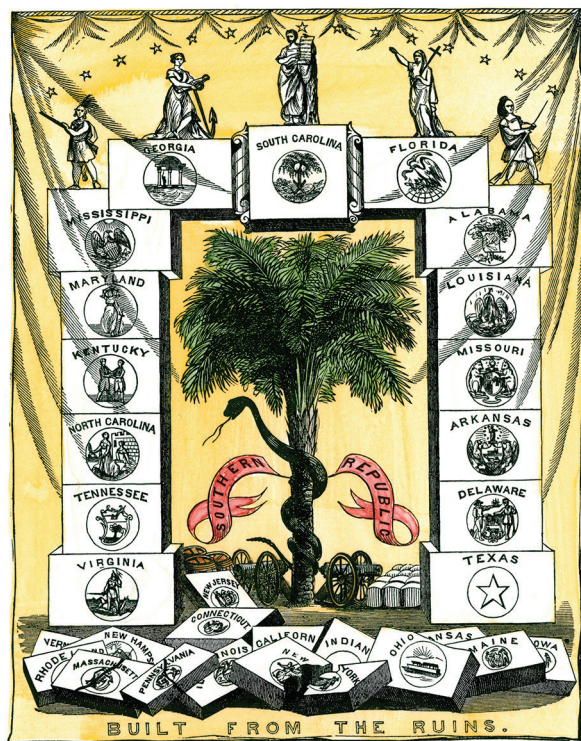
The election of 1860 made Abraham Lincoln the president, setting the stage for a decisive split between North and South.



Secession

Soon-to-be president Lincoln made his way to Washington, D.C. Along the way he stopped in sixteen towns and cities and spoke to people in each place. Then, during his first inaugural address, in March of 1861, President Lincoln repeated that he had no plans to interfere with the

institution of slavery in states where it was already legal. He also repeated his belief that each state had the right to self-governance. But by this time, the Southern states were no longer interested in listening. Three months earlier, in December 1860, South Carolina had announced that it was seceding from the Union. In January and February 1861, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas also voted to leave.



The banner of the South Carolina Secession Convention, 1860

Before Abraham Lincoln even took the oath of office, seven states had seceded.

The secessionist movement was not as popular in Louisiana as it was in other areas of the South. Even the Louisiana governor, Thomas O. Moore, did not initially support the movement. "I shall not advise the secession of my State," he wrote in October 1860, "and I will add that I do not think the people of Louisiana will ultimately decide in favor of that course."

But Moore was speaking before the election result. When it became clear

that Abraham Lincoln would become the next president, support for secession in Louisiana increased. Louisianans saw that Lincoln had won all the states of the North. He had not even been on the ballot in Louisiana. Supporters of secession believed that the North had united to end slavery against the wishes of Southerners. Some Louisianans saw the actions of John Brown at Harpers Ferry in 1859 as evidence that opponents of slavery would use force to achieve their goals. Those in favor of secession used these arguments to inspire support from people who felt their way of life was being threatened. Public opinion was so strongly in favor of secession that Governor Moore and others came to support the idea.

A convention was called to discuss and take a vote on seceding from the Union. The convention was held in Baton Rouge on January 26, 1861. All but 17 of the 130 delegates sent to the convention voted to secede.

The seceding states formed their own nation. On February 4, representatives from the first seven seceding states met in Montgomery, Alabama. Three days later, the seceding states announced the creation of the Confederate States of America. The new nation was called the Confederacy for short. The Confederacy

John Brown and Harpers Ferry

John Brown had always opposed slavery. Originally from Connecticut, Brown became involved with the abolitionist movement and worked to support the Underground Railroad in the 1840s. In 1855, Brown and his sons moved to Kansas, where they got involved in the fight between opponents of slavery, like themselves, and its supporters. After the town of Lawrence was attacked by supporters of slavery in 1856, Brown launched a violent campaign against slavery supporters and slaveholders. In 1859, this led him to attack the federal armory at Harpers Ferry in Virginia (now in West Virginia), along with sixteen white

and five African American abolitionists. Brown hoped to cause an uprising of enslaved people by seizing the armory and arming the enslaved in the vicinity. The raid did not go as planned, and enslaved people in the region did not rise up. Soon after, troops led by Colonel Robert E. Lee attacked Brown and defeated his raiders, killing many of them. Brown, heavily wounded, was put on trial for treason against the state of Virginia. He was sentenced to death. When the sentence was passed, Brown made a speech stating that he gave his life in the cause of ending slavery in America. Brown became a martyr to many who opposed slavery.

adopted a constitution guaranteeing that state governments would control the future of slavery. Then the representatives from the seven seceding states chose Jefferson Davis as the first president of the Confederate States of America. Louisiana officially joined the Confederacy on March 21, 1861.



Think Twice

Why did the delegates in Louisiana vote so overwhelmingly in favor of secession?

Even before the new Confederate States of America was declared, each of the seven states that initially seceded had begun to take over forts, arsenals, post offices, and other federal government property within their borders. They claimed that the United States no longer had any rights within their states, so the property belonged to the states themselves. By the time Lincoln was sworn in as president, only two forts in the seven Confederate states remained under the control of the United States.



The former mint in the city of New Orleans is now part of the Louisiana State Museum, housing the New Orleans Jazz Museum.

Governor Moore ordered the Louisiana militia to seize the federal arsenal in the state. Taking possession of the arsenal enabled Louisiana to provide weapons and **ammunition** for what would become the Confederate Army. The barracks at Baton Rouge and the New Orleans branch of the United States **Mint** were also seized.

The seizures also provided the new Confederacy with some vital funds. The U.S. Mint branch in New Orleans was holding more than \$300,000 in coins and silver. Concerned that Louisiana might

secede, the Mint hurried to get the coins and silver shipped to Philadelphia. Before the shipment was ready, the militia arrived and claimed the \$300,000 for the state treasury. The Confederacy continued to use the New Orleans minting facility for a short time. It was the only mint to create coins with a Confederate design.

Writers' Corner

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter tasked with reporting on the 1860 election. Write a three-paragraph report summarizing the candidates, their platforms, and the major issues that are involved in the election.



Vocabulary

ammunition, n. bullets or shells

mint, n. a place where money is coined under governmental authority

PRIMARY SOURCE: FROM “ON THE RIGHT OF SECESSION” BY SENATOR JUDAH P. BENJAMIN OF LOUISIANA (1860)

We are brought at last, sir, directly forced, to meet promptly an issue produced by an irresistible course of events whose inevitable results some of us, at least, have foreseen for years. Nor, sir, have we failed in our duty of warning the Republicans that they were fast driving us to a point where the very instincts of self-preservation would impose upon us the necessity of separation. . . .

You, Senators of the Republican party, assert, and your people whom you represent assert, that under a just and fair interpretation of the Federal Constitution it is right that you deny that our slaves, which directly and indirectly involve a value of more than four thousand million dollars, are property at all. . . .

You assume the interpretation that it is right to encourage, by all possible means, directly and indirectly, the robbery of this property, and to legislate so as to render its recovery as difficult and dangerous as possible. . . .

Source: Benjamin, Judah Philip. “Speech of Hon. J. P. Benjamin, of Louisiana, on the Right of Secession: Delivered in the Senate of the United States, Dec. 31, 1860.” Marian S. Carson Collection. Library of Congress.

PRIMARY SOURCE: EXCERPT FROM LINCOLN'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS (1861)

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so." Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them. And, more than this, they placed in the platform for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read:

Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend, and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter under what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.

I now reiterate these sentiments. . . .

Source: Lincoln, Abraham. First inaugural address. March 4, 1861.

Chapter 2

The Course of the Civil War

The Framing Question


How did the events of the Civil War transform the United States?



A Nation at War

The Civil War was not expected to be a lengthy conflict, yet it grew into the largest and most destructive war ever fought on American soil. Taking both sides together, 2.4 million Americans fought in the Civil War, and roughly 620,000 of them perished. Millions more people, including civilians, were injured. The war transformed the nation. The South had seceded to preserve slavery, but the war ended it for good.





The Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter marked the beginning of the American Civil War.

The War Begins

Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address had urged peace, understanding, and friendship between North and South. But despite President Lincoln's attempts to ease tensions, events marched toward a showdown in South Carolina. One of the two Southern forts that the U.S. government still controlled was Fort Sumter, located on an island in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. As the seceding states seized federal property across the South, South Carolina had demanded that the fort be handed over along with all the others. Major Robert Anderson, in charge of the fort, refused. But by April, Fort Sumter was running short on supplies. Major Anderson told President Lincoln that unless food arrived soon, he would have to give up control of the fort.

The only way to get supplies to Fort Sumter was by ship. The ships would have to pass in front of the guns of the Confederate States located around the harbor. President Lincoln wanted to send the needed supplies, but he didn't want to start a war over them. He informed South Carolina that the ships he was sending to Fort Sumter only carried food and supplies—no fresh soldiers, guns, or ammunition.

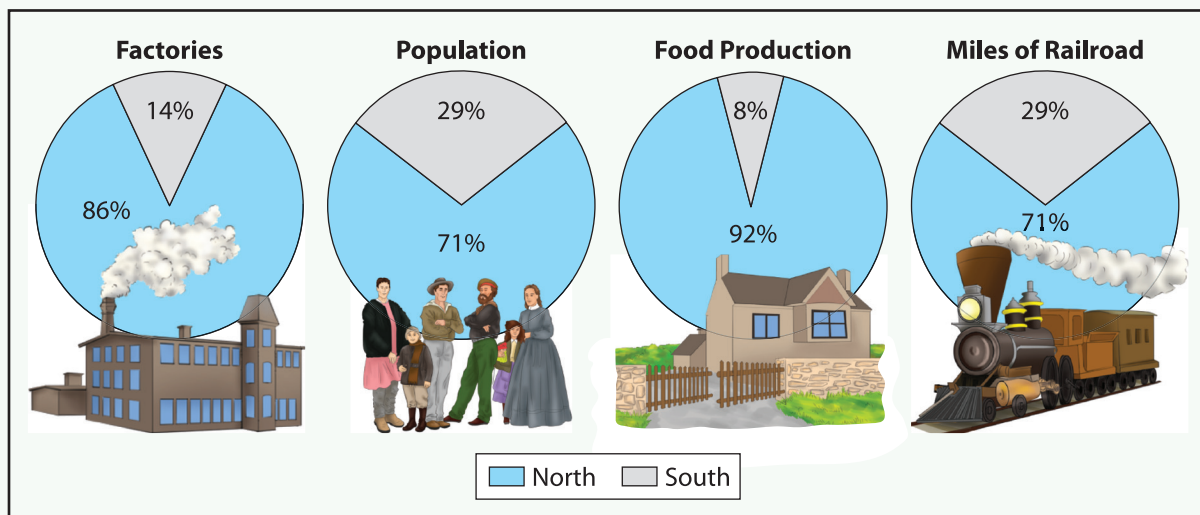
Nonetheless, Confederate president Jefferson Davis demanded the fort surrender. When Anderson refused, Davis ordered Confederate troops, serving under the command of Brigadier General P. G. T. Beauregard, to open fire on the fort. It was April 12. Beauregard, a Louisiana native born on a sugar plantation outside New Orleans, witnessed the bombardment from nearby Charleston. After thirty hours of shelling, Major Anderson finally surrendered.

Confederate guns had fired upon the forces of the United States of America. In the eyes of the Confederacy, its gunners had struck a blow for Confederate independence. In the eyes of the Union, they had started a rebellion. Just days after the first shots were fired, on April 15, 1861,

Lincoln called for state militias to contribute seventy-five thousand soldiers to form an army that would be used to eliminate the Confederate government. The reaction in the North was overwhelming. "The response of the loyal states to the call of Lincoln was perhaps the most remarkable uprising of a great people in the history of mankind," Senator John Sherman of Ohio later wrote.

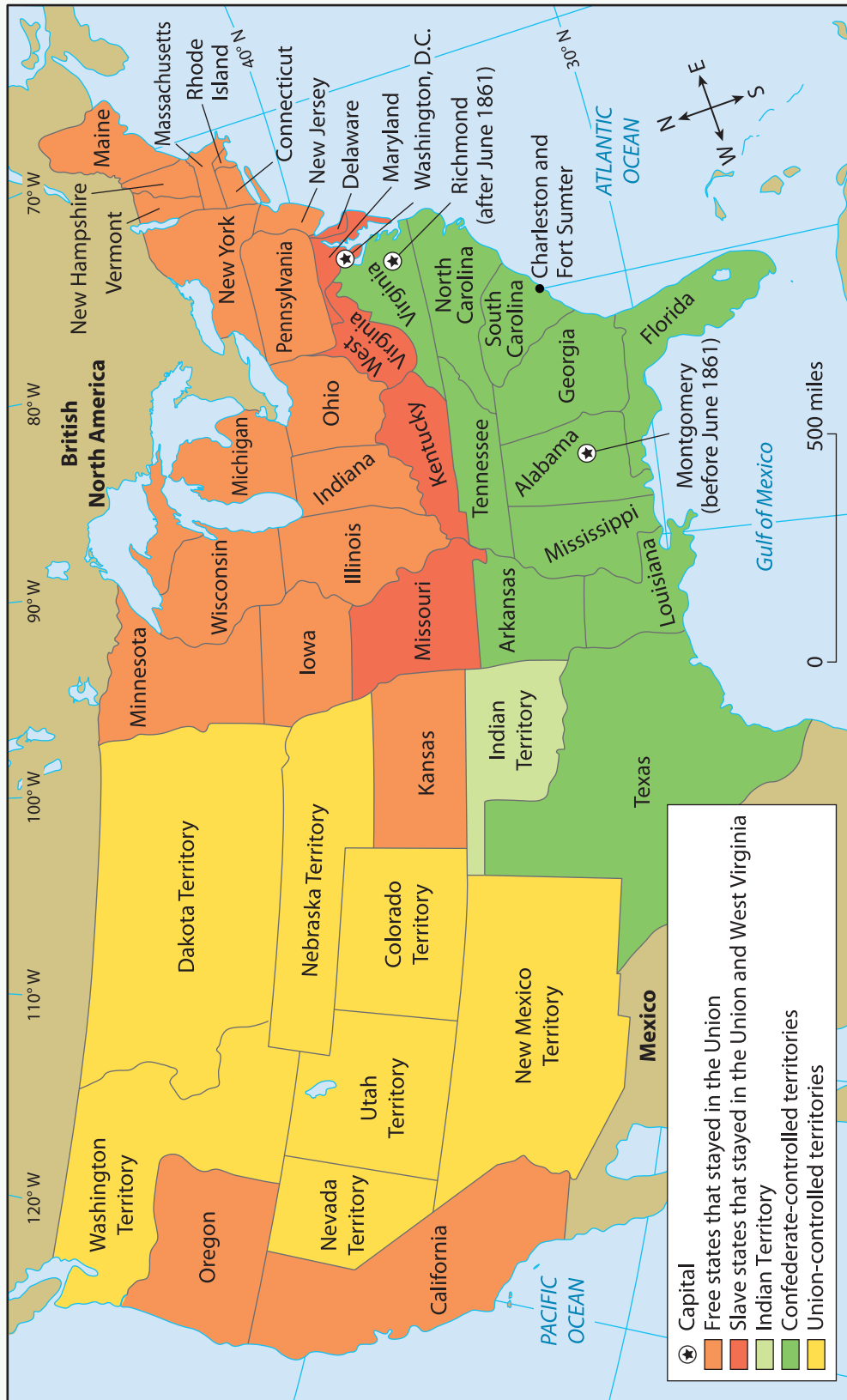
The outbreak of fighting also caused more states to secede. Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee seceded and joined the Confederacy between April and June. Some states in which slavery was legal nevertheless remained in the Union. These were Kentucky, Missouri, Delaware, and Maryland. The state of Virginia split. Residents in the northwest of Virginia

Union and Confederate Resources, 1860



The North had many advantages that would help it endure a long war. The South also had some advantages, as much of the fighting would be on Southern territory.

The Union and the Confederacy, 1861



After June 1861, the capital cities of the Union and Confederacy were not far from each other. As a result, both sides spent a lot of effort attempting to capture the capital city of their opponent.

did not want to secede, and they refused to do so. Eventually, in 1863, this region, along with some more pro-Confederate areas of Virginia, would be admitted to the Union as the state of West Virginia. In Kentucky and Missouri, some people attempted to secede, but the proposal was rejected. The Missouri secessionists fled and set up their own rival state government in the Confederacy.



A War of the People

At the start of the war, volunteers on both sides rushed to join the fight because they believed in the cause their side was fighting for. Even as people rushed to enlist, the North turned away African American volunteers. President Lincoln insisted that the war was being fought to preserve the Union, not to end slavery. In addition, Lincoln worried that enlisting Black soldiers would anger border slave states like Kentucky that had stayed in the Union. Despite this, Union military leaders began recruiting Black soldiers in 1862, and as many as two hundred thousand African Americans would eventually fight on the side of the Union. Lincoln changed his mind about recruiting Black soldiers after he signed the **Emancipation Proclamation** in 1863.

Vocabulary

emancipation, n. the act of setting free, especially from legal, social, or political restrictions

Several Northern states formed regiments of African American soldiers. These were at first commanded by white officers but over the course of the war, became increasingly led by African American commanders. Two of abolitionist Frederick Douglass's sons served in one of these units, the Massachusetts Fifty-Fifth Regiment. The most famous such regiment was the Massachusetts Fifty-Fourth Regiment, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. In the summer of 1863, the Fifty-Fourth Regiment led an attack on Fort Wagner, a Confederate fort on an island in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. In spite of heavy cannon fire by Confederate troops, nearly one hundred soldiers forced their way into the fort. There, they fought hand-to-hand against Confederate troops. Despite the bravery of the Fifty-Fourth Regiment, African American Union soldiers were still paid less than their white counterparts and suffered other forms of discrimination. Almost one out of every eleven Union soldiers was Black. It is believed that around forty thousand Black soldiers died in the war.

One particularly extraordinary African American who became a Civil War hero

was Robert Smalls. He was born in Beaufort, South Carolina. In 1862, he and other enslaved individuals escaped enslavement, stole a Confederate ship, and made their way to nearby Union vessels. Smalls then worked on the side of the Union, providing valuable naval information and piloting ships. After the war, he went into politics and served five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Women performed vital roles on both sides of the Civil War. About three thousand women served as nurses. In those days, nursing was considered generally a man's job. Before the war, a woman usually couldn't work as a nurse. Once the war came, however, so many nurses were needed that women were finally accepted into the profession.

One of the most notable was Clara Barton. She first appeared on the battlefield in August 1862. The field hospital was almost out of dressings for wounds when Barton arrived with her mule-drawn wagon filled with supplies. One army surgeon wrote, "I thought that night if heaven ever sent out a holy angel, she must be the one, her assistance was so timely." Barton helped the surgeon bandage the wounded.

After that, Barton was on the scene of many battles with her wagonloads of bandages, coffee, jellies, brandy, crackers, and cans of

soup and beef. She often worked for days with almost no sleep. She cared for the wounded wherever shelter could be found. She fed them and wrote letters home for them. She comforted the wounded and the dying. Upon her return home to Washington, D.C., Barton was called to serve at Lincoln Hospital. As she entered one ward, seventy men who had received her care rose to salute her. She earned the nickname the soldiers gave her: "Angel of the Battlefield." Later, after the war ended, Barton founded the American Red Cross, which still provides assistance to soldiers and civilians during times of conflict.

Mary Edwards Walker also attended to the sick and wounded. But unlike Barton and most female nurses of the time, Walker was a physician. Though at first she was only allowed to practice as a nurse, in 1863



The Civil War brought women such as Clara Barton onto the battlefield to work as nurses and in other roles.

Walker became the first female U.S. Army surgeon, with the title “Contract Acting Assistant Surgeon (civilian).” After the war, Walker received the Medal of Honor. She is still the only woman to receive this honor.

Soldiers and Casualties

On both sides, the early enthusiasm for joining the army did not last. Many young men quickly learned that a soldier’s life meant marching in the worst kind of weather without enough food or water, all while carrying many pounds of equipment on their backs. Illness was frequent, and soldiers spent a lot of their time in muddy camps with little to do but **drill**. As news of the difficulties of a soldier’s life reached home through letters, the number of volunteers started to drop. Eventually, each side had to turn to a **draft**.

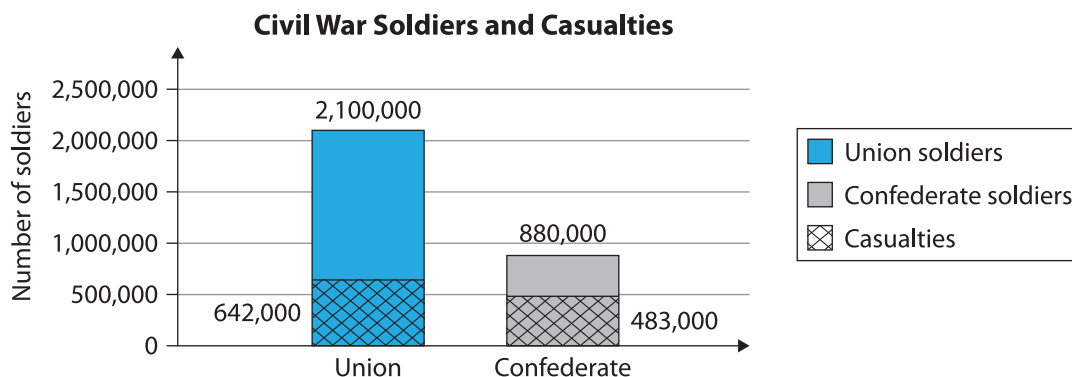
The battles of the American Civil War were very deadly. Powerful weapons and close-quarters fighting inflicted terrible wounds. Many soldiers were killed or wounded in the fighting. Those killed or wounded in war are called **casualties**. Others were captured and taken to prison camps to await prisoner-of-war exchanges. Around four hundred thousand Americans were held prisoner by both sides over the course of the war. Some of these prison camps were notorious for how dirty and

Vocabulary

drill, v. to train or practice by repeating movements or tasks

draft, n. a system that requires individuals to serve in the military

casualty, n. a person killed or wounded in fighting



Many Americans were killed, wounded, or captured in the Civil War.

disease-ridden they were. Andersonville, in Georgia, was especially bad. It is believed that thirteen thousand Union prisoners died there.

Writers' Corner



Write a letter home from the perspective of a woman serving as a nurse or a man serving as a soldier during the Civil War. Explain to your family the work you are doing and what it means to you to be serving in this way.

The Battle of Manassas

A holiday mood filled the air on July 21, 1861, as people climbed into their carriages to ride from Washington, D.C., into the Virginia countryside. They were heading for Manassas Junction, about thirty miles (48 km) away. There, they planned to have lunch while watching the first major battle of the Civil War.



Civil War battles were chaotic and violent, especially when soldiers engaged in close combat.

A Union army had been dispatched to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond. President Lincoln wanted a quick end to the war. About thirty-five thousand Union troops had marched for some days to reach Manassas Junction, where a Confederate force of twenty-five thousand was camped near a creek called Bull Run. Newspapers in Washington reported that a battle was expected to begin shortly. This was the battle the people had come to watch. They expected the battle, and the war, would be over quickly. Instead, after many hours of fighting, neither side was able to gain the upper hand. Then, late in the afternoon, it appeared that the Union forces might be winning, until fresh Confederate troops arrived by train and quickly joined the battle. This was enough to turn the tide. The half-trained Union soldiers began to retreat—first a few, then more and more, until finally thousands dropped their guns and ran in panic toward the picnickers.

Confederate forces at Manassas were led by Louisianan P. G. T. Beauregard. Beauregard was a skilled leader who had taken charge of the first Confederate successes of the Civil War. He was known to be personally combative and would later have difficulty getting along with

Jefferson Davis. Nevertheless, he was a popular leader among soldiers.

Think Twice

Why would civilians hold a picnic to watch soldiers fight each other?



The Battle of Shiloh

After the Battle of Manassas, the hard truth began to sink in. This war would not end quickly.

Through the rest of 1861, the Union won a series of victories. In early 1862, a Union army under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant was fighting in western Tennessee. Grant was a brilliant general who believed that victory lay in aggressively attacking the Confederacy. He had served in the Mexican-American War and had a reputation as a tough soldier. In February 1862, he had captured Fort Donelson in Tennessee. Grant had forced the fort to surrender with no conditions attached.

He pressed on. In early April, Grant led his forces toward Corinth, Mississippi, intending to capture an important rail junction there. Both armies relied heavily on the railroads during the Civil War to move troops and supplies. Cutting off a major railway would be a strategic victory.

But Confederate generals Albert S. Johnston and Beauregard led the Confederate Army in a surprise attack on Grant's forces. They engaged the Union forces at a place called Pittsburg Landing. Heavy fighting broke out around Pittsburg Landing, including at a church called Shiloh Church. The Union Army retreated from the attack but soon collected itself, received reinforcements, and began to fight back. The Confederates were ultimately unable to hold their position and were forced to retreat. Shiloh was another Union victory, but it came at a high price. Both sides were surprised at their heavy losses in the Battle of Shiloh—more than twenty-three thousand casualties in total.

The Battle of Shiloh hurt Grant's reputation. But despite this early setback, Grant would go on to show aggressiveness and resilience unlike any other Union leader. He would



Soldiers at camp near Corinth, Mississippi, close to where the Battle of Shiloh was fought

become one of the great heroes of the Civil War.

Think Twice

Why did neither side expect such high casualties at Shiloh?



The Capture of New Orleans

Railroads were a key mode of transportation during the Civil War, but waterways were just as necessary. The Port of New Orleans was of crucial importance to the South because the Civil War largely shut down commerce between North and South. The Confederacy lacked the industrial power of the North and relied on selling valuable goods such as cotton and sugar to international markets. A lack of manufacturing meant that the Confederacy also needed to buy many of its weapons, ammunition, and other supplies from overseas. New Orleans was a port large enough to support the volume of shipping this activity required. A lot of the Confederacy's supplies purchased from overseas arrived at New Orleans. And it was well connected to the wider economy of the South. When the goods arrived at New Orleans, they then traveled from the port to other locations by way



New Orleans was the first major Confederate city to be taken by the Union. Losing its port was a major blow to the Confederacy. Capturing New Orleans was part of the Anaconda Plan, Winfield Scott's strategy to disrupt the Southern economy.

of the Mississippi River and its many **tributaries**.

Vocabulary

tributary, n. a stream or smaller river that flows into a larger river

The Union recognized that New Orleans was critically important to the Confederacy, and they aimed to seize it. Captain David Farragut led the Union Navy in a series of attacks on the city. The Union gained control of the city of New Orleans in April 1862. Though the Union was not able to gain full control of the Mississippi River until the summer of 1863, the loss

of New Orleans was a major blow to the Confederacy. New Orleans was the largest city in the Confederacy at the time and one of the principal Confederate ports. Without this major port, the Confederacy found it much harder to support itself by overseas commerce.

Find Out the Facts



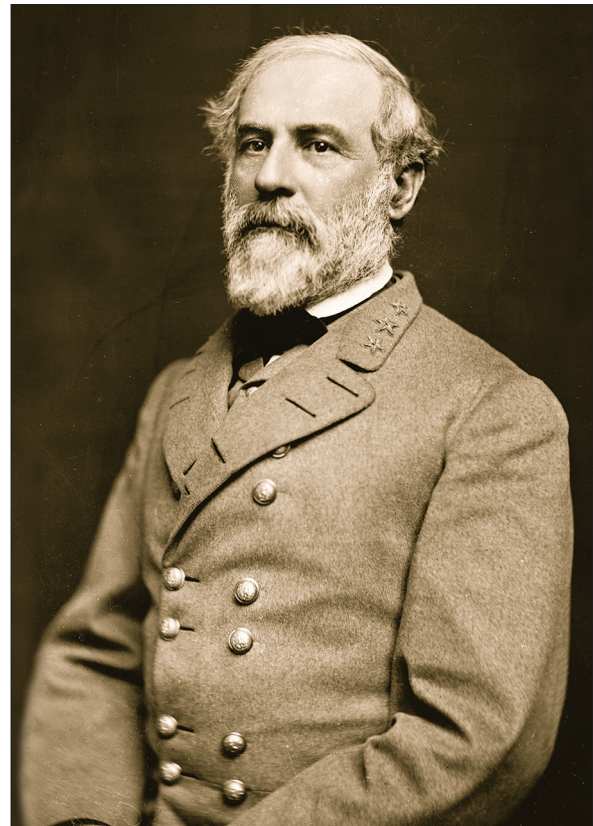
How did the economies of the North and the South differ in the Civil War? Research and write a paragraph comparing and explaining the differences. Write two sentences concluding whether the economic strength of one side or the other gave them an advantage.

Confederate Generals

The most important leader of the Confederate forces in the East was Robert E. Lee (1807–70). Lee was a proud Virginian, a decorated soldier, and a veteran of the Mexican-American War. He was also a slaveholder. He was well known as an aggressive and clever leader. At the start of the Civil War, Lee was a colonel in the U.S. Army. He was offered command of the Union Army, but he declined. He said he wanted to fight for his native state, Virginia, instead. Lee became known as the most capable Confederate general, and he was a key adviser to the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. He led the Army of Northern Virginia in many battles in the East. One of Lee's greatest triumphs came at the Battle of Chancellorsville, from April 30 to May 6, 1863. His army defeated a larger Union force and drove on into Pennsylvania.

Another of the most important Confederate generals was Lee's right-hand man, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (1824–63). Another Virginia native, Jackson earned his nickname in the first major battle of the war, at Manassas. As Confederate troops led

by Jackson held firm against a Union attack, Confederate general Barnard E. Bee said, "There is Jackson, standing like a stone wall." The Confederates cheered, and ever afterward the general was known as Stonewall Jackson. Jackson was known for quickly and aggressively marching his troops over long distances against superior Union forces. He achieved many successes. However, he was accidentally shot by his own soldiers at the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863, and he died shortly afterward.



Robert E. Lee resigned from the U.S. Army to fight for Virginia and the Confederacy.



Find Out the Facts

Find out about the lives and service of some of the other generals who led Union and Confederate forces in the Civil War.



The Battle of Antietam

In the summer of 1862, General Lee decided to take the fight into Union territory. He sent troops across the Potomac River into Maryland, a state that still permitted slavery but had remained in the Union. If Lee could defeat the Union Army there, then perhaps Maryland would join the Confederacy.

Lee might have succeeded, but a Union soldier discovered a piece of paper discarded at an abandoned campsite. The paper, which was rushed to the headquarters of the Union forces' leader, General George B. McClellan, revealed General Lee's battle plans. Lee had divided his army, sending Stonewall Jackson's forces on another mission. After Jackson completed that mission, he was to join Lee. McClellan now knew exactly where the enemy would be. He knew he would be able to hit Lee's smaller force before Jackson could return.

On September 17, 1862, Union and Confederate soldiers fought the Battle



Many soldiers were killed or wounded at Antietam in the bloodiest single day of fighting in the Civil War.

of Antietam, named for the Antietam Creek. Fighting at Antietam was fierce. The Union soldiers made progress, but when the rest of Jackson's troops arrived, they turned the Union forces back. Even so, McClellan still had twenty thousand fresh troops. Had McClellan attacked the next day, he might have finished off Lee's army. Instead, McClellan held back, allowing the Confederate troops to cross the Potomac River and get back to Virginia.

The Union succeeded in stopping Lee's campaign outside the Confederacy, and Maryland remained in the Union. But the Battle of Antietam exacted a terrible price. Altogether, 3,500 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed and many more were wounded in the bloodiest single day in American military history. Lincoln soon removed McClellan from command and

assigned the general to Trenton, New Jersey, to recruit volunteers for the army.



Think Twice

Why do you think President Lincoln removed General McClellan from his command?



The Emancipation Proclamation

It is true to say that President Lincoln opposed slavery, even though he did not initially state that one of the reasons for the Civil War was to end slavery. Why was that? Lincoln had several reasons. Four border states in which slavery was legal—Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware—remained in the Union. If these states believed the Union’s goal was to end slavery, they would almost certainly join the Confederacy. That would mean their populations and resources would leave the Union and become part of the Confederacy. Furthermore, the Union Army would have to conquer that much more land to win the war. Keeping Kentucky and Maryland on the Union side was especially important. Maryland all but surrounded the Union capital and possessed vital railway routes; Kentucky gave the Union

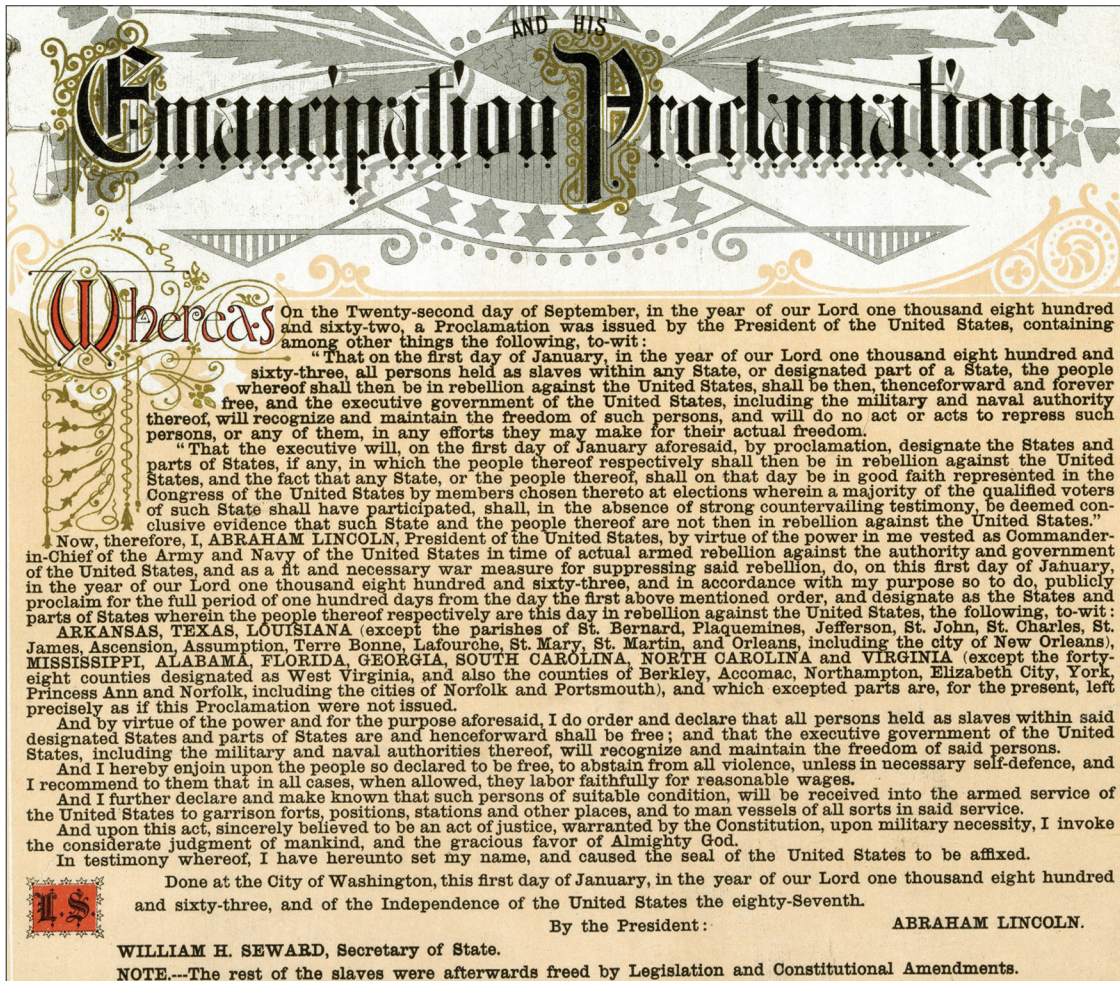
access to the Ohio River, which was needed to transport troops and supplies in the West.

Lincoln had another reason for saying that the war’s goal was only to preserve the Union. Most Northerners agreed that saving the Union was a worthy war. They did not all necessarily agree that freeing enslaved people was worth fighting for. Being against slavery was one thing; being willing to go to war to end it was another. Lincoln needed antislavery sentiment to grow, and it did. Furthermore, the war itself led to many enslaved people in the South escaping from enslavement and fleeing to Union lines. Whether Lincoln was fighting to end enslavement or not, the war itself was freeing people.

By the summer of 1862, President Lincoln felt that the time had come to take a stand. On September 22, five days after the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln issued his **preliminary** Emancipation Proclamation. In it, he stated that if the rebels did not rejoin the Union by January 1863, then all people enslaved in the *rebellious states* would be set free.

Vocabulary

preliminary, adj. an early version or early step toward something



The Emancipation Proclamation called for the immediate freedom of all enslaved people in rebellious states.

When the Confederacy did not act by the deadline, President Lincoln signed the final Emancipation Proclamation. But not every enslaved person was now legally free. The proclamation freed only the slaves in the eleven Confederate states that continued to rebel against the United States. Lincoln believed that if he freed enslaved people in slave states under Union control, those states would immediately rebel against the Union.

Although the proclamation did not free all enslaved people, even by the end of the war, it was an essential first step. There was now little doubt that if the Union won the war, slavery would be finished. President Lincoln understood that to finally abolish slavery in America, a constitutional amendment would be needed, and first he had to win the war. Lincoln's proclamation had also announced that African American men

could serve in the Union Army. Soon, African Americans began enlisting. African Americans had been volunteering to serve since the war began, but the army had often turned them down. Now things were different.



Find Out the Facts

Find out what is written in the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Battle of Gettysburg

Thanks in part to the addition of African American units to the Union war effort, the tide of the war began turning in the North's favor as 1863 wore on. The Union was gaining ground. In addition, the Confederacy felt the loss of Stonewall



In three days of fighting, the Battle of Gettysburg resulted in the greatest casualties of any battle in the Civil War.

Jackson, one of its most capable generals, who had died after Chancellorsville.

Lee realized that fighting only a defensive war was not succeeding against the Union invasions. He needed to take the war into the North and win battles on Northern soil.

Then the enemy might finally lose heart and agree to peace. On July 1, 1863, Lee led his army to the town of Gettysburg, in southeastern Pennsylvania. As it happened, General George Meade and the Union's principal army were already in the area.

Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that the nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot **consecrate**, we cannot **hallow** this ground. The brave

men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

—The Gettysburg Address by
Abraham Lincoln,
November 19, 1863

Vocabulary

consecrate, v. to declare something sacred or holy

hallow, v. to honor or respect

No one had planned for a battle to take place in Gettysburg, but there they were, face to face. For the next three days—July 1, 2, and 3—a battle raged between the Confederate and Union armies. Again and again, Lee’s forces attacked. Again and again, Union forces threw them back. On July 3, Lee decided on one final attack that he hoped would break the Union’s resistance. At about 2:00 p.m., 12,500 troops under the command of General George Pickett emerged from the woods and began their advance across an open field toward the Union’s line. The attack failed, and Lee was forced to retreat. The battle was the bloodiest ever fought on American soil. Between fifty thousand and sixty thousand people are believed to have been killed or wounded or gone missing in the fighting.

About four and a half months later, President Lincoln delivered a speech at Gettysburg. The two-minute speech, known as the Gettysburg Address, has become one of the most famous in American history. In it, Lincoln reminded those who were there what the war was about and what the country itself stood for. He quoted the Declaration of Independence and evoked its principles of liberty and equality. The words spoken that day helped change how Americans

understood the war. Rather than only a struggle to hold the Union together, Lincoln said the war was also being fought for greater freedom for all Americans. The Gettysburg Address is still regarded as one of the most impactful, most eloquent speeches in American history. In a great irony, one of the lines from the speech is “The world will little note nor long remember what we say here.”

Think Twice



Why do you think President Lincoln quoted from the Declaration of Independence in his speech at Gettysburg?

The Battle of Vicksburg

By the end of 1862, this is how matters stood in the West: Union forces had won control of most of the Mississippi River. Confederate troops still held several important ports, including Vicksburg, Mississippi. If the Union could take Vicksburg and control the Mississippi, it could put the states of Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana out of the war. It could prevent them from sending any more soldiers and supplies to support the Confederate forces in the East.

The fort at Vicksburg was perched on a cliff directly above the Mississippi River, halfway between Memphis and New Orleans. From it, artillery could stop any ships traveling on the river below. And because Vicksburg was a key strategic site, it was very heavily fortified.

After a long campaign, General Grant managed to surround the city, but his forces could not break through its defenses. So Grant laid **siege** to the city, preventing any supplies from reaching it and shelling it relentlessly.

Vocabulary

siege, n. a battle strategy in which soldiers surround a building or place so that those under attack cannot receive supplies

After almost seven weeks, Vicksburg fell to Union forces. It was one of the longest battles fought by the Union and also one of its most famous and important victories. The Battle of Vicksburg was a huge achievement, as it divided the Confederacy in two. General Grant was



General Grant laid siege to the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg.

considered a hero for masterminding the Union's success. With Vicksburg and Gettysburg, the Confederacy had now seen nearly simultaneous losses in the East and in the West, signaling the beginning of the end for the Confederate cause.



Find Out the Facts

What weapons were used in sieges during the Civil War?



The Siege of Port Hudson

Farther south along the Mississippi River, in Louisiana, lay Port Hudson, which became the site of one of the longest military sieges in American history.

Located twenty-five miles (40 km) upriver from Baton Rouge, Port Hudson had long been an important transit hub for goods such as cotton and sugar, and during the Civil War it became important for shipping supplies to the Confederate armies.

At about the same time that Grant surrounded Vicksburg, Union general Nathaniel Banks began attacking the fortifications at Port Hudson. For forty-eight days in June and July of 1863, Confederate troops held out against constant Union attacks.

The Confederates lost Port Hudson just five days after their defeat at Vicksburg. With these victories, the Union finally claimed complete control of the Mississippi River, from Minnesota to Louisiana. The Confederacy was cut in two. The Civil War would continue for two more years, but the Confederacy would never recover from these losses.

Think Twice

What do the victories at ports like New Orleans and Port Hudson show about the Union strategy?



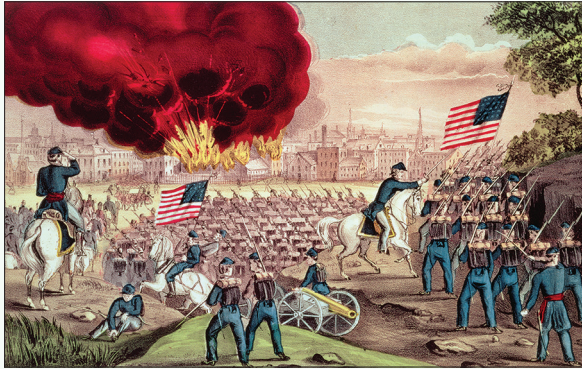
Sherman's March to the Sea

After the Union victories along the Mississippi, Grant was transferred to command Union troops in the East, and Union forces in the West were put under the command of William Tecumseh Sherman. With an army of ninety thousand, Sherman set out from Tennessee toward the important railroad city of Atlanta. Sherman didn't worry about food for his army. He would take that from the farms along the way.

In September of 1864, Atlanta fell to Union troops. From there, Sherman led his army on a "march to the sea." During the march,



Union troops attacked Port Hudson by land and by water.



Union forces captured Atlanta during Sherman's March to the Sea in 1864. It could be said that Sherman believed in a form of total war, writing in a letter, "We are not only fighting hostile armies, but a hostile people, and must make old and young, rich and poor, feel the hard hand of war."

Sherman not only fought the other side's soldiers but also destroyed farms, burned warehouses and barns, wrecked shops, and tore up rail lines. Although civilians were not directly targeted, Sherman did whatever he could to weaken the enemy.

In December, the coastal city of Savannah, Georgia, fell, and Sherman began to head north. By January, Sherman was in South Carolina. By March, he was in North Carolina. Everywhere his armies went, they left behind destruction, as well as hatred and bitterness among Confederates.

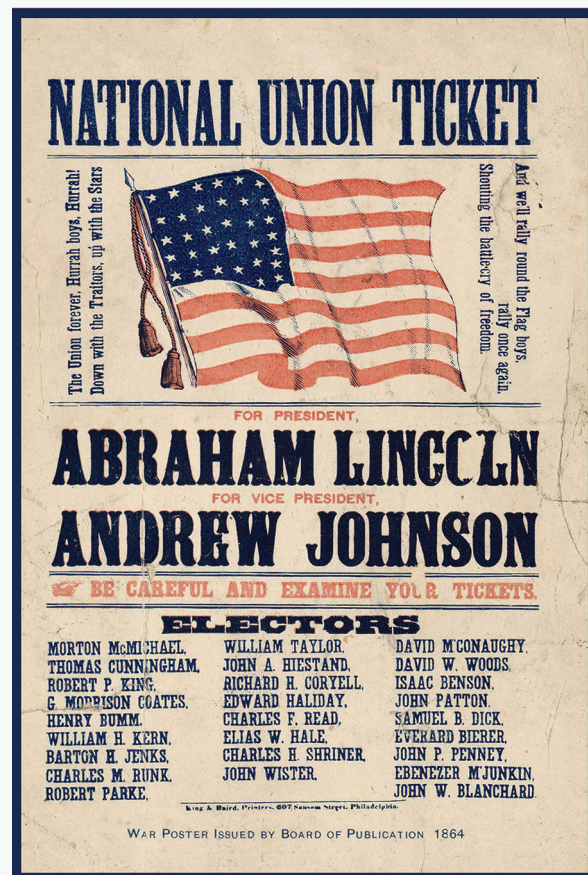
Writers' Corner



Write a firsthand account of Sherman's March to the Sea from the perspective of a civilian living in Savannah at the time.

Surrender at Appomattox Court House

Sherman's victories helped Abraham Lincoln win reelection against Democratic candidate, George B. McClellan, in November 1864. By the time Lincoln's second term began the following March, it was becoming clear that the Confederacy was doomed. Lincoln realized that it was



Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, a former Democrat from Tennessee, ran for president and vice president in the election of 1864.

time to begin focusing Americans on reuniting the nation. Many Northerners talked of revenge, but Lincoln wanted none of this. The Union was preserved; slavery was coming to an end. For Lincoln, that was enough. The job now was to return to being one nation, the United States of America. President Lincoln announced his plan to restore the Union by bringing the Southern states back into the United States quickly and without harsh punishment. In his second inaugural address, on March 4, 1865, he urged Americans to adopt a forgiving spirit as they set about this task.

A month after Lincoln's second inauguration, the Virginia cities of Petersburg and Richmond fell. Lee tried to gather his weary and hungry army once more, but Union forces followed them. There was, finally, no way out. On April 9, 1865, Lee sent an officer with a white flag of surrender to the Union Army and asked to meet with General Grant.

The surrender took place at a house in the village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Grant wrote the terms of surrender and treated the defeated enemy with great respect. The Confederates



General Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

would turn in their weapons, except for the some small arms. All were free to leave. It was a generous offer, and Lee thanked Grant for it. The two generals saluted each other. Then Lee climbed on his horse and rode away.



Find Out the Facts

What were the full terms of the Confederacy's surrender to the Union?

The Role of Louisiana

Along with the great significance of the Port of New Orleans and its other key cities along the Mississippi River, Louisiana and its people played a great role throughout the Civil War. White male Louisianans were some of the first to experience the war firsthand. They quickly volunteered for the Confederate Army, and more than fifty thousand enlisted by the end of the war. The First Louisiana Battalion was so fierce—and so notorious for its lack of discipline—that it was given the nickname “Louisiana Tigers.” The unit was known and feared by both the North and the South alike. Many of the Tigers had been recruited from the working classes of New Orleans, and they bore the Tiger name with pride. They also wore colorful



A soldier wearing the colorful outfit of the Louisiana Tigers

blue-and-white-striped pants and painted slogans on their hats such as “Tiger Bound for the Happy Land.”

Enslaved people in Louisiana were also greatly impacted by the Civil War. Before the war, the city of New Orleans was at the center of the market for buying and selling enslaved people. In the state of Louisiana alone, more than 330,000 people were enslaved. More than 135,000 individuals were sold in New Orleans and sent throughout the southern

United States. The economy of Louisiana and the lives of tens of thousands of people were permanently changed once slavery ended shortly after the war.



Find Out the Facts

Find out one more interesting fact about Louisiana during the Civil War.

After New Orleans was captured by the Union in April 1862, the city was put under the rule of a military commander, General Benjamin F. Butler. Butler's rule only lasted eight months, from May to December. But in this short time, Butler made a reputation among Confederate sympathizers as a harsh governor. He had the property of people who supported the Confederacy seized, and he had someone accused of pulling down a Union flag executed. On the other hand, his strict measures to prevent the spread of yellow fever in the city saved many lives. Only two people died of yellow fever that year, when the virus usually claimed

many more. But Butler's actions led to his removal by the Union in December 1862.

Louisiana was the home of the Confederate Army's first-African American regiment, the First Louisiana Native Guard. Formed on May 2, 1861, and consisting of *gens de couleur*, the First Louisiana Native Guard received very little support from Confederate authorities. Members had to buy their own weapons and uniforms. Then, in January 1862, the state legislature in Louisiana passed a law banning African Americans from serving in militias, and the First Louisiana Native Guard disbanded. However, that is not the end of the story. When the Union captured New Orleans, General Butler offered to create a new unit of African Americans. In late 1862, the Louisiana Native Guards reformed, this time fighting for the Union. The Louisiana Native Guards became some of the first African American troops to see combat for the Union cause when they fought at Port Hudson in summer 1863.

PRIMARY SOURCE: EXCERPT FROM A CONFEDERATE GIRL'S DIARY BY SARAH MORGAN DAWSON

In this excerpt, Sarah Morgan Dawson describes the occupation of New Orleans by Union troops.

April 26, 1862

There is no word in the English language that can express the state in which we are, and have been, these last three days. Day before yesterday, news came early in the morning of three of the enemy's boats passing the Forts, and then the excitement began. It increased rapidly on hearing of the sinking of eight of our gunboats in the engagement, the capture of the Forts, and last night, of the burning of the wharves and cotton in the city while the Yankees were taking possession. . . . Nothing can be positively ascertained, save that our gunboats are sunk, and theirs are coming up to the city. . . .

We went this morning to see the cotton burning—a sight never before witnessed, and probably never again to be seen. Wagons, drays,—everything that can be driven or rolled,—were loaded with the bales and taken a few squares back to burn on the commons. . . . All were as busy as though their salvation depended on disappointing the Yankees. . . .

Source: Morgan, Sarah. *A Confederate Girl's Diary*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1913.

PRIMARY SOURCE: EXCERPT FROM LINCOLN'S SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS (1865)

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war-seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. . . .

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Source: Abraham Lincoln. Second inaugural address. March 4, 1865.

Glossary

A

abolitionist, n. a person who worked to end slavery during the 1700s and 1800s (3)

ammunition, n. bullets or shells (9)

C

casualty, n. a person killed or wounded in fighting (18)

consecrate, v. to declare something sacred or holy (28)

D

draft, n. a system that requires individuals to serve in the military (18)

drill, v. to train or practice by repeating movements or tasks (18)

E

emancipation, n. the act of setting free, especially from legal, social, or political restrictions (16)

H

hallow, v. to honor or respect (28)

M

mint, n. a place where money is coined under governmental authority (9)

P

pragmatic, adj. realistic or accepting of limits (3)

preliminary, adj. an early version or early step toward something (25)

S

siege, n. a battle strategy in which soldiers surround a building or place so that those under attack cannot receive supplies (30)

T

tributary, n. a stream or smaller river that flows into a larger river (22)

Subject Matter Expert

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Capture of New Orleans by Union Flag Officer David G. Farragut, 24 April 1862 (oil on canvas), Davidson, Julian Oliver (1853–94) / Private Collection / Peter Newark Military Pictures / Bridgeman Images: i, iii, 22

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