

SLAVERY IN AMERICA

We think about slavery as this complete package that just came to evil landowners. It didn't happen that way. It happened one law at a time, one person at a time.

- Frances Latimer

Europeans Come to Western Africa

Concerning the trade on this Coast, we notified your Highness that nowadays the natives no longer occupy themselves with the search for gold, but rather make war on each other in order to furnish slaves. . . The Gold Coast has changed into a complete Slave Coast.

- William De La Palma
Director, Dutch West India Co.
September 5, 1705

The history of the European slave trade with Africa goes back 50 years prior to Columbus' voyage to the Americas. It began with the Portuguese, who went to West Africa in search of gold.

- In 1441, for the first time, Portuguese sailors obtained gold dust from traders on the western coast of Africa.
- In 1442, Portuguese explorers returned from Africa with more gold dust and another cargo: ten Africans.

Africans were either captured in warring raids or kidnapped and taken to the port by African slave traders. There they were exchanged for iron, guns, gunpowder, mirrors, knives, cloth, and beads brought by boat from Europe.

By the start of the 1500's, almost 200,000 Africans had been transported to Europe and islands in the Atlantic. But after the voyages of Columbus, slave traders found another market for slaves: New World plantations.

New World Exploration

For the English in the New World there are really three labor options. One is to transport people from England to the New World. Another is to employ or exploit the indigenous labor... And the third is to bring people from Africa.

- Peter Wood, historian

England's first successful settlement in the New World was Jamestown.

- The colony, founded in 1607 on Chesapeake Bay, was a business enterprise. It was funded by investors in the Virginia Company of London, who recruited the men who would settle Jamestown.
- The investors wanted what all investors dream of: a quick return of profit. Investors hoped settlers would send home profitable goods, such as minerals, wooden masts, dyes, plant medicines, glass, and tar.
- In 1607, 105 colonists landed in Jamestown, and by 1609, 500 settlers had come. However, the English did not realize how harsh and unforgiving the land could be.
- Famine struck during the winter of 1609-1610. The settlers had arrived in the middle of a severe regional drought. The settlers ate their cattle, hogs, poultry, and finally their horses. And then they starved. Some cases of cannibalism were recorded. By the spring of 1610, only 60 were left alive. Nearly nine of every ten colonists had died.
- Not willing to give up and be hit by heavy financial losses, the Virginia Company of London sent more colonists from England. In the next few years, they experimented with various types of tobacco, and by 1617, found success with a variety of seed from Trinidad. Only three years later, 55,000 pounds of tobacco reached English markets. Jamestown had found a way to survive: by growing and selling tobacco.

Indentured Servants

All these new tobacco fields required many hands and hard labor.

- At first, the supply of willing men from England matched the demand. The population of England had swelled from under three million in 1500 to more than five million by the mid-1600s. The homeless and the unemployed turned their hopes to the New World. Throughout the 17th century, between half and two-thirds of all white immigrants to the American colonies came as indentured servants.

What is an Indentured Servant?

- In exchange for passage to Virginia or other colonies, these poor English people traded 4-7 years of their labor.
- They were fed, sheltered and clothed in exchange for their work.
- After their time was up, these indentured servants received their so-called "freedom dues." This often amounted to a bushel of corn for planting, a new suit of clothes, a firearm, and 100 acres of land. Now these men (and small numbers of women too) were free to labor for a living on their own.

Native labor and African labor

The need for workers became desperate, so aspiring planters considered two other options for solving the need for plantation workers.

- One was to hire or exploit the native Americans. But they were susceptible to new diseases and often proved unreliable, as they could always choose to leave work behind and return to their people.
- There was also a second option. In **1619**, a Dutch ship that had pirated the cargo of a Spanish vessel -- captive Africans -- anchored at Jamestown in the mouth of the James River. The ship needed supplies, so the Dutch sailors traded 16 of the Africans for food. The colonists purchased the Africans, baptized them, and gave them Christian names. **These were the first slaves purchased in the colonies.**

At least some of these Africans were purchased according to the usual terms for all indentured servants. They and other Africans who were transported to America at this time would become free after their years of service.

From Indentured Servitude to Racial Slavery The Terrible Transformation

All servants imported and brought into the Country. . . who were not Christians in their native Country. . . shall be accounted and be slaves. All Negro, mulatto and Indian slaves within this dominion. . . shall be held to be real estate. If any slave resists his master. . . correcting such slave, and shall happen to be killed in such correction. . . the master shall be free of all punishment. . . as if such accident never happened.

- Virginia General Assembly declaration, 1705

We sometimes imagine that such oppressive laws were put quickly into full force by greedy landowners. But that's not the way slavery was established in colonial America. It happened gradually -- one person at a time, one law at a time, even one colony at a time.

One of the places we have the clearest views of that "terrible transformation" is the colony of Virginia. In the early years of the colony, many Africans and poor whites stood on the same ground.

- Black and white women worked side-by-side in the fields. Black and white men who broke their servant contract were equally punished.
- The English only enslaved non-Christians. The status of slave (Europeans had African slaves prior to the colonization of the Americas) was not one that was life-long. A slave could become free by converting to Christianity. The first Virginia colonists did not even think of themselves as "white" or use that word to describe themselves. They saw themselves as Christians or Englishmen, or in terms of their social class. They were nobility, gentry, artisans, or servants.

Reasons for the Terrible Transformation

- Traditionally, Englishmen believed they had a right to enslave a non-Christian or a captive taken in a just war. Africans and Indians fit one or both of these definitions. Since they weren't Christians, they didn't have to be released from slavery and given "freedom dues." Their status became determined not by (changeable) religious faith but by (unchangeable) skin color?
- The supply of indentured servants began to dry up. Disease in England and the increased availability of jobs in England resulted in a drop in the number of people willing or able to come to the colonies
- The indentured servants, especially once freed, began to pose a threat to the property-owning elite. The freed servants became competition for the colonists they had served. Rich colonists placed restrictions on available lands, creating unrest among newly freed indentured servants. In 1676, working class men burned down Jamestown, making indentured servitude look even less attractive to Virginia leaders.

- Servants moved on, forcing a need for costly replacements; slaves, especially ones you could identify by skin color, could not move on and become your competitor.

This disorder that the indentured servant system had created made racial slavery to southern slaveholders much more attractive, because what were black slaves now? Well, they were a permanent dependent labor force, who could be defined as a people set apart. They were racially set apart. They were outsiders. They were strangers and in many ways throughout the world, slavery has taken root, especially where people are considered outsiders and can be put in a permanent status of slavery.

- David Blight, historian

Racial Slavery Begins To Take Root

Virginia was being held back. Thanks to tobacco, it had the means to make money. What was needed, though, were laborers -- laborers to clear fields, to plant and harvest crops.

- Virginia found its supply of labor in England. Then after 1660 the value of tobacco dropped and the Great Plague reduced England's population.
- In addition, a terrible fire in London destroyed much of the city and created new jobs at home for construction workers of all sorts.
- No longer able to lure their own countrymen, Virginians looked toward African labor.
- Gradually the plantation owners' perspective became more aligned with that of the plantation owners of the Caribbean Islands. Because they were not Christians, blacks could be forced to work for the rest of their lives and be punished with impunity.
- The color of their skin set them apart, making it easy to identify runaways. Also, there was a seemingly inexhaustible supply of Africans, and since little information flowed back across the Atlantic, mistreatment and abuse in America did not alter the flow of enslaved persons from Africa.

Slowly the number of blacks grew in Virginia. In 1625 there were only 23. In 1650 there were about three hundred. By 1700, more than a thousand Africans were being brought into the colony every year. These numbers would increase dramatically in the years to come.

- **In 1641, Massachusetts became the first colony to legally recognize slavery.** Other states, such as Virginia, followed.
- In 1662, Virginia decided all children born in the colony to a slave mother would also be a slave. **Slavery was not only a life-long condition; now it could be passed, like skin color, from generation to generation.**

- In 1705 Virginia declared that "All servants imported and brought in this County... who were not Christians in their Native Country... shall be slaves. A Negro, mulatto and Indian slaves ... shall be held to be **real estate**."
- English suppliers responded to the increasing demand for slaves. In 1672, England officially got into the slave trade as the King of England chartered the **Royal African Company**, encouraging it to expand the British slave trade.
- In 1698, the English Parliament ruled that any British subject could trade in slaves. Over the first 50 years of the 18th century, the number of Africans brought to British colonies on British ships rose from 5,000 to 45,000 a year. England had passed Portugal and Spain as the number one trafficker of slaves in the world.

The African Slave Trade and the Middle Passage

Along the west coast of Africa, from the Cameroons in the south to Senegal in the north, Europeans built some sixty forts that served as trading posts.

- European sailors seeking riches brought rum, cloth, guns, and other goods to these posts and traded them for human beings.
- This human cargo was transported across the Atlantic Ocean and sold to New World slave owners, who bought slaves to work their crops.

African traders transported slaves from the interior of Africa to the west coast of Africa.

- Africans found themselves sold and traded more than once, often in slave markets.
- African merchants, the poor, royalty -- anyone -- could be abducted in the raids and wars that were undertaken by Africans to secure slaves that they could trade.
- The slave trade devastated African life. Culture and traditions were torn apart, as families, especially young men, were abducted. Guns were introduced and slave raids and even wars increased

After kidnapping potential slaves, merchants forced them to walk in slave caravans to the European coastal forts, sometimes as far as 1,000 miles.

- Shackled and underfed, only half the people survived these death marches.
- Those too sick or weary to keep up were often killed or left to die.
- Those who reached the coastal forts were put into underground dungeons where they would stay -- sometimes for as long as a year -- until they were boarded on ships.

The Middle Passage

Just as horrifying as these death marches was the Middle Passage, as it was called -- the transport of slaves across the Atlantic.

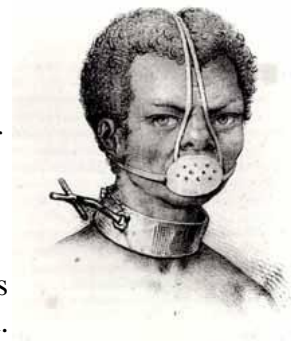
- On the first leg of their trip, slave traders delivered goods from European ports to West African ones.
- On the "middle" leg, ship captains loaded their then-empty holds with slaves and transported them to the Americas and the Caribbean. A typical Atlantic crossing took 60-90 days but some lasted up to four months.
- Upon arrival, captains sold the slaves and purchased raw materials to be brought back to Europe on the last leg of the trip. Roughly 54,000 voyages were made by Europeans to buy and sell slaves.



Interior of a Slave Ship, a woodcut illustration from the publication, A History of the Amistad Captives, reveals how hundreds of slaves could be held within a slave ship. Tightly packed and confined in an area with just barely enough room to sit up, slaves were known to die from a lack of breathable air.

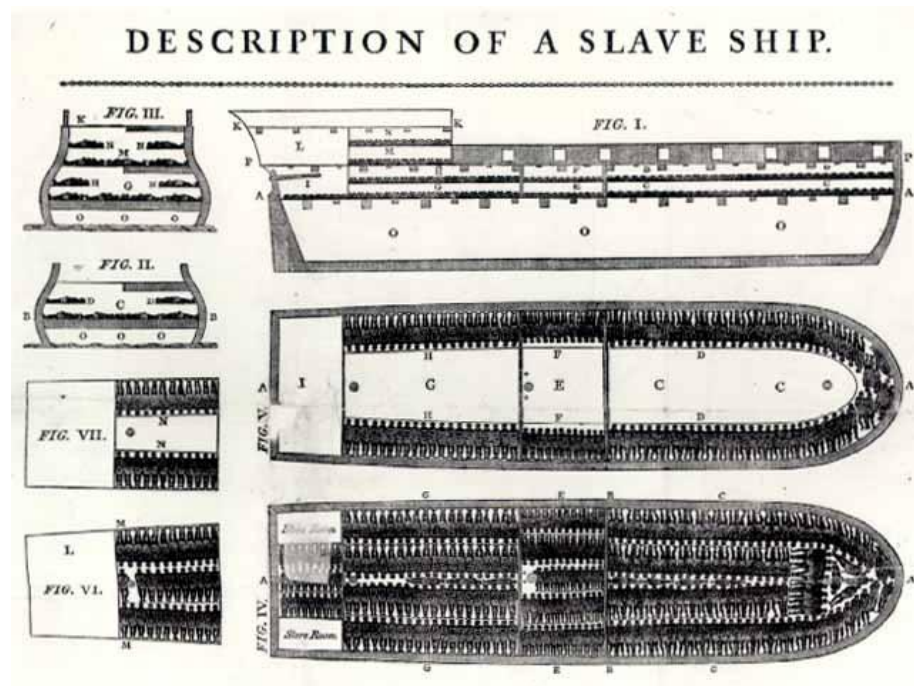
Africans were often treated like cattle during the crossing.

- On the slave ships, people were stuffed between decks in spaces too low for standing.
- The heat was often unbearable, and the air nearly unbreathable. Women were often used sexually. Men were often chained in pairs, shackled wrist to wrist or ankle to ankle.
- People were crowded together, usually forced to lie on their backs with their heads between the legs of others. This meant they often had to lie in each other's feces, urine, and, in the case of dysentery, even blood.
- In such cramped quarters, diseases such as smallpox and yellow fever spread like wildfire. The diseased were sometimes thrown



overboard to prevent wholesale epidemics. Because a small crew had to control so many, cruel measures such as iron muzzles and whippings were used to control slaves.

Over the centuries, between one and two million persons died in the crossing. This meant that the living were often chained to the dead until ship surgeons had the corpses thrown overboard.



(The plan above is a detailed picture of the Brookes (English slave ship). Copies of the plan were distributed widely, including to members of England's Parliament. The illustration shows 482 men, women, and children tightly packed into the Brooke's hold. According to records, as many as 609 slaves were transported within the same space on the same ship.)

The Growth of Slavery in North America

*Is not the slave trade entirely at war with the heart of man? And surely that which is begun by breaking down the barriers of virtue, involves in its continuance destruction to every principle, and buries all sentiments in ruin! **When you make men slaves, you... compel them to live with you in a state of war.***

- Equiano, former slave

Slavery became a highly profitable system for white plantation owners in the colonial South. In South Carolina, successful slave owners established a system of full-blown, Caribbean-style slavery. They took advantage of the fact that at the end of the 17th

century, some of the earliest African arrivals had shown English settlers how rice could be grown in the swampy coastal environment. With cheap and permanent workers available in the form of slaves, plantation owners realized this strange new crop could make them rich.

As rice boomed, land owners found the need to import more African slaves to clear the swamps where the rice was grown and to cultivate the crop.

Slavery was rapidly becoming an entrenched institution in American society, but it took brutal force to impose this sort of mass exploitation upon once-free people.

As Equiano wrote, white and black lived together "in a state of war." The more harshly whites enforced racial enslavement, the more they came to fear black uprisings. As they became more fearful, they responded by further tightening the screws of oppression.



"If you're a white authority, you're constantly trying to figure how tightly you want to impose the lid with respect to people running away. How fierce should the punishments be? Should it be a whipping? Should it be the loss of a finger or a hand or a foot? Should it be wearing shackles permanently?"

- Peter Wood, historian

Carolina authorities developed laws to keep the African American population under control. Whipping, branding, dismembering, castrating, or killing a slave were legal under many circumstances. Freedom of movement, to assemble at a funeral, to earn money, even to learn to read and write, became outlawed.

Stono Rebellion

White slave-owners had a reason to fear their slaves.

- On September 9, 1739, an African man named Jemmy, thought to be of Angolan origin, led a march from Stono near Charleston toward Florida and what he believed would be freedom on Spanish soil.
- Other slaves joined Jemmy and their numbers grew to nearly 100. Jemmy and his companions killed dozens of whites on their way, in what became known as the **Stono Rebellion**.

- White colonists caught up with the rebels and executed those whom they managed to capture. The severed heads of the rebels were left on mile posts on the side of the road as a warning to others.

Stono is important because it changed the face of slavery in Carolina.

- **Stono was the beginning of the development of large-scale slavery in South Carolina and the belief that the black population had to be completely controlled.**
- The legislation that came out of Stono, the Negro Act, took away whatever liberties the Africans had. And even those liberties that they didn't have, which the planters allowed them anyway, even though it was breaking the law, all of those things were rescinded

But the conflict between those who supported racial enslavement and those who believed in freedom was only just beginning. In the tumultuous generation of the American Revolution, protests against "enslavement" by Britain and demands for American "liberty" would become common in the rebellious colonies, and many African Americans, both slave and free, had high hopes that the rhetoric of Independence would apply to them. These hopes, however, would eventually be dashed, and it would take a bloody civil war three generations later to finally bring an end to the enslavement of black Americans.

The Revolutionary Era

"Like Adam, we are all apt to shift off the blame from ourselves and lay it upon others, how justly in our case you may judge. The Negroes are enslaved by the Negroes themselves before they are purchased by the masters of the ships who bring them here. It is, to be sure, at our choice whether we buy them or not, so this then is our crime, folly, or whatever you will please to call it."

- Reverend Peter Fontaine, Defense of Slavery in Virginia

Georgia, the last free colony, legalized slavery in 1750. That meant slavery was now legal in each of the thirteen British colonies that would soon become the United States. Nearly 1 in 5 Americans, or 300,000 people, were enslaved.

The majority of white colonists resided in the North, but the majority of black people lived in the South, driving agricultural economies based on tobacco in Virginia and Maryland and on rice along the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia.

- While many southerners found slavery morally repugnant, there was a clear business rationale: in the long run, it was cheaper to acquire Africans than to hire laborers.
- The North also profited immensely from the international trade in Africans. Its booming industries -- shipbuilding, sail making, iron foundries, sawmills, and rum distilleries -- were an integral part of the trading.

- Most northern whites ran family farms and did not own slaves, but those who did typically possessed 3 to 4 Africans.
- Sixty-one percent of all American slaves -- nearly 145,000 -- lived in Virginia and Maryland, working the tobacco fields in small to medium-sized gangs. Planters who owned hundreds of slaves often divided them among several plantations. In the North and the Upper South, masters and slaves lived close to each other.

Declarations of Independence, 1770-1783

By the 1760s, the American colonists began to wage a war of words and resistance against the British colonial government. A few white colonists publicly noted the hypocrisy between the patriots' demands for liberty and the widespread acceptance of slavery. James Otis called the slave trade "the most shocking violation of the law of nature."

- In April 1776, representatives of the thirteen rebellious colonies meeting in the Continental Congress voted to halt the slave trade. They didn't do it to stop slavery. They did it to stop British trade, which included the trade of slaves.
- Three months later, in July, the Continental Congress grappled with slavery again. In his first version of the Declaration of Independence Thomas Jefferson wrote a scathing indictment of King George for promoting slavery in the New World.

[King George] has waged cruel war on human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither.

- removed from the final version of the Declaration of Independence

- The other delegates eventually removed this language, but the final version still accused the king of stirring up domestic insurrections. The Declaration of Independence immediately became the world's foremost manifesto celebrating human rights and personal freedom, yet when he wrote it, Thomas Jefferson owned over 200 slaves.

The Constitution and the New Nation

After the American Revolution, the movement to abolish slavery gained momentum in the North. In the South, though, where the black majority lived, slave owners re-asserted their rights. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, southerners forced several compromises that laid the foundation for a new nation: a nation which espoused liberty, but practiced bondage.

- For Southern delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention, one of the most important liberties was the right to own slaves, who in some counties of Virginia accounted for more than half the population.

Fugitive Slave Clause

- Although the word "slavery" does not appear in the Constitution, Georgia and South Carolina delegates insisted that a proportion of their slave population be factored in to determine representation in Congress. The Fugitive Slave Clause affirmed the rights of slaveholders to reclaim runaways.

No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

- Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution

- Southerners won a constitutional guarantee that the slave trade, which had resumed after the war, could continue unabated for the next 20 years.

3/5 Provision of the Constitution

The framers of the Constitution tried to establish a *representative* government.

- Southern states were worried that since a large part of their population was black slaves and not counted as human beings, they would not have the same representation as the northern states.
- To “solve” this problem, a compromise was reached. For the purposes of taxes and representation in the new federal government, slaves would be counted as three-fifths of a person.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. (See Note 2) The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

THE PATH TO CIVIL WAR

"It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it."

- General Robert E. Lee

Northwest Ordinance of 1787

In 1787 the new federal government began to take action against slavery.

- Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance. The ordinance outlined what would happen to the Northwest Territory and the states that would eventually come out of the territory.
- The ordinance outlawed slavery in the new territory. This was the first act of the federal government against slavery.
- The southern states did not like the ordinance. It was obvious to the South that the federal government was working to end slavery. If the new states were free states, then the South would eventually be outvoted in Congress and slavery might vanish.

Fugitive Slave Law of 1793

- Although Article IV, Section 2 of the United States Constitution guaranteed the right to repossess any "person held to service or labor" (a euphemism for slaves), it did not set up a mechanism for executing the law. Under pressure from southern states, the Fugitive Slave Law was passed.
- On February 12, 1793, the Second Congress passed "An act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters," that authorized the arrest or seizure of fugitives and empowered "any magistrate of a county, city or town" to rule on the matter. The act further established a fine of \$500 against any person who aided a fugitive.
- The law was no doubt a response to the proliferation of anti-slavery societies, the Northwest Ordinance, and to the emergence of the Underground Railroad. Like the Constitution itself, this act does not include a single mention of the words "slave" or "slavery."

Growth and Entrenchment of Slavery

This Gin, if turned with horses or by water, two persons will clean as much cotton in one Day as a Hundred persons could clean in the same time

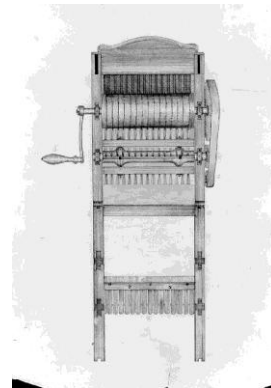
- Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin

Although there was some hope immediately after the Revolution that the ideals of independence and equality would extend to the black American population, this hope died with the invention of the cotton gin in 1793.

- With the gin (short for engine), raw cotton could be quickly cleaned; Suddenly cotton became a profitable crop, transforming the southern economy and changing the dynamics of slavery. The first federal census of 1790 counted 697,897 slaves; by 1810, there were 1.2 million slaves, a 70 percent increase.

Eli Whitney's cotton gin 1794

- In October of 1793, Eli Whitney sent a drawing of his new invention, the cotton gin, to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson in application for a patent.
- For more than a year, Whitney struggled to construct a full-size working machine, based on his original smaller model that had taken him only ten days to create. As Whitney described the device in a letter to Jefferson on November 24, 1793: "The cylinder is only two feet two inches in length and six inches in diameter. It is turned by hand and requires the strength of one man to keep it in constant motion."
- Finally, in February 1794, Whitney completed the model to his satisfaction. In March he took it to Philadelphia to demonstrate it in the office of the Secretary of State, in order to receive his patent. The patent that Jefferson had approved the previous November was issued to Whitney on March 14, 1794.



Progress has different meanings for different people. And for people of African descent, the cotton gin was not progress. It was a further entrenchment of enslavement. And for African Americans, the Industrial Revolution, those technological advances in the textile industry, did not mean progress. It meant slavery.

- Margaret Washington, historian

- Slavery spread from the seaboard to some of the new western territories and states as new cotton fields were planted, and by 1830 it thrived in more than half the continent.
- Within 10 years after the cotton gin was put into use, the value of the total United States crop leaped from \$150,000 to more than \$8 million. This success of this plantation crop made it much more difficult for slaves to purchase their freedom or obtain it through the good will of their masters. **Cotton became the foundation for the developing textile industry in New England, spurring the industrial revolution which transformed America in the 19th century.**
- As cotton cultivation spread, slaveholders in the tobacco belt, whose crop was no longer profitable, made huge profits by selling their slaves. This domestic slave trade devastated black families. American-born slaves were torn from the plantations they had known all their lives, placed in shackles and force-marched hundreds of miles away from their loved ones.
- The cotton boom and the resulting demand for slaves brought increased danger for northern free blacks: the possibility of being kidnapped and sold into slavery in the South. The practice of kidnapping was frighteningly widespread.
- The 1793 Fugitive Slave Act enabled any white person to claim a black person as a fugitive, unless another white person testified otherwise. Blacks were not allowed to testify against whites in court according to southern law.
- Children were highly vulnerable to kidnapping rings. Often indentured and living away from their parents, they could disappear without anyone noticing, since their employers assumed they had gone to their families. And since children changed so much as they grew, there was little likelihood of their being recognized and rescued after years of slavery.

"Perhaps the greatest horror of slavery was that you were denied your own children. You were denied indeed your own birthright. You were born into the world, but the self that you were, descended from your family, ...was taken away from you. You were suspended in time. You were in limbo. You could not even have your self under slavery. Your selfhood was denied."

- Catherine Clinton, historian

- The majority of slaves lived on cotton plantations, where they often worked under the supervision of black drivers and white overseers from dawn to dusk, and sometimes longer. Some slaves on rice plantations worked under a task system where if they finished a certain amount of work at the end of the day, they were free to tend their own gardens. Slaves did skilled and unskilled work: the heavy physical labor of clearing the land and tending the crops as well as building houses and ironsmithing. Household slaves cooked, cleaned, and nursed the master's children.

- Unsanitary living conditions and inadequate nutrition led to illness, which was compounded by hard labor. In the swampy, coastal rice regions of South Carolina and Georgia, the prevalence of malaria led to high rates of child mortality. Slave women had to endure sexual exploitation, often bearing the children of their masters and overseers. Slaves were disciplined by whipping, imprisonment, torture, and mutilation -- sometimes leading to death -- and being sold off. Under the southern Slave Codes, they were considered property and could not testify against a white person in court. Families could at any time be separated; children could be sold away.
- Despite the terrible difficulties of living under slavery, and perhaps because of them, slaves formed strong communities within the plantation's boundaries. Isolated from the larger world, these communities of families supported each other, maintaining many African cultural practices, including music, dance and rituals. Many practiced Christianity with strong African influences. Nonetheless, they knew that at any time their family and community could be disrupted.

“Title Page to a Great Tragic Volume”

Missouri Compromise

1820

More cotton meant more slaves. **Abolitionists (people who advocated abolishing slavery altogether)** became more vocal and active in their opposition to slavery. They used the Northwest Ordinance to establish that *all new* territories must be free states.

However, the South was very clever. It used the Constitution against those who opposed slavery.

- The Fugitive Slave Clause and the Three-fifths Compromise in the Constitution acknowledged the legitimacy of slavery.
- The Fifth Amendment in the Bill of Rights guaranteed the security of property, which, after all, is what slaves were.

Persons shall not “be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.”

- The Tenth Amendment gave the individual states all powers and authority not specifically reserved to the federal government.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The regulation of slavery was nowhere to be found in the Constitution, so it must be the right of the individual states to regulate and control slavery. According to the South, the federal government had no business telling the southern states to abolish

slavery. If a state wanted to get rid of slavery, it was their business. If a state wanted to keep slavery, that was also their business.

Since the end of the Revolutionary war, the number of slave states and free states remained the same.

- In 1818 there were 22 Senators from the North and 22 Senators from the South. The territory of Missouri wanted to enter the Union as a slave state, and the North began to worry that the southern states might gain power in Congress.
- Northern Senators argued that Congress had the right to ban slavery in all new states. Southern Senators argued that states had the right to decide for themselves like the original 13 colonies had done.
- In 1820, a compromise was reached. Missouri would enter the Union as a slave state, but the new state of Maine would be a free state. Also, an imaginary line would be drawn at latitude 36 degrees, 30 minutes north. Slavery would be permanently banned north of this line.

The Missouri Compromise kept the United States from entering an early civil war, but many saw the compromise as the beginning of the end. Thomas Jefferson saw the compromise as a “fire bell in the night.” John Quincy Adams called it the “title page to a great tragic volume.”

The “Tariff of Abominations” 1828

The South had a great relationship with the factories of England. Southern states would produce raw cotton, ship it to England to be made into products, and England would ship the products back to the United States for sale. This worked very well for the southern states.

- The North did not like the competition from England. Northern states with all of their factories wanted to keep products from England out so they could sell their products to customers in the U.S.
- In answer to the concerns of northern factories, the government enacted a *protective tariff* on products coming into the country. (A **tariff is a tax imposed on imported goods with the purpose making goods made in the country cheaper and more attractive to customers.**)
- The South hated the tax. If England could not sell as much of their product in the U.S., then they would not need as much raw cotton from the South, and the cotton plantations would suffer. The South called the tax a “Tariff of Abominations.”

The South responded to the new tax by saying that any state could **nullify** (refuse to recognize and obey) any law that it considered unconstitutional. It was even argued in

Congress that a state could **secede** (**withdraw membership in an organization, association or alliance**) from the Union as a last resort if the Union forced that state to follow that law.

- Southerners were really fighting for slavery when they talked about nullifying a law passed by the government. **They believed that someday slavery would be abolished by Congress if the North could get enough votes. The South wanted to push the idea of state's rights and wanted the ability to override the federal government. This was proof that the South was worried about the end of slavery and an end to their way of life.**

The Underground Railroad

Beginning in the 1830's a network of white abolitionists and free blacks created the Underground Railroad. The organization was not underground or a railroad, but a system of safe houses along a route to the North. "Conductors" transferred slaves that had escaped along this route until they were safely in the North.

- During the 1830's, '40s, and '50s, 50,000 to 100,000 slaves found their way to free states in the North.
- Conductors were beaten and even killed for helping slaves Runaway slaves, if they were found, were severely punished as an example to others.
- Southern states became incredibly angry at the North and the Underground Railroad when the Supreme Court ruled in 1842 that states were not required to return slaves to the southern states as the Fugitive Slave Law of 1793 said they must.

Kansas-Nebraska Act 1854

In 1854, the territories of Kansas and Nebraska applied for statehood. Congress responded by getting rid of the Missouri Compromise and passing the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The act used the idea of **popular sovereignty**. When a state applied for admission into the Union, the people of that territory would vote whether they wanted slavery or not in the new state. The old line from the Missouri Compromise was gone.

- It was certain that Nebraska would vote itself a free state.
- Kansas was another matter. Pro-slavery citizens from Missouri and anti-slavery citizens from Iowa poured into Kansas trying to influence the state in its decision. A small scale civil war erupted between pro- and anti-slavery groups. The region became known as "Bleeding Kansas."

- The conflict in Kansas became a sign of things to come.

The Little Woman Who Made This Great War

Uncle Tom's Cabin

1852

In 1852, a woman named Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

- The story is about a slave named Tom who is devoted to his kind master. He is sold because his master is in dept. His new master is the cruel Simon Legree who turns Tom's life upside-down.
- The book described the horrors of slave life, and showed the injustice that slaves endured. **The book convinced many Northerners to side with the abolitionists. The North became louder in its demand to end slavery.**
- When President Lincoln met Stowe at the White House in 1862, he greeted her by saying, "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war."



Dred Scott

1857

In 1857, the Supreme Court heard a case concerning a fugitive slave named Dred Scott.

- Scott sued for his freedom once his master had died because he had been taken to Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory where slavery was illegal. He believed he should be a free man
- The judges on the Supreme Court were divided, and Justice Taney had the deciding vote. He said that Scott could not sue because he was black and therefore not a citizen of the United States.
- The judge also said that slaves must be returned to their owner because the 5th Amendment to the Constitution keeps the government from depriving an individual of "life, liberty, or *property*." Slaves were property and another state could not take them away from an owner.

The Dred Scott decision really upset abolitionists in the North. Could the Bill of Rights for all Americans be used to *deny* freedom to a human being? ***The Supreme Court of the United States had just ordered the government to honor the ownership of human beings everywhere in the country!***

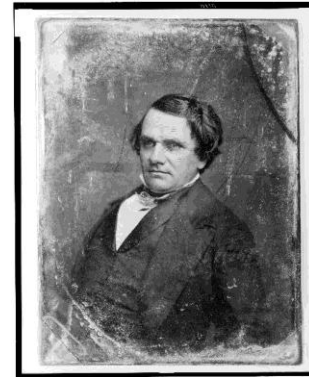
The North began to believe that slavery was now beyond compromise. If the rights of slave owners had to be respected as long as slavery existed, then slavery must be accepted or be abolished altogether!

There was no middle ground. The North and the South knew that war was all but a certainty.

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1858

In 1858, Abraham Lincoln ran for the Senate of the United States.

- Lincoln debated his opponent Stephen Douglas in a series of famous debates. The debates focused on the issue of slavery.
- Lincoln was a talented speaker, and he made it clear that he believed slavery was a “moral, social, and political evil,” but that the federal government had no right to interfere in the rights of states in which slavery already existed.
- Even though Lincoln lost the election to the Senate, he became very popular in the new Republican Party, and was given the nomination for president in 1860.



A Nation Divided

By 1860, the South and the North were two different societies and wanted different things from their government.

The North

- The North had become very industrial. Immigrants were arriving daily to work in the factories.
- There were large areas of the West that the North wanted to open up.
- Anti-slavery sentiments were strong in the North. Racism and bigotry *were* present in the North, but the movement to abolish slavery had begun and there was the belief that the federal government should do something about it.
- Businesses in the North wanted protection from cheap products coming into the United States from other countries. They wanted protective tariffs.
- Transportation systems were developing at a rapid rate to supply all of the growing businesses and new routes to the West.

The North was a booming society that wanted and needed a lot of protection and money from the federal government.

The South

By 1860, slave property was worth over 2 BILLION dollars. Abolitionists who screamed for the end of slavery did not offer a way to do it without destroying the Southern economy. Southerners rallied behind slavery to protect their way of life.

- The South was a society that had not developed much since the time of Thomas Jefferson (early 1800s).
- There was very little immigration and fewer factories than the North.
- *Slavery was intimately tied to the Southern economy* and Southerners believed that the federal government should keep its nose out of their business.
- The South did not want protective tariffs since they sold their cotton on the world market and wanted their customers to sell as much of their product as they could.

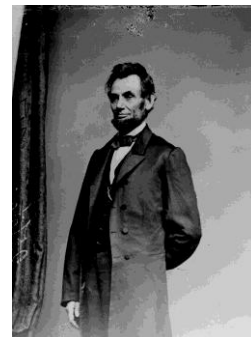
The South wanted the federal government to stay out of its business as much as possible, and Southerners feared that if the North ever won control in Washington, it would pass laws that would ruin their way of life (their economy). They believed they had the right to do what they pleased as long as it wasn't covered in the Constitution (states' rights).

What caused the Civil War?

- **Most people believe it was the issue of slavery. True. If there had been no slavery, there would have been no other reason to fight. All of the other issues could have been solved without going to war (the economy of the South and the rights of individual states), but slavery brought both sides to a point where they believed compromise was no longer an option. Economics and states' rights were important issues for many Southerners, but slavery always loomed behind or towered above all other motives for war.**

The Election of Abraham Lincoln 1860

- Lincoln ran for President of the United States in 1860. He was popular in the Republican Party and was given the nomination for president.
- The Democrats were split between two candidates (Stephen Douglas and John Breckinridge), and Lincoln



took 40 percent of the popular vote to win the election. He became the 16th president of the United States.

This was the final straw for the Southern states. Now that Lincoln was president, the South believed that the North, which was richer, more industrial, and had a larger population, would try to change the South forever. It was time to do what many of them had talked about for years – start a new country!

Secession

South Carolina was the first state to secede on December 20th, 1860.

“We, the people of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain that the union subsisting between South Carolina and other States under the name ‘The United States of America’ is hereby dissolved.”

- South Carolina – Ordinance of Secession, 1860

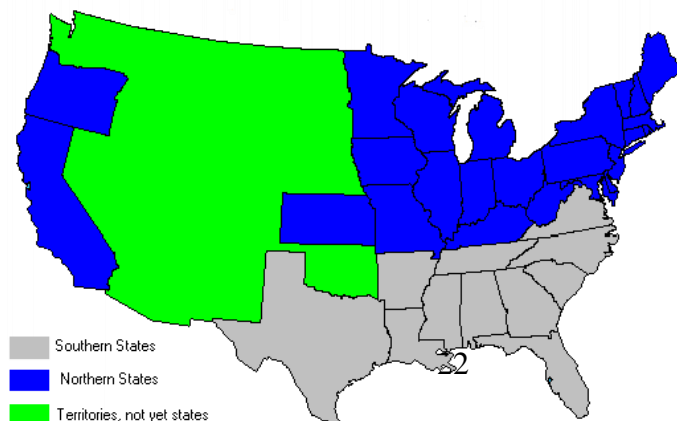
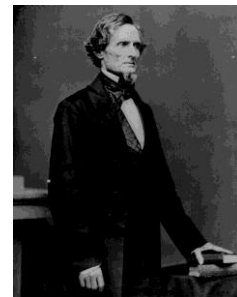
Other states followed in 1861:

- Mississippi – January 9th
- Florida – January 10th
- Alabama – January 11th
- Georgia – January 19th
- Louisiana – January 26th
- Texas – February 1st

After the fall of Fort Sumter on April 14th of 1861, four more states left the Union:

- Virginia – April 17th
- Arkansas – May 6th
- North Carolina – May 20th
- Tennessee – June 8th

These states joined together and formed a new nation which they named the **Confederate States of America (CSA)**. They elected **Jefferson Davis**, a Democratic senator and champion of states rights from Mississippi, as the first president.



Constitution of the Confederate States of America

March 11, 1861

We, the people of the Confederate States, each State acting in its sovereign and independent character, in order to form a permanent federal government, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity~invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God~do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Confederate States of America.

A Mixed Reaction

People in the North and South had mixed feelings about these 11 states seceding.

North

- Some people in the North thought that the Union should let the states go. They were more trouble than they were worth, and they would eventually come crawling back when they realized they could not make it without the North.
- Most, however, wanted the government to do something to bring the Union back together. They feared that the entire country would dissolve if the Southern states were allowed to secede.

South

- Most Southerners were happy about secession because they were tired of always fighting with the government to stay out of their culture, lifestyle, and economy.
- There were some Southerners that did not want to secede. They thought the move was drastic, and that the problems they were facing could be solved without breaking up the United States.

THE WAR BEGINS

Fort Sumter

Charleston Harbor, South Carolina

April 12-13, 1861

The First Shots Fired in the Civil War

Commanders:

Robert Anderson (Union)

P.G.T. Beauregard (Confederacy)

The fact that a Union fort was still flying the flag of the United States on its territory drove South Carolina crazy. President Jefferson Davis commanded General Beauregard to take the fort and all of its arms.

- Beauregard sent Anderson a message to surrender the fort or Confederate forces would begin an artillery assault. Anderson responded, *“Gentlemen, I will await the first shot and if you do not batter the fort to pieces about us, we shall be starved out in a few days.”*
- Anderson was told that the terms were unacceptable. On April 12th, at 4:30 in the morning, the shelling began from 43 guns surrounding the fort. After a day of bombardment, Anderson lowered the American flag and replaced it with a white flag of surrender. No one in the fort died or was seriously injured.
- With Beauregard’s permission, Anderson ordered a cannon salute to the flag. A spark from the salute ignited a barrel of gun powder and exploded, killing Private Daniel Hough, the first soldier to die in the Civil War.



President Lincoln Responds

On April 15th, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a state of insurrection and called for 75,000 volunteers to end the rebellion. **The Civil War officially began.**

The Border States

Not all of the slave states joined the Confederacy. The proportion of slaves and slave owners in the four border states was half of that in the 11 states that had joined the Confederacy. There was not as much pressure to join the Confederacy because these states did not have a strong position for or against slavery.

Border States

- Delaware
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Missouri
- West Virginia – Declared itself loyal to the Union and seceded from Virginia when it left the Union. On June 20th, 1863, West Virginia was admitted to the Union as a state.

Making Armies

Neither side was ready for armed conflict in 1861.

Union

- The North had an army of 16,000 men. This was just barely enough to handle the security needs of a nation that was *not* at war.
- Lincoln ordered the recruitment of 75,000 additional men for a 3 month term of enlistment. Everyone thought the war would be over by that time. Many recruits volunteered and were eager to fight.
- The industrial base (factories) and the large population of free people gave the North a big advantage.

Confederacy

- The South did not have an army at all. They were starting from scratch.
- Jefferson Davis ordered the recruitment of 100,000 men for a one year enlistment.
- The lack of industry in the South and a much smaller population of free people put Southerners at a large disadvantage.

Civil War Soldiers

Civil war soldiers were not professional soldiers.

- Most were white farmers, unmarried, 18-29 years of age.



- Often poorly trained, poorly fed, sometimes equipped with obsolescent weapons, the Civil War soldier would endure disease, discomfort, disorder and even death. Yet he was capable of carrying out combat on an unprecedented scale.

The Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)

July 12, 1861

The First Major Battle of the Civil War

Commanders:

Irvin McDowell (Union)

P.G.T. Beauregard (Confederacy)

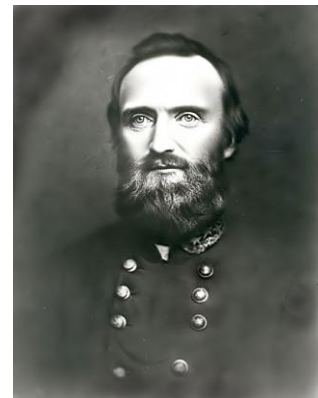
The battle of Bull Run was the first major battle of the Civil War.

- The Confederacy wanted to show the Union that it was serious about secession and moved its capital to Richmond, Virginia.
- The newspapers and public in the North were angry by the move. They wanted the government to “move on Richmond” and end the war quickly.
- Most of the 75,000 soldiers Lincoln enlisted were about to end their service and return home. The Union had to move fast.



Union General Irvin McDowell had a plan to invade Virginia, defeat General Beauregard, and capture Richmond. It didn't work out quite that well.

- He left Washington to head for Manassas Junction on July 16th, 1861, but it took him longer than he thought because of the amount of equipment to move and the fact that his undisciplined “soldiers” kept leaving to take a nap or pick berries.
- McDowell's plan was to fake an attack at the center of Beauregard's forces which were massed behind a river called Bull Run. He sent most of his forces down the river to cross at Sudley Ford to attack the left flank of the Confederate forces.
- Union and Confederate forces met on July 21st, and it appeared that the Union forces would win the day. Several Confederate units were defeated at a small plateau called Henry House Hill.
- However, just as it seemed the Union was about to win, Confederate troops, saved by supporting forces, fought



aggressively and caused the Union line to crumble. Confederate General Thomas Jackson refused to budge. His troops rallied behind him, and charged the Union troops yelling “like furies.” (The ‘rebel yell’ was born.) After the battle, he was given the nickname “Stonewall” because of his ability to stand his ground in the face of fierce fighting.

- Union retreat was called, and the inexperienced Union soldiers who had tasted defeat ran back across the river and didn’t stop until they reached Washington.
- Spectators, who had left Washington for the day to have a picnic and watch the battle several miles away, panicked as well and clogged the road into Washington with wagons and wounded Union soldiers.

The first battle of Bull Run was a sign of things to come. Union casualties were 2,896. Confederate losses were 1,982. Confederate forces would defeat the Union army many times through skill, bravery, and excellent leadership. It also proved to Lincoln that the short, clean war he had hoped for was not going to happen.

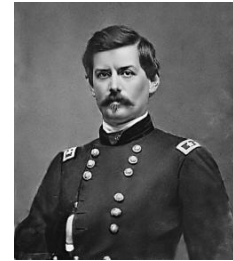
MILITARY LEADERS OF THE CIVIL WAR

General George McClellan (Union)

The Young Napoleon

With the defeat at Bull Run, Lincoln began looking for another general to lead the Union Army. He found General George McClellan

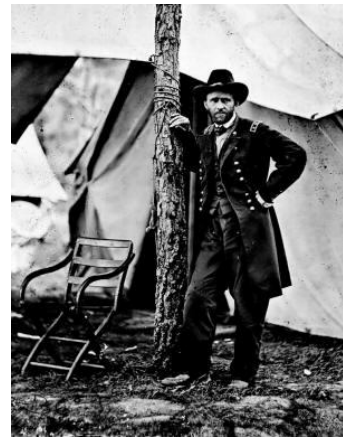
- McClellan was a brilliant administrator, and was loved by the press and his men. He was a short man, and the press named him the “young Napoleon.”
- After the defeat at Bull Run, McClellan reorganized and retrained the Army of the Potomac (the army around Washington D.C.). Lincoln was impressed and assigned him to do the same for the entire Union army. He made farm boys, factory workers, and clerks feel like soldiers. That was no small accomplishment.
- Lincoln had faith that McClellan could do the job. But McClellan was a cautious leader, and Lincoln became frustrated with him. He was a great organizer, but he lacked Napoleon’s aggressive style of leadership. He was arrogant and openly criticized Lincoln
- McClellan believed that his men needed to outnumber the enemy 10 to 1, and that they needed to be carefully trained before he would commit them to battle. Lincoln became so disgusted with McClellan’s unwillingness to commit his troops to battle, that he wrote a note to the general (although he never sent it) which said, “If General McClellan is not going to use the army, I should like to borrow it for awhile.”



General Ulysses S. Grant (Union)

Grant came out of the Civil War a national hero, and eventually became President of the United States. Astonishing considering General Grant had failed at just about everything else he tried before the war.

- He was born Hiram Ulysses Grant, but a mistake in his registration at West Point named him Ulysses Simpson Grant. He liked the name and decided to keep it. (He liked being called U.S. Grant.)
- After distinguished service in the Mexican American War, Grant was assigned to a desk job in California. He became unhappy with the military and resigned his commission.
- He decided to become a farmer and failed at that. He then decided to invest in real estate and failed at that. He ended up in his father's leather factory as a clerk.
- When the first shots of the Civil War were fired, Grant quickly volunteered in the Union army. After many successful campaigns, Lincoln made him general-in-chief of the armies of the Union. His strategy to end the war resulted in the surrender of the Confederate Army in 1865.



General Robert E. Lee (Confederate)

Lee was a dedicated Southerner and turned down a position in the Union army to serve the Confederate army and his home of Virginia.

- Lee was a successful soldier in the U.S. Army before the war. He attended West Point and graduated second in his class. He faithfully served the Union, but he could not “raise his sword” against his home state of Virginia, and left to join the Confederate army.
- Jefferson Davis made him leader of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee's army was involved in most of the major campaigns of the war.
- He became (and still is to many) a hero of the South, even though he suffered many losses and near escapes on the battlefield.

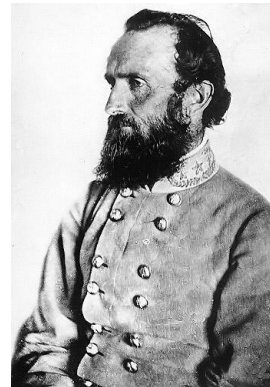


- He was a very capable military leader, but many of his successes were due to luck and an inability of the Union to inspire leadership in military commanders.
- His ability to inspire and his dedication to the war is a great example as to why the South was so difficult to defeat.

General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson (Confederate)

General Jackson was one of the finest officers in the Confederate army.

- Jackson attended West Point and graduated at the top of his class.
- He was a very strict commander, and his officers and soldiers respected him.
- He had strong religious convictions and few bad habits. He did not smoke or drink.
- His bravery on the battlefield and his ability to lead his men in the face of defeat at the Battle of Bull Run resulted in the nickname “Stonewall.” He carried the name until his death at the Battle of Chancellorsville.



THE WAR CONTINUES

The Battle of Shiloh
Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee
April 6-7, 1862
A major victory for the Union

Commanders:

Ulysses S. Grant (Union)
 Albert Sidney Johnston (Confederacy)

The Battle of Shiloh was the bloodiest battle of the war up to this point. It was named after a Methodist Church near the site of some of the worst fighting.

- General Grant was stationed with 42,000 men on the Tennessee River near the Mississippi border. He was waiting for the arrival of Don Carlos Buell’s army. The Union forces were to attack Confederate forces at a railroad center protected by General Albert Johnston.
- Johnston decided to attack first to try and catch Grant off guard. He did. (Grant was away from the front receiving treatment for an injured leg.) After three hours of heavy fighting, Johnston defeated William T. Sherman near Shiloh Church.

Johnston could have destroyed the Union forces, but his men stopped to loot the Union camp for food and supplies.

- The battle became very unorganized, and soldiers scrambled to find their leaders. Confederate soldiers dressed in blue and gray fired on their own men, and hundreds of men ran from the battlefield in terror.
- When General Grant finally arrived, he ordered his men to hold their positions at all costs. The Union did hold against many Confederate charges. Johnston was shot in the foot, hitting an artery, and bled to death early in the morning.
- General Beauregard took command and decided to delay a counter attack until morning. That gave Grant time to be reinforced by Buell's army during the night. The Confederates made their attack in the morning, but had to retreat in the face of Grant's soldiers. Grant won the battle, but was criticized for being caught by surprise.
- Union losses were 13,000, and Confederate losses were 10,694. The greatest loss of life in a single battle of the war so far.

The Battle of Antietam
Sharpsburg, Maryland
September 17, 1862
The Bloodiest Day of the Civil War
(27,000 casualties)

Commanders:

General George McClellan (Union)
Robert E. Lee (Confederacy)

The Battle of Antietam (An-tee-tam) cost the Union and the Confederacy thousands of lives. It was a victory for the Union, and gave President Lincoln the confidence he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

- General Robert E. Lee had a plan to invade the North.
 - He wanted to take pressure off of Virginia (which was being invaded by Union troops). He hoped the Union forces would leave Virginia and chase him in the North.
 - He wanted to defeat the Union forces on their own territory (in the North) which he hoped would force Lincoln to bargain with the South for peace.

Lee wanted to capture the Union railroad at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. While he was taking the railroad, Stonewall Jackson would take the Union armory at Harpers Ferry. General Longstreet would join up with them near Harrisburg.

- The plan might have worked, especially since Union General George McClellan, who was famous for holding back and failing to attack, did not want to face Lee because he thought he was outnumbered.
- However, the strangest thing happened. Union soldiers who were exploring an abandoned Confederate camp, found Lee's plans wrapped around a bunch of

cigars. McClellan thought it was a trap and did not act on the information for awhile.

- Lee found out that McClellan had his plan, and scrambled to get his men prepared for an attack. A few battles resulted along the route Lee had planned to take his men. He decided to retreat back into Virginia when he found out that General Jackson had taken the armory at Harpers Ferry and had a lot of supplies for the Confederate troops.
- Lee changed his mind and told all of his forces to meet at Sharpsburg. McClellan, again overly cautious, allowed Lee to organize his forces. On September 17, Union forces of 75,000 finally attacked Lee's Confederate forces of 40,000.
- Lee's forces were nearly destroyed until they received help from fresh Confederate troops. Nearly 2,200 Union soldiers died in 20 minutes when the Confederates launched a counter attack.
- The battle went back and forth all day with some of the deadliest fighting of the war, and Lee finally retreated back into Virginia on September 18th after losing a quarter of his army. McClellan could have totally destroyed Lee's army if he would have pushed, but he decided to let his men rest instead. Another big mistake!
- In total, 27,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died at Antietam.



General McClellan Becomes a Civilian

After the battle of Antietam, President Lincoln met with General McClellan and urged him to press on and pursue General Lee.

- McClellan did not want to because he thought he was outnumbered and wanted to better prepare for another conflict.
- Lincoln gave McClellan a direct order to pursue, but McClellan still believed he needed more troops and supplies and did nothing.
- After another month, Lincoln, finally tired of a general that would not be aggressive, fired him and replaced him with General Ambrose Burnside, who didn't even want the job.



The Great Emancipator

Abraham Lincoln and the **Emancipation Proclamation**

When the Civil war began, there was not universal support in the North for a war to free slaves. In many areas of the North, there was open hostility to blacks and there were laws that limited their rights.

- Lincoln was not an abolitionist. He believed that slavery was a moral wrong, and a disaster for both blacks and whites, but he recognized there were laws that protected slavery in the South. (Lincoln was a good lawyer.)
- *Lincoln's goal at the start of the war was to save the Union.* He told the South that he had “no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery where it now exists” but that he only opposed its expansion into new territories.
- As time passed, however, Lincoln came under pressure to turn the war into a crusade to end slavery.
 - Abolitionists demanded that the South pay for all of the damage they caused. Freeing their slave property was a good start.
 - As the number of deaths in the war mounted, Northerners began to feel that the *war was only justified if there was a higher cause than keeping the Union together.* They believed that they needed to destroy an institution that violated human principles of freedom and dignity.

After General Lee was defeated at Antietam, Lincoln announced he would free slaves *in the Confederate states* on January 1, 1863. *But the **Emancipation Proclamation** did not free all slaves.* It only freed the slaves in areas held by the Confederacy, and the South was not going to recognize the proclamation. Slaves in border states were not freed. (Lincoln did not want them to join the Confederacy if they got angry.)

- *The proclamation renewed the war effort in the North, and turned the war into a moral crusade.* Blacks in Southern states poured into Union lines whenever the Union took property in the South. Blacks volunteered for the army in great numbers.
- Fredrick Douglas said, “The Emancipation Proclamation is the greatest event of the century.”

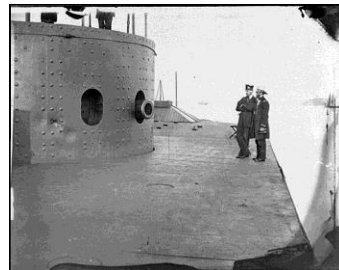
The Monitor and the Merrimack

The battle of the Ironclads

March 9th, 1862

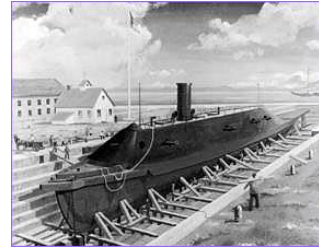
Navies were important during the war. The Union had a plan to cut off supplies to the Confederacy by keeping ships from docking at Southern ports. The plan was called “Anaconda.” The Union **blockaded** ports in the South to keep goods and materials from coming in.

The most famous battle between the two navies was the battle between the *Monitor* (a Union ship) and the

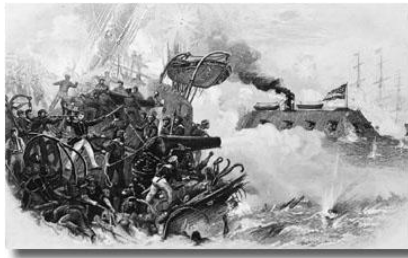


Merrimack (a Confederate ship). The Confederacy changed the name of the *Merrimack* to the *Virginia*.

- Both of these ships were armored with 4 inch steel plates. These ships were called “ironclads.” No one had ever seen ships like these before. The South built the *Merrimack* first, but the Union discovered the ship and built its own to compete with this new type of vessel.



- The *Virginia* sailed into Chesapeake Bay on March 5th and made its way to Hampton Roads, a major Union blockading base.
- The *Virginia* began sinking wooden ships in the harbor. It sank the *Cumberland*, *Congress*, and *Minnesota*. There was very little damage to the iron ship *Virginia*.
- The Union sent the *Monitor* to the rescue. It almost sank on the voyage to the battle, but once in the harbor, it began to battle the *Merrimack*.



The sinking of the USS *Cumberland* by the ironclad *Virginia* at Hampton Roads.

- The two ships faced off, just 100 yards apart, at 9:00 A.M. on March 9th and began to pound each other with all they had. The shells bounced off their armor plating. The two ships ran into each other several times. The battle lasted for 4 hours.
- The battle was a draw, although the *Monitor* successfully managed to keep the harbor blockaded which was a victory for the Union.

The Battle of Gettysburg

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

July 1-3, 1863

The Turning Point of the Civil War

Commanders:

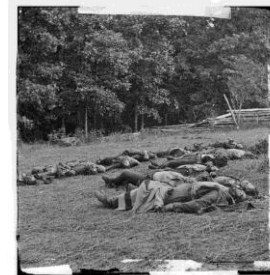
General George Mead (Union)

Robert E. Lee (Confederacy)

The three day Battle of Gettysburg is perhaps the best remembered confrontation of the Civil War. Over 50,000 soldiers were either killed, wounded or captured on both sides. It put a quick end to the second (and final) invasion of the North by the Confederacy.

- General Lee’s decision to take the war to the North again was based on several factors:
 - He again wanted to bring relief to Virginia which had seen a lot of battles and was running low on supplies.

- It was hoped that a great victory in Union territory would bring the Confederacy attention in the international community by proving it was a powerful force.
- Lee advanced his army of 70,000 troops to the North and met the Union army at Brandy Station, near Culpepper, Virginia. It was a Confederate victory, but the Lee was impressed by the tactics of the Union.
- The Union spent the next two weeks regrouping as commanders waited for Lincoln to replace the disgraced General Hooker. During this time, the Union army (100,000 strong) surrounded Washington D.C. and watched the Confederate army as it maneuvered. Lincoln replaced General Hooker with General Meade.
- Lee realized he was outnumbered again, and had to plan



his strategy carefully. He turned to his trusted cavalry leader General Jeb Stuart to determine the size and location of the Union army. This time General Stuart did not come through. Instead of making a quick reconnaissance trip, he led his men on a ride around the Union army and found himself pushed so far east that he was unable to rejoin Lee for nearly 10 day. Lee found himself “blind” to what the Union army was doing.

- General Meade began to move his Union troops to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He knew where the Confederate troops were, and Lee realized he lost the element of surprise.
- On July 1, 1863, Confederate soldiers entered Gettysburg looking for shoes and were spotted by cavalry commander General John Buford. Buford sent his men to engage the Confederate troops. The Confederate soldiers raced back to camp with news of the Union troop movements, and a Confederate attack on the Union troops was ordered by General Lee. The battle of Gettysburg began.

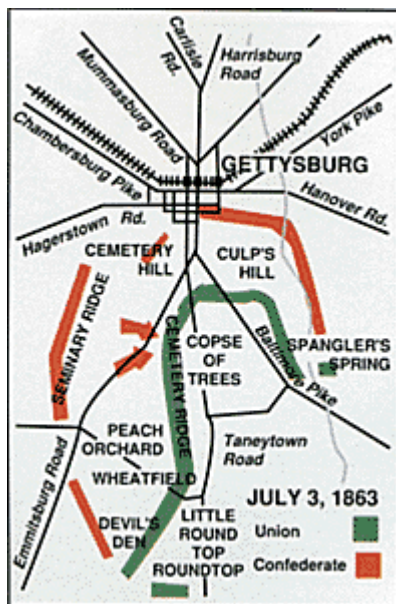
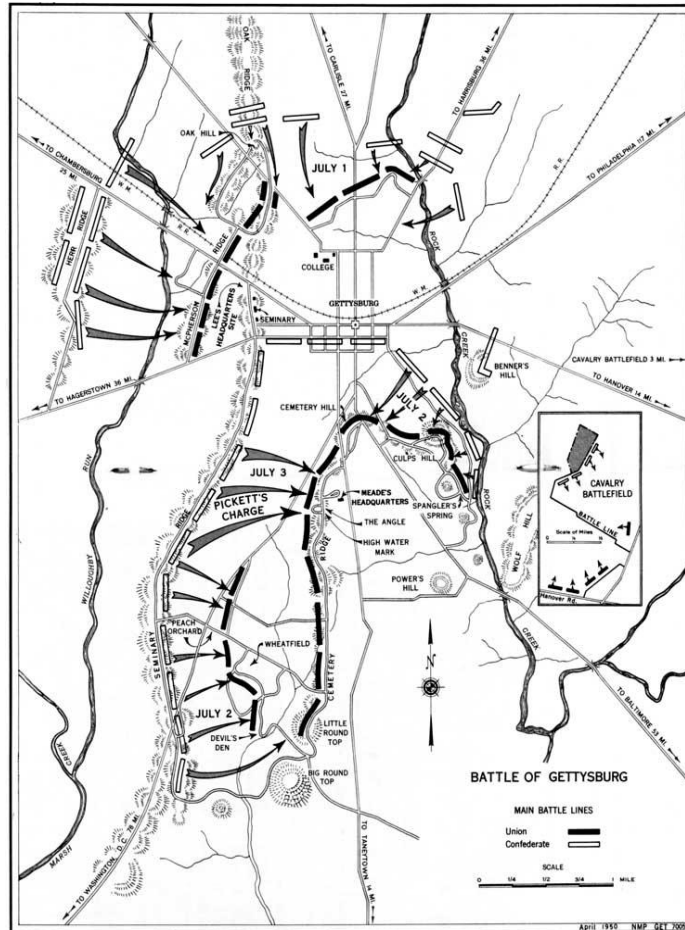


- Troops from all sides were drawn into battle. The Union soldiers came from the south and east, and Confederate troops approached from the north and west.
- The Confederate army greatly outnumbered the Union army on the first day of fighting, and forced Union troops led by General Winfield Scott Hancock through the town of Gettysburg to Cemetery Ridge.
- Darkness fell on the first day, and both sides were given time to regroup. When morning came, the Union army had formed its men into a giant “fishhook” on Cemetery Hill and Culp’s Hill.
- The Confederates were unsure of how to attack the Union forces. General Longstreet suggested a move to the Union’s



flank, but General Lee decided on an attack to the center of the Union line on top of Cemetery Hill.

- On July 3, 1863, Lee ordered 15,000 men to make the assault on Cemetery Hill. The battle started at 1:00 P.M. with a deafening artillery duel. The cannons roared until both sides were nearly out of ammunition, and at 3:30, General George Pickett led Confederate troops on the long walk across the mile-wide field toward the Union line.



- The charge was pure suicide: Pickett's men were slaughtered by Union artillery. A handful of men made it to the stone wall that was the Union line and managed to capture a small section, but they did not hold it for long.
- By the end of the day, Lee knew he had been defeated and decided to pull his army back into Virginia. Unable to carry his wounded, Lee left nearly 7,000 injured soldiers in Union care.
- Had Meade pursued Lee into Virginia, he could have destroyed his army and

possibly ended the war. However, Meade and his men were exhausted, and let Lee go.

- As a result, the war continued for two more years, costing thousands of casualties.
- Gettysburg was the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. It was just a matter of time before the new nation collapsed. Lee never again invaded the North, and General Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman began a plan to destroy the Confederacy in the South.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Few presidential speeches have achieved the acclaim and longevity as the short address Lincoln gave on November 19, 1863, during the dedication of a cemetery at the site of the Battle of Gettysburg.

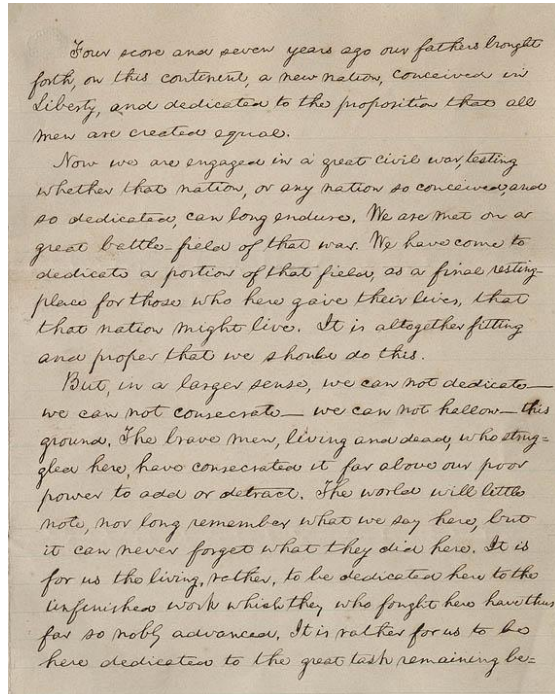
- Contrary to popular legend, Lincoln did not write his speech on the back of an envelope during the train trip to Gettysburg. He spent time crafting this important speech before traveling to the site of the battle.

Nov. 19, 1863

Fourscore (Four times twenty; eighty.) and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon 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 it, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.



It is rather for us the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us--that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion--that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation 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 End of the Confederacy "Total War"

The Campaign and Siege of Atlanta May 1 – September 2, 1864

Commanders:

William T. Sherman (Union)

John B. Hood (Confederacy)

The fall of the Atlanta after a four-month campaign and siege was a devastating blow to the South and signaled the end of the war in the west.

- Atlanta was an important location for manufacturing in the South, and General Sherman knew it was necessary to capture it if the war was to end.
- *Sherman's strategy was all-out war. Anything that could be used against the North had to be destroyed.*
- Facing Sherman's army of 100,000 was John B Hood's army of 62,000. Hood knew that he didn't stand a chance against the larger Union army, but he managed to keep the Union army busy for many weeks.
- In the end, Sherman laid siege to Atlanta, bombing the city with artillery for more than a month and doing all that he could to destroy Confederate supply lines.
- Confederate forces evacuated the city on September 2nd, and Sherman's troops marched in.



Atlanta was all but destroyed from the bombing and the final evacuation. Buildings once used for manufacturing had been destroyed by the artillery or burned to the ground by fleeing Confederate troops. The retreating troops ransacked stores for all the supplies they could carry. They did not want the invading Union troops to have the supplies.

Once Atlanta was under Union control, Sherman set out on his march to the sea, destroying anything that could be used by the Confederates for the war effort.

This strategy, combined with Ulysses S. Grant's campaign against Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, ultimately led to the defeat of the Confederacy.

Sherman's March to the Sea

The fall of Atlanta was just the beginning of a grand plan by General Sherman. He wanted to bring about a Union victory by splitting the Confederacy down the middle.

- Once the city was under his control, he ordered the citizens out of Atlanta and destroyed anything that could be used by the enemy. **His goal was not only to crush the Confederate army but also the spirit of those who supported the Confederacy.**
- Sherman's march began on November 15th, 1864. Sherman's army, some 62,000 men, marched in two columns that presented a front 25 to 60 miles wide. Like an army of ants, they swarmed over the countryside destroying railroads, bridges, telegraph lines, manufacturing plants, plantations, farms, and anything else that Sherman believed could be used by the enemy. The Confederate army was beginning to starve, and Sherman did not want supplies to reach the Confederate troops.
- Sherman reached the Atlantic coast after a 300 mile march on December 10th, having inflicted an estimated 100 million dollars worth of damage.
- Sherman turned his attention to Savannah and captured the city with little opposition. Sherman wired Lincoln on December 24th and offered the city as a Christmas present.
- Sherman then turned his army on the Carolinas, continuing his slash-and-burn policy. Sherman's forces wanted to punish the first state to secede. In the minds of many, the war was South Carolina's fault.

The Battle of the Wilderness

May 5-7, 1864

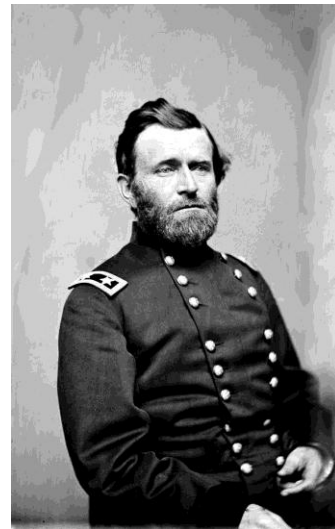
Commanders:

Ulysses S. Grant (Union)

Robert E. Lee (Confederacy)

The Battle of the Wilderness was the first battle between Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant.

- The new general-in-chief of the Union army, Ulysses S. Grant, wanted a final battle between the Army of the Potomac and Army of Northern Virginia under General Lee. Crushing Lee's army was essential in winning the war.
- The Armies met in Virginia's Rapidan basin. It was a dense forest and severely hampered soldiers on both sides. Fires and confusion brought chaos to the battlefield.
- Union losses were more than the Confederate losses, but hurt the Confederacy more because battle attrition hurt the Confederacy's ability to fight.
- The battle ended in a draw, but Lee would cause a lot



of problems for Grant in the months to come.

The Siege of Petersburg

June 15, 1864 – April 3, 1865

The End of the Confederacy

Commanders:

Ulysses S. Grant (Union)

Robert E. Lee (Confederacy)

Grant and Lee spent the final months of the war in a game of cat and mouse.

- Petersburg was an important city. It contained communication and supply lines that were vital to the Confederate capital of Richmond, which was 20 miles away. This made it an important target for the Union.
- Ulysses S Grant knew that if Petersburg fell, then Richmond would be next, and the Confederacy would collapse.
- Grant soon realized that a quick victory at Petersburg was not going to happen because of Lee's ability to defend the city and hold off Union troops. Grant laid siege to the city, bombing it daily in the hopes that Lee would eventually surrender. Lee knew he could not hold out forever.
- As the siege continued, Union forces slowly and methodically strangled the enemy by severing vital supply lines.
- Lee realized he had little chance of success and retreated when Union forces began their final attack on April 2nd, 1865. Lee was outnumbered and his shrunken forces were starving and weak.
- Lee sent word to Jefferson Davis that Richmond was about to be captured and there was nothing he could do about it. He headed west along the Appomattox River in search of food and some way to join up with other forces, but Grant was not going to let Lee escape. The two armies engaged in small battles until Lee, realizing there was no way to avoid defeat, surrendered to Grant.

Robert E. Lee Surrenders

April 9th, 1865

The two men met in the home of Wilmer McLean in Appomattox Court House. Lee signed the declaration of surrender in the presence of Grant and several of his generals.

After signing the declaration, Lee stood up and shook Grant's hand. He bowed to the other men in the room, all of whom knew they were witnessing history, and walked silently to the door. On the porch, Lee put his



riding gloves on and gazed for a moment toward the hillside where his men were waiting. He drove his right into his left hand three times, then mounted his trusted horse Traveller and rode away to deliver the news to his troops.

Three days later, on April 12th, what was left of Lee's army surrendered their weapons and received their paroles, which allowed them to return home.

The war was finally over. The Confederate States of America no longer existed.

On April 14th, 1865, General Robert Anderson raised the American flag over Fort Sumter- the same flag he had been forced to lower exactly four years earlier (First shots fired – Fort Sumter, April 12th, 1861)

Later that evening, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater by John Wilkes Booth.