

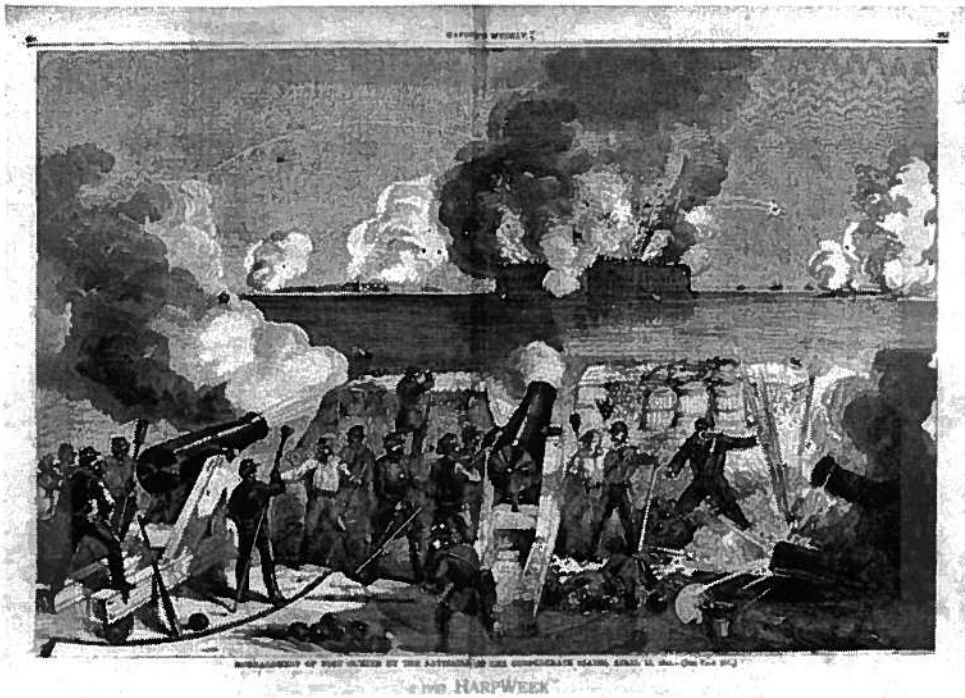
## The Civil War

President Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address assured Southerners that he had no intention of interfering with slavery or any other Southern institution. However, at the same time, he warned that no state had the right to break up the Union. He appealed for restraint:

“In *your* hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in *mine*, is the momentous issue of Civil War. The government will not assail *you*. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors.” (Abraham Lincoln).

The first event of the Civil War took place at Fort Sumter – located in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. It was manned by federal troops. Southern control of the harbor stopped vital supplies and reinforcements. Lincoln told the South he was sending in provisions and they should permit the relief operation.

On April 12, 1861 Southern guns opened fire on the fort. It was captured by the South on April 14. The Civil War had begun.



**The attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861**

Lincoln was a president that used executive-power more than any previous leaders. His decisions were made with or without Congress. Due to the Fort Sumter incident he:

1. called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the “insurrection” in the South
2. authorized spending for the war
3. suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

Congress was not in session at the time – Lincoln acted on his own passing these laws.

[Known as the **Great Writ**, known in full as **habeas corpus ad subjiciendum** are Latin for **(That) you may have/hold the body to be subjected to (examination)**”. In English common law **habeas corpus** is the name of several writs which may be issued by a judge ordering a prisoner to be brought before the court so it can be determined whether or not he/she is being imprisoned unlawfully. The privilege of the use of this writ as a safeguard against illegal imprisonment was highly regarded by the British colonists in America, and wrongful refusals to issue the writ were one of the grievances before the American Revolution. As a result, the Constitution provides that:

**“The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public safety may require it” (Article 1, Section 9).**

President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus in 1861 and his decision was upheld by Congress – despite protests by Chief Justice Roger Taney that such suspension was not within the powers of the President].

After it was clear that Lincoln would use force, four more states (in the Upper South) seceded and joined the Confederacy. – Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas.

The capital of the Confederacy was then moved to Richmond, Virginia – a more central location.

Four slaveholding states that were on the Confederacy border stayed with the Union.

**Maryland** – martial law was imposed after an attack on the railroad to Washington

**Missouri** – there was a presence of U.S. troops but guerilla forces still acted

**Kentucky** – State Legislature voted to stay neutral

**Delaware** – Federal troops stopped any uprisings.

These states were important to the Union because:

1. If Confederate they would increase their population by more than 50%
2. They aided the North’s strategic position during the war

Note – not wanting to alienate Unionists in the border states, Lincoln was reluctant to rush for the early emancipation of slaves.

## Military Advantages

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>NORTH</b>
Had the defensive advantage of where the war was fought.	The North had to attack an area the size of Western Europe
Shorter distances to move troops and supplies	22 million versus 5 ½ million free whites (especially if a war of attrition)
Southern coastline was long and difficult to blockade	800,000 immigrants enlisted during the war
More experienced military leaders	180,000 emancipated African American soldiers
Higher troop morale.	U.S. Navy loyal to the North

The **North** had the better **economic advantages** during the war

- controlled most of the banking and capital
- over 85% of the factories and manufactured goods were in the North
- over 70% of the railways
- 65% of the active farmlands
- the most clerks and bookkeepers for logistical support

The **South** rested heavily on the foreign demand for cotton. It hoped that “King Cotton” would bring the Confederacy the international recognition and the financial aid that it drastically needed for the war effort.

**Politically** the **North** had the better advantage. There was a well established government and President Lincoln’s image along with the Republican and Democratic parties created a strong popular base.

The **South** was weak due to the fact that it had **no strong central government**. In addition it had **no dedicated public support** for the war. Their ideology of **States’ Rights** turned out to be a **serious liability**.

The Constitution of the Confederacy was modeled after the U.S. Constitution except:

1. non-successive 6-year term for president and vice-president
2. provided a presidential item veto
3. denied its congress powers to levy a protective tariff
4. denied its congress powers to appropriate funds for internal improvements
5. prohibited foreign slave trade.

President Jefferson Davis tried to increase his executive powers but Southern governors resisted centralization.

## **Major Problems within the Confederacy**

1. Serious Money shortages
2. Loans, income taxes, a 10% tax on farm produce, Impressment of private property only paid a small percentage of the war cost
3. \$ 1 billion of Confederate currency was printed which only created inflation and devalued the currency. (By the end of the war \$ 1.00 was only worth 2 cents!).
4. The Nationalization of the railroads hindered internal transportation of troops
5. Little industrial development was encouraged

The North expected the Civil War to be brief, maybe no more than a few weeks. Lincoln's first enlistment drive had soldiers only serve in the Union army for 90 days.

## **First Battle of Bull Run – July 1861**

30,000 federal troops left Washington D.C. to Manassas Junction, Virginia. They were close to a victory until General Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson's reinforcements arrived. The Union troops fled back to Washington.

The battle showed three important factors about the Civil War

- It was not going to be a short war
- The Rebels were invincible in battle
- The curiosity seekers and picnickers saw war was not a "sport"

## **Union Strategy**

General Winfield Scott prepared a 3-part plan to win the war

1. The U.S. Navy (Anaconda Plan) was to blockade the southern ports and shipping
2. Divide the Confederacy – take control of the Mississippi River
3. Raise and train an army of 500,000 just to capture Richmond.

## **The Peninsula Campaign**

Union General George B. McClellan invaded Virginia in March 1862. Confederate General Robert E. Lee stopped his army. After 5 months McClellan retreated to the Potomac River. Due to his defeat, Lincoln replaced him with General John Pope.

Lee attacked Pope's army and sent them backwards to Bull Run.

## **The Second Battle of Bull Run**

The Union army, under General John Pope was defeated by the Confederates under Robert E. Lee and Pope withdrew his forces to Washington, D.C.

## Antietam

Lee kept moving north after defeating Pope. He hoped that a major Confederate victory would ensure British support to their war effort. After the Second Battle of Bull Run, General McClellan was re-instated and, thanks to a copy of Lee's battle plan, dropped by one of his officers, held the Union line against Lee at Antietam Creek, Sharpsburg, Maryland. **Here was the bloodiest single day of the entire war. Approximately 22,000 men were killed or wounded.** Lee retreated back to the South.

**President Abraham Lincoln used the battle at Antietam to announce plans for the Emancipation Proclamation.**

Lincoln was still not too pleased with General McClellan. He believed that his tactics were too slow and predictable. He was replaced by the more aggressive General Ambrose Burnside.

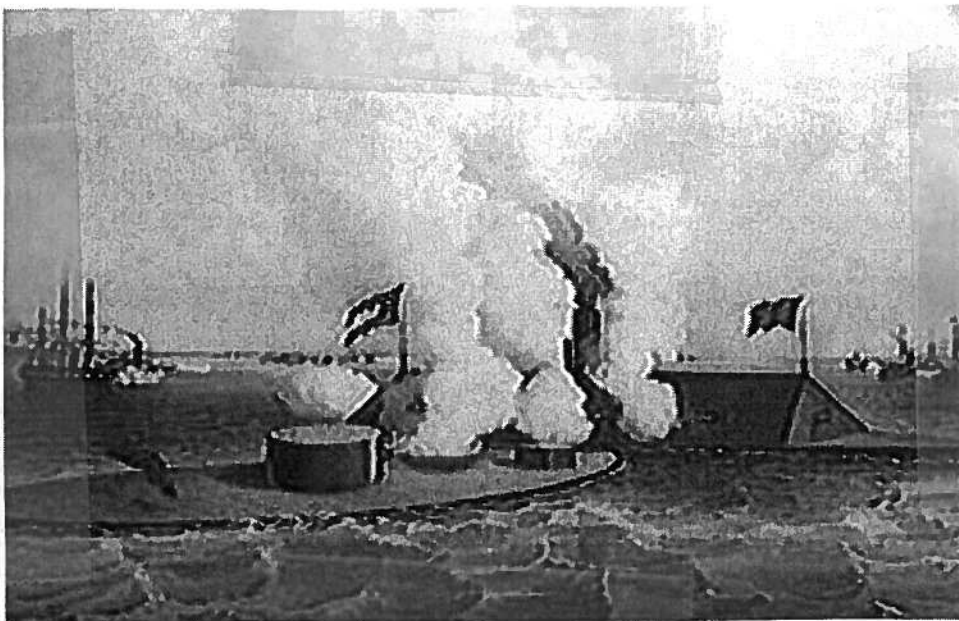
In December 1862 Burnside fought against Lee at **Fredericksburg, Virginia**. 12,000 Union soldiers were dead or wounded – 5,000 Confederate were dead or wounded.

**These casualties reflected on the improved weaponry, especially artillery used in the Civil War. Technological advances now replaced the theory of heroic charges.**

The second year of the war was a disaster for the North except for:

1. *Monitor v. Merrimac* – a battle for the Southern blockade.

The Confederate iron-clad *Merrimac* (formerly a Union ship, now rebuilt and renamed *Virginia*) easily sank the Union's wooden ships working on the blockades of the Southern coastline. In response the Union built their own iron-clad ship, the *Monitor*. In March 1862 these two vessels had a five-hour naval duel off the shore of Hampton Roads in Virginia. The battle ended in a tie but it stopped the *Merrimac* from further challenging the naval blockades. This sea duel was the first iron-clad vessel fight and a sign of future naval warfare to come.



## 2. General Ulysses S. Grant

This West Point graduate led the Union campaign for control of the Mississippi River. In Early 1862, heading south from Illinois, his gunboats and army captured both Fort Henry and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River (a branch of the Mississippi River). 14,000 Confederate troops were taken prisoner.

The Confederate army, under General Albert Johnson fought Grant at **Shiloh, Tennessee**. The Union army held their ground and the Confederates retreated. There were heavy losses on both sides, numbering 23,000 dead or wounded.

Grant's drive down the Mississippi River was complemented by the Union Navy, when in April 1862, led by David Farragut, New Orleans was captured.

### The Trent Affair

It was at this time in the war that the South realized that they must have foreign assistance from Britain and France in order to succeed. Their plan was based upon the demand for cotton and the British industrialists and aristocracy wanting to see the American democratic "experiment" fail.

Britain was close to backing the South in their war efforts. Confederate diplomats James Mason and John Slidell were sailing to England on the steamer "**Trent**" to gain Southern recognition. En route a Union warship stopped the **Trent** – Mason and Slidell were removed and taken prisoner. Britain threatened war unless the two diplomats were released. Reluctantly Lincoln released the pair. They then completed their journey to Britain but failed in obtaining international recognition.

The Confederates were however allowed to purchase warships from Britain. One such ship was the **Alabama** which captured over 60 Union vessels before the Union Navy sank it off the coast of France. After the war Great Britain agreed to pay the United States \$ 15.5 million in compensation for damages caused by the South's navy.

In addition, the U.S. Minister to Britain, Charles Francis Adams, learned that Britain was going to sell **Laird Rams (ships with iron rams)** to the South. Adams persuaded the British government to cancel the sale.

The failure of "Cotton Diplomacy" was due to:

1. Cotton was now available from Egypt and India
2. British mills quickly converted to wool and linen
3. Lee's defeat at Antietam cost them British recognition
4. The Emancipation Proclamation appealed to the British working class.

## The End of Slavery

Lincoln stated that slavery was “an unqualified evil” but he was slow to take action against it due to:

1. it helped keep support of the Border States
2. he was aware of the Constitutional protections of slavery
3. he was concerned about northern prejudices
4. any premature action could be overturned in the next election

Slaves were freed during the Civil War by military actions, governmental policy and from their own actions.

### Confiscation Acts

During the war slaves were declared as a “contraband of war” therefore they were not returned to their Confederate owners if captured.

#### First Confiscation Act

This was passed by Congress in 1861 and claimed the power to seize enemy property used to wage war against the United States. Thousands of “**contrabands**” subsequently fled into the Union camps.

#### Second Confiscation Act

This was passed in 1862 and freed the slaves owned by people in rebellion against the United States. It allowed the President to use freed slaves in the Union Army, in any capacity, including battle.

After the Battle of Antietam, September 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln warned that all slaves living in states in rebellion would be free after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863. On that day he delivered his Emancipation Proclamation. After listing the states involved, from Arkansas to Virginia he stated:

*“ ... I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforth shall be, free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, shall recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.”*

Note: - the President’s proclamation only applied to slaves in Confederate States. Therefore it did not free a single slave. Slavery in the Border States was allowed to continue **BUT**

1. it did commit the government to a policy of abolition in the South.
2. it enlarged the purpose of the Civil War. Union armies were now fighting against slavery as well as secession and rebellion
3. it added weight to the Proclamation Acts
4. it increased the number of slaves fleeing to the Union lines.

## The 13th Amendment

This addition was needed to free the slaves located within the Border States. The Bill was finally ratified in December 1865 – months after Lincoln’s death. With credit to Lincoln, the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was written in simple, clear to understand language.

*“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”*

After the Emancipation Proclamation approximately ¼ of the slave population sought protection in the approaching Union Armies. Almost 200,000 served in the Union Army and Navy. They were segregated into all-black units, such as the Massachusetts 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment who won great respect from the Northern white soldiers. In this “Army of Freedom” over 37,000 African American soldiers died.

## The Turning Points of the Civil War. (1863-1865)

In 1863 even though General Robert E. Lee won the **Battle of Chancellorsville** in Virginia, the Confederate economy was in desperate shape. Southern planters and farmers began losing control of their slave labor-forces. In addition the poorly provisioned Confederate soldiers were deserting.

In the Spring of 1863 the seven-week siege at the **Battle of Vicksburg** in Mississippi ended and nearly 29,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered. The Union now controlled the full length of the Mississippi River, cutting off the states of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas from the rest of the Confederacy.

The only hope for General Robert E. Lee was to capture a northern city or defeat a major Union army. Maybe then he could gain the badly needed foreign assistance or at least, be able to negotiate with the North for peace.

On July 1, 1863 the **Battle of Gettysburg** began. Lee’s assault on the Union lines during days two and three of the battle were futile. A great part of his Confederate army was destroyed and those that were left retreated into Virginia. Gettysburg was one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. There were over 50,000 casualties in all.

With General Ulysses Grant in command he looked to ending the war by outlasting Lee. His three-fold plan to victory was:

1. make it a war of attrition. By sheer size the North would win
2. continue to slowly wear down the Southern armies
3. systematically destroy their supply lines and force them into submission.



**Battles from this point onward were no longer part of a “war between gentlemen.” They were now modern warfare against both civilians and soldiers.**

### **Sherman’s March**

Union General William Tecumseh Sherman led 10,000 men on a campaign of destruction through the South. He began in Chattanooga and marched across the state of Georgia and into South Carolina. His troops destroyed anything in their path, cotton fields, barns and even houses. In September 1864 his army took the city of Atlanta – which subsequently helped Lincoln’s re-election campaign. By December of 1864 he captured the port of Savannah and then proceeded north to Columbia, the South Carolina State Capital and cradle of secession. The city fell to Union troops in February 1865.

The Union’s plan for blockades plus Sherman’s March left most of the South hungry during the winter of 1864-65. When the city of Richmond, Virginia fell to Union troops on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1865 the end of the Civil War was near.

The Confederate government tried to negotiate peace but the stumbling blocks were that Jefferson Davis wanted to end the war as an independent nation; Lincoln wanted nothing less than full restoration of the Union.

During Lincoln’s second inaugural address he urged the defeated South to be treated benevolently when he stated “*with malice toward none, with charity for all.*”

After the battle for Richmond General Lee and his army, now less than 30,000 men, attempted to retreat to safety. His army was cut off by General Grant and forced to surrender. The formal Declaration of Surrender was signed at the Appomattox Court House on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1865. With the respect cited by the President Lee’s men were allowed to return home with their horses. The Civil War had officially ended.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1865 John Wilkes Booth, a southern sympathizer assassinated President Lincoln while he was in the Ford’s Theater in Washington. One the same night another conspirator attacked, but only wounded, Secretary of State William Seward.

## *John Brown's Body*

The following lyrics are from the Library of Congress:

*Tune: Brothers, will you meet me*

John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave;  
John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave;  
John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave;  
His soul's marching on!

**(Chorus)**

Glory, halle—hallelujah! Glory, halle—hallelujah!  
Glory, halle—hallelujah! his soul's marching on!  
He's gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord!  
He's gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord!  
He's gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord!  
His soul's marching on!

**(Chorus)**

John Brown's knapsack is strapped upon his back!  
John Brown's knapsack is strapped upon his back!  
John Brown's knapsack is strapped upon his back!  
His soul's marching on!

**(Chorus)**

His pet lambs will meet him on the way;  
His pet lambs will meet him on the way;  
His pet lambs will meet him on the way;  
They go marching on!

**(Chorus)**

They will hang Jeff. Davis to a sour apple tree!  
They will hang Jeff. Davis to a sour apple tree!  
They will hang Jeff. Davis to a sour apple tree!  
As they march along!

**(Chorus)**

Now, three rousing cheers for the Union;  
Now, three rousing cheers for the Union;  
Now, three rousing cheers for the Union;  
As we are marching on!