# AMERICAN $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$

The American Civil War was a civil war in the United States of America. Eleven Southern slave states declared their secession from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America, also known as "the Confederacy." Led by Jefferson Davis, the Confederacy fought against the United States

(the Union), which was supported by all the free states (where slavery had been abolished) and by five slave states that became known as the border states.

The American Civil War was one of the earliest true industrial wars. Railroads, the telegraph and massproduced weapons were employed

extensively. The practices of total war and of trench warfare around Petersburg foreshadowed World War I in Europe. It remains the deadliest war in American history, resulting in the deaths of thousands of soldiers and an undetermined number of civilian casualties. Victory for the North meant the end of the

Confederacy and of slavery in the United States, and strengthened the role of the federal government. The social, political, economic and racial issues of the war decisively shaped the reconstruction era that lasted to 1877.

## MAJOR EVENTS LEADING TO THE CIVIL WAR

 $1848\cdots 1849\cdots 1859\cdots 1859\cdots 1852\cdots 1852\cdots 1855\cdots 1855\cdots 1856\cdots 180}$ 

#### Mexican War Ended

With new territories added to the Union, it posed a difficult task for the government--would these new states be free or slave? Congress passed the Compromise of 1850 which let states decide whether it would allow slavery.

#### **Fugitive Slave Act**

Part of the Compromise of 1850, this act forced any federal official who did not arrest a runaway slave liable to pay a fine. It caused many abolitionists to increase their efforts against slavery, as well as increased Underground Railroad activity.

#### Uncle Tom's Cabin released

This book was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, an abolitionist. It helped further the cause of abolition by showing the evils of slavery. Abraham Lincoln recognized this book as one of the events that led to the outbreak of the Civil War.

#### **Bleeding Kansas**

The Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed, which allowed those territories to decide for themselves whether they wanted to be free or slave. Kansas soon became a hotbed of violence as proand anti-slavery forces fought over the state's future.

#### **Charles Sumner attacked**

Pro-slavery congressman Preston Brooks attacked Charles Sumner on the U.S. Senate floor after he had given a speech attacking the pro-slavery forces for the violence occurring in Kansas.

#### **Dred Scott decision**

Dred Scott lost his case proving he should be free because he had been held as a slave while living in a free state. The court ruled that he could not be seen because he holds no property. Even though he was taken by his 'owner' into a free state, he was still a slave because they were considered as property of their owners.

#### John Brown raided Harper's Ferry John Brown was a radical abolitionist who was involved in anti-slavery violence in Kansas. He led 17 people to raid the arsenal located in Harper's Ferry, Virginia. His goal was to start a slave uprising using the captured weapons. They were eventually killed or captured by Colonel Robert E. Lee. Brown was tried and hung for treason.

Abraham Lincoln elected president South Carolina, followed by 6 other states, seceded from the Union with Lincoln's election. Lincoln agreed with the majority of the Republican Party that the South was becoming too powerful, and made it part of their platform that slavery would not be extended to any new territories or states added to the Union.

## **PEOPLE OF IMPORTANCE**



## Abraham Lincoln

served as the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. He issued his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and promoted the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery. Reared in a poor family on the western frontier, he was mostly self-educated. He became a country lawyer, an Illinois state legislator, and a oneterm member of the United States House of Representatives, but failed in two attempts at a seat in the United States Senate.

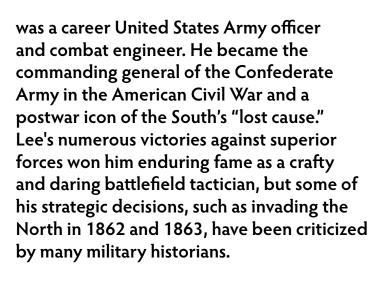
## Jefferson Davis

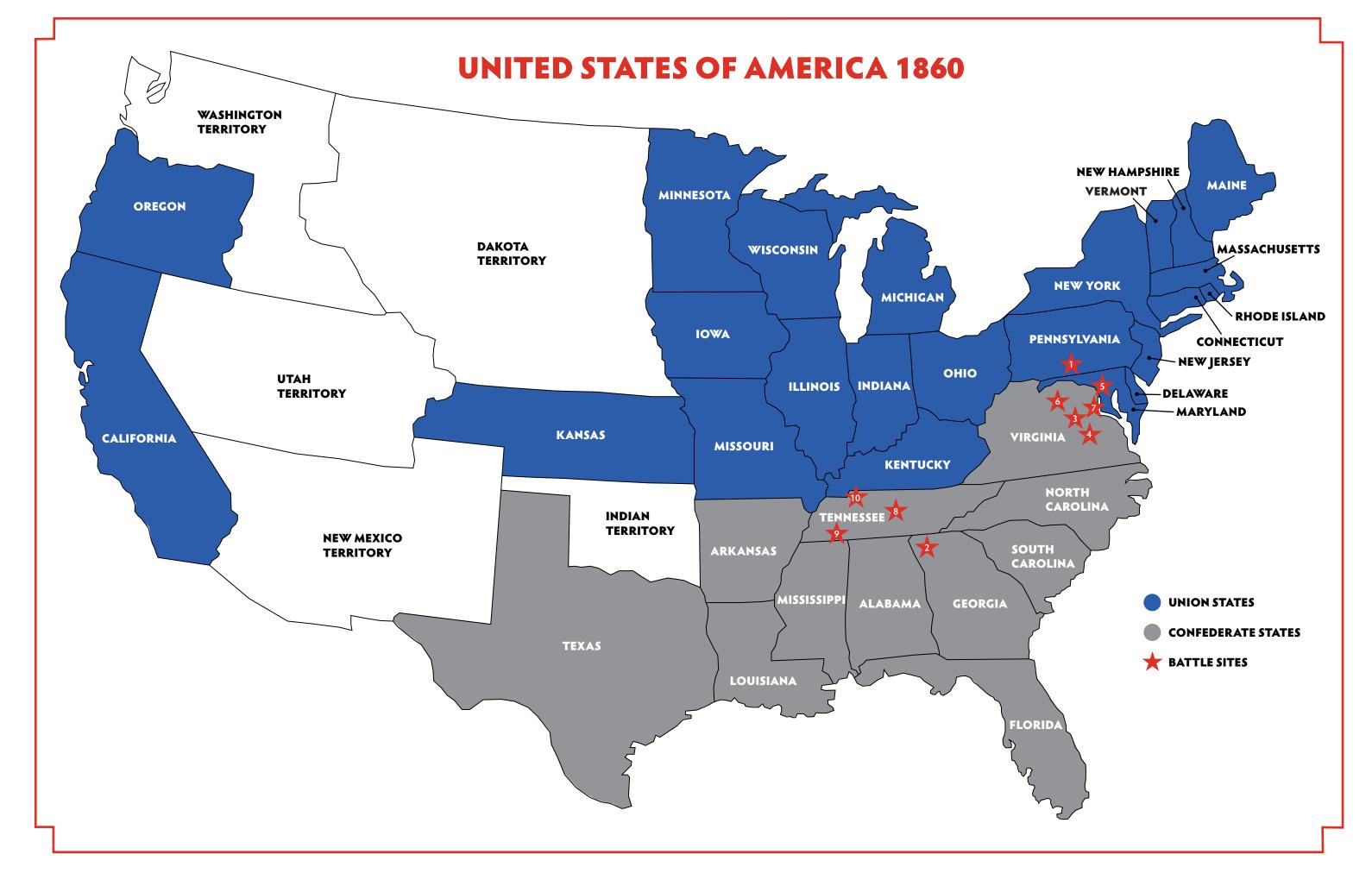
was an American statesmen and leader of the Confederacy during the American Civil War; serving as the President for its entire history. A West Point graduate, Davis fought in the Mexican-American War as a colonel of a volunteer regiment, and was the United States Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. He served as a U.S. Senator representing the state of Mississippi. As a senator, he argued against secession, but did agree that each state was sovereign and had an unquestionable right to secede from the Union.



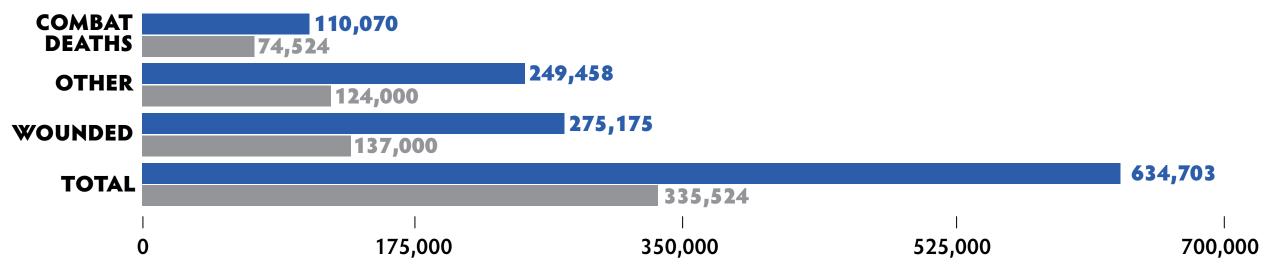
was the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the United States as well as military commander during the Civil War and post-war Reconstruction periods. Under command, the Union Army defeated the Confederate military and ended the Confederate States of America. After the war, on July 25, 1866, Congress promoted Grant to the newly created rank of General of the Army of the United States, a form of the rank General of the Armies of the United States.

## **Robert E. Lee**





## **CASUALTIES** UNION CONFEDERATE



\*Combat deaths refers to troops killed in action or dead of wounds. Other includes deaths from disease, privation, and accidents, and includes losses among prisoners of war. Wounded excludes those who died of their wounds, who are included under Combat Deaths. Confederate Army statistics are incomplete and estimated due to missing records.

## DEADLIEST **BATTLES** (Union and Confederate killed, wounded, missing, captured totals) **1 GETTYSBURG**

Two percent of the US population died in the Civil War. Only World War II claimed 51,112 the lives of more Americans. The proportion of casualties to the total number of soldiers who fought was extremely high by military standards. This was in large part due to the weapons used (small arms fire accounted for more than three-quarters of the deaths) and to the high rate of disease. One out of every ten able-bodied northern males was killed or injured by the war; one out of every four southern males (including blacks) was killed or injured. Blacks counted for twenty percent of the Union death toll. Of the 21,000 Cherokee, most of whom fought for the Confederacy, a third died.

36,624 2 CHICKAMAUGA **3 CHANCELLORSVILLE** 30,099 **4** SPOTSYLVANIA 27,399 26,134 **5** ANTIETAM **6 WILDERNESS** 25,416 7 BULL RUN 25,251 **8 STONES RIVER** 24,645 **9** SHILOH 23,741 **10 FORT DONELSON** 19,455 15,000 30,000 45,000

The Confederate States of America (also called the Confederacy, the Confederate States, and the C.S.A.) was an unrecognized state set up from 1861 to 1865 by eleven America that had declared their secession over its claimed territory shrank steadily during the course of the war, as the Union took control of much of the seacoast and inland waterways.

Secessionists argued that the United States Constitution was a compact among states that could be abandoned at any time without consultation and that each state

C.S.A. in February 1861, selecting Jefferson Davis as temporary president until elections could be held in 1862. Talk of reunion and compromise went nowhere, because the Confederates insisted on independence which the Union strongly rejected.

## HOW DOES THIS WAR COMPARE TO OTHER AMERICAN WARS?

