

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 1861-1865

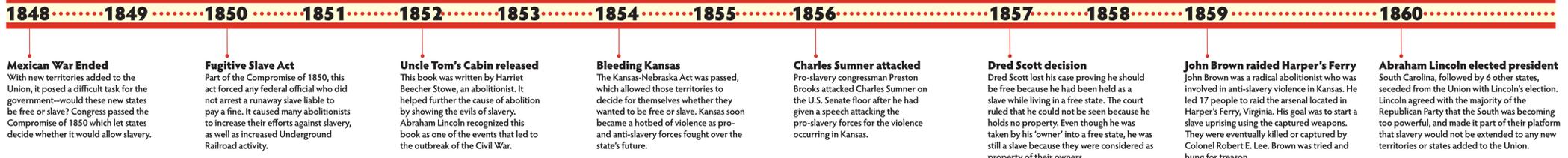
The American Civil War was a civil war in the United States of America. Eleven Southern slave states declared their secession from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America, also known as "the Confederacy," led by Jefferson Davis, the Confederacy fought against the United States

(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 mass-produced 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

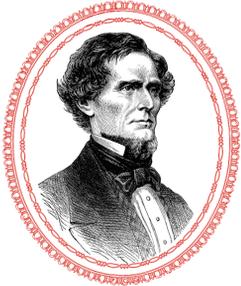


PEOPLE OF IMPORTANCE



Abraham Lincoln

served as the 16th 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 one-term member of the United States House of Representatives, but failed in two attempts at a seat in the United States Senate.



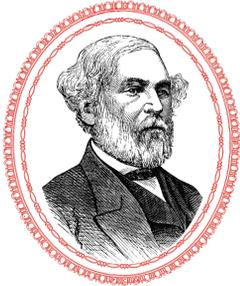
Jefferson Davis

was an American statesman 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.



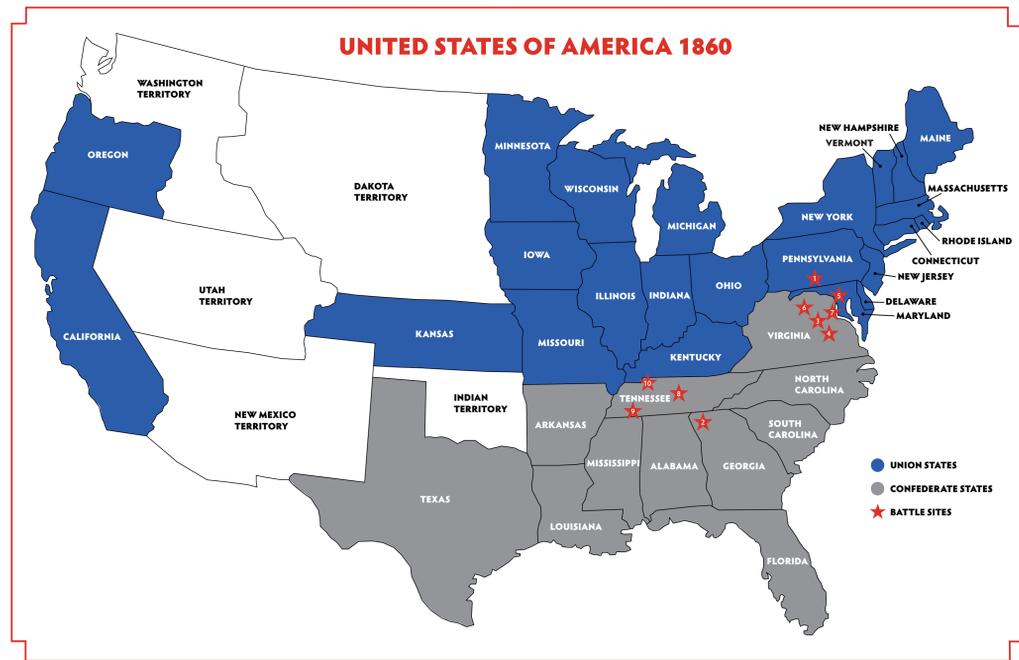
Ulysses S. Grant

was the 18th 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

was a career United States Army officer and combat engineer. He became the commanding general of the Confederate Army in the American Civil War and a postwar icon of the South's "lost cause." Lee's numerous victories against superior forces won him enduring fame as a crafty and daring battlefield tactician, but some of his strategic decisions, such as invading the North in 1862 and 1863, have been criticized by many military historians.



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 southern slave states of the United States of America that had declared their secession from the U.S. The Confederacy's control 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.

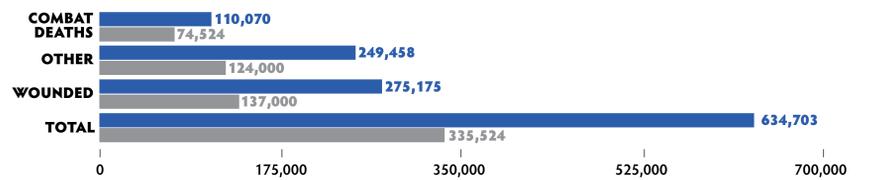
Secessionists argued that the United States Constitution was a compact among states that could be abandoned at any time without consultation and that each state had a right to secede. After intense debates and statewide votes, seven Deep South cotton states passed secession ordinances by February 1861 (before Abraham Lincoln took office as president), while secession efforts failed in the other eight slave states. Delegates from the seven formed the

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.

Between 1861 and 1865, Americans made war on each other and killed each other in great numbers — if only to become the kind of country that could no longer conceive of how that was possible. What began as a bitter dispute over Union and States' Rights, ended as a struggle over the meaning of freedom in America. At Gettysburg in 1863, Abraham Lincoln said perhaps more than he knew. The war was about a "new birth of freedom."

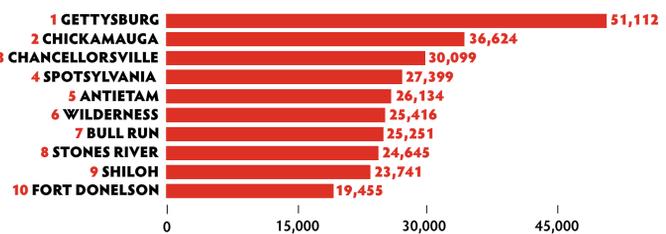


CASUALTIES



*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



Two percent of the US population died in the Civil War. Only World War II claimed 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.

HOW DOES THIS WAR COMPARE TO OTHER AMERICAN WARS?

