

MARINEMUN'25
JOINT CRISIS CABINET: AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
STUDY GUIDE

Under-Secretary General
Kadircan Yıldız

Table of Contents

1. Letter from the Secretary General
2. Letter from the Under-Secretary General
3. Key Terms
4. What is a Crisis Committee?
5. Introduction to the Agenda
6. Historical Background
7. The States and The Union
8. Important Events and Timeline
9. Further Research
10. References

1. Letter from the Secretary General

2. Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Dear delegates and distinguished academic team members, I would like to start by thanking you for your interest in our committee. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Kadir and I am currently 21. I am a university student based in Ankara. Since the end of 2018, I have been a part of the model United Nations community of Türkiye. My journey had its ups and downs but I am glad it brought me in front of you.

This committee is dear to my heart because it was the very first crisis committee that I have ever attended. I still remember how fun it was. I will try my best to ensure you feel the same way. We all know how things unfolded but there is no need to recreate things in the same way. Please use your imagination and rewrite history!

If you have any questions about the committee or the agenda please do not hesitate to contact me via the email address below. I cannot wait to start this committee. See you soon!

Kadircan Yıldız
Under-Secretary General of JCC: The American Civil War
kadircanyildiz.business@gmail.com

3. Key Terms

Emancipation Proclamation: An executive order issued by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, that declared all slaves in Confederate states to be free.

Secession: The act of withdrawing from the Union, which was carried out by 11 southern states to form the Confederacy.

Battle of Gettysburg: A pivotal battle fought from July 1–3, 1863, in Pennsylvania. It was one of the largest battles of the Civil War and is considered a turning point for the Union.

Fort Sumter: The location of the first battle of the Civil War, where Confederate forces fired on a U.S. military garrison in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, on April 12, 1861.

Robert E. Lee: The Confederate general who commanded the Army of Northern Virginia. He is considered one of the greatest military leaders in American history.

Ulysses S. Grant: The Union general who ultimately led the Union Army to victory over the Confederacy and later became the 18th President of the United States.

Antietam: The Battle of Antietam, fought on September 17, 1862, in Maryland, was the bloodiest single-day battle in American history with over 22,000 casualties.

Total War: A strategy employed mainly by Union General William Tecumseh Sherman, involving attacking not just enemy troops but also economic and civilian resources to break the Confederacy's will to fight.

13th Amendment: Passed in 1865, this amendment abolished slavery in the United States.

14th Amendment: Ratified in 1868, it granted citizenship and equal protection under the law to all persons born or naturalized in the U.S., including former slaves.

15th Amendment: Ratified in 1870, it prohibited the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

The Gettysburg Address: A speech given by Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, emphasizing the principles of human equality and the importance of preserving the Union.

Dred Scott v. Sandford: An 1857 Supreme Court case that ruled that African Americans, free or enslaved, were not American citizens and could not sue in federal court.

4. What is a Crisis Committee?

There are many types of committees in model United Nations conferences. Mostly, there are the classic general assembly type committees that follow the Harvard rules of procedures. Crisis committees are quite different from these. There exists a crisis team. This team, the chairboard(s) and the Under-Secretary General works together to manage the committee.

Firstly, the allocations of the delegates are not restricted to countries, NGOs or corporations. They may very well be specific people. Also, the chairboard may have allocations as well. Generals, presidents, prime or regular ministers, kings and queens may be allocated to the participants depending on the topic of the committee.

Secondly, agendas are narrower. They mostly concern lower populations instead of a global threat. However, seeing a topic with global effect may as well exist. Usually, it is a war or a political issue that has been focused on. Another difference is the number of participants. Crisis committees consist of cabinets. Cabinets have a lower number of participants compared to the general assembly type committees. Number of cabinets is also dependent on the topic but it is mostly one or two.

Some other difference is that there is no final document in the crisis committees. No resolution paper exists. Instead, different documents are written throughout the committee. These documents are separated into two groups: directives and others. Directives are the documents participants write to take immediate or a later-planned actions within the committee. Moving soldiers from a place to another may be an example. There are three main types of directives: individual, joint and committee. As it is pretty obvious by the names of them, they differ by the number of authors. There are also information directives which are written in order to get information about the situations, assets, etc. How the procedure goes is that once a directive is written, the author(s) present it to the chairboard and they evaluate it before sending it to the crisis team for updates. Since the chairboard also has allocations, delegates may not feel comfortable sharing their directives with them. It may be a private matter, a secret plan or even an assassination. At such times, delegates may mark their directives as top secret and those directives will go to the crisis team directly. Other types of documents include press releases, declarations etc.

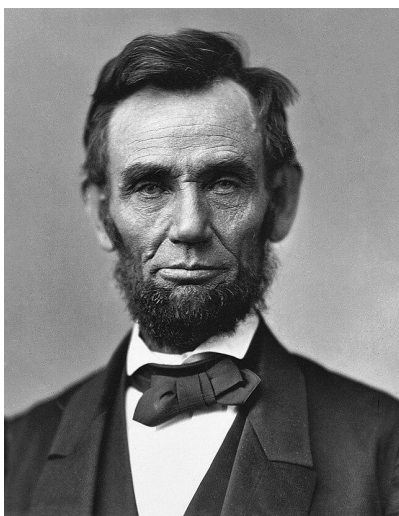
Lastly, caucuses of crisis committees are divided into three groups: moderated, unmoderated and semi-moderated. First two are the caucuses that every committee has. Semi-moderated is a little different. In these, there is no individual speaking time. Delegates may speak as much as they wish to. Thus, when giving a motion for a semi-moderated caucus, specifying only the total time is enough. Delegates must remain seated throughout the caucus just like in moderated caucuses. These types of caucuses are used because it is enabling the debate to run more smoothly without the delays of the chairboard asking for speakers or show of placards.

5. Introduction to the Agenda

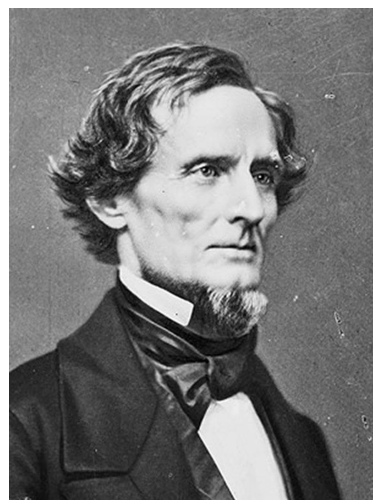
The American Civil War was a defining moment in the history of the United States, fought between 1861 and 1865. The conflict arose from long-standing tensions between the northern and southern states, primarily over issues related to governance, economy, and society. As these divisions deepened, the country found itself at a breaking point, leading to the secession of several southern states and the formation of the Confederacy. The war officially began when Confederate forces attacked a federal fort, marking the start of a brutal and prolonged struggle that would shape the future of the nation.

Throughout the war, both the Union and the Confederacy mobilized vast resources, leading to some of the most intense and devastating battles in American history. The conflict extended beyond the battlefield, influencing politics, society, and the economy on a massive scale. The war also became a turning point for social change, particularly in terms of freedom and civil rights. As the fighting raged on, the nation grappled with questions of unity, loyalty, and the very definition of democracy. The sacrifices made during this time left a profound impact on the American people, altering their sense of national identity and purpose.

By the time the war ended in 1865, the United States faced the immense challenge of reconstruction and healing. Although the Union had been preserved, the war left deep scars—both physically and emotionally—on the country. The process of rebuilding was long and difficult, as the nation struggled to integrate millions of newly freed people into society while also addressing lingering regional tensions. While the Civil War resolved the immediate crisis of secession, many of the issues at its core, such as racial equality and federal versus state power, continued to shape American history for generations. Ultimately, the war's legacy would extend far beyond the battlefield, influencing the nation's path toward progress and justice.



Abraham Lincoln



Jefferson Davis

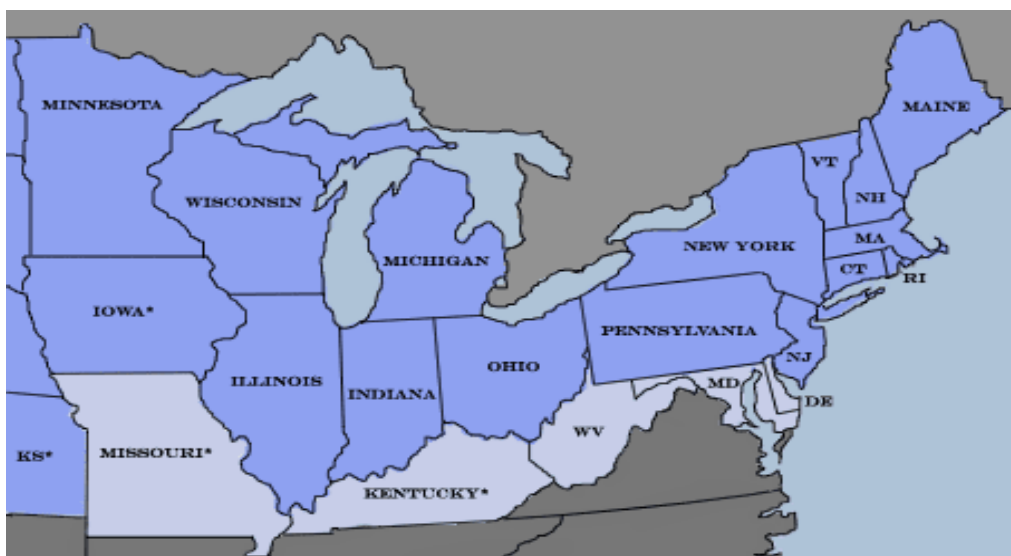
6. The Union and the Confederacy

The American Civil War was fought between two opposing factions: the Union (also known as the North) and the Confederacy (also known as the South). The war lasted from April 12, 1861, to April 9, 1865, though some smaller battles and surrenders continued into the following months. The war arose from long-standing disputes over states' rights, economic differences, and, most significantly, slavery. As tensions escalated, several southern states seceded from the United States, forming their own government, which led to an armed conflict that became the deadliest war in American history.

The Union (The North)

The Union represented the United States federal government, which sought to preserve the country by preventing the secession of southern states. It was led by President Abraham Lincoln, who took office on March 4, 1861. Initially, the Union consisted of 23 states, including populous and industrially developed regions such as New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. Four additional states—Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware—were known as border states because they allowed slavery but remained loyal to the Union. The Union later gained another state, West Virginia, which split from Confederate Virginia and was officially admitted into the Union on June 20, 1863.

The Union had significant economic and military advantages, including a larger population of approximately 22 million people, a well-developed railroad network, a strong manufacturing industry, and a more organized financial system. It controlled the U.S. Navy, allowing it to impose a blockade on Confederate ports, which crippled the southern economy by restricting trade and supplies. However, early in the war, the Union struggled with military leadership, as many of the best-trained officers had resigned from the U.S. Army to fight for the Confederacy.



The Union's initial goal was to preserve the United States, but as the war continued, it also became a fight to end slavery. On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that enslaved people in Confederate-held territories were free. This shifted the war's purpose, discouraging foreign nations from supporting the Confederacy and allowing the Union to recruit nearly 200,000 Black soldiers into its army. The Union's war effort became more aggressive under General Ulysses S. Grant, who took command of all Union armies in March 1864. By 1865, the Confederacy was on the verge of collapse, and the war ended when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. However, some Confederate forces continued to resist, with the last significant surrender occurring on June 23, 1865.

The Confederacy (The South)

The Confederate States of America (CSA) was formed by states that seceded from the Union in response to Lincoln's election in 1860. The first seven states to secede were South Carolina (December 20, 1860), Mississippi (January 9, 1861), Florida (January 10, 1861), Alabama (January 11, 1861), Georgia (January 19, 1861), Louisiana (January 26, 1861), and Texas (February 1, 1861). These states believed that Lincoln and the northern states would eventually abolish slavery, which was the foundation of their economy and society. After the war began, four more states joined the Confederacy (Virginia (April 17, 1861), Arkansas (May 6, 1861), Tennessee (May 7, 1861), and North Carolina (May 20, 1861)), bringing the total to 11 states. The Confederacy was officially formed on February 8, 1861, and originally established its capital in Montgomery, Alabama, before moving it to Richmond, Virginia, in May 1861.

The Confederacy was led by President Jefferson Davis, who was inaugurated on February 18, 1861. Unlike the Union, the Confederacy had a smaller population—only about 9 million people, including nearly 4 million enslaved individuals. This meant that the South had fewer soldiers available to fight, and its industrial capacity was far weaker than that of the North. However, the Confederacy had several military advantages, including superior military leadership and a defensive strategy, as its forces primarily fought on familiar southern territory. Some of its most famous commanders included General Robert E. Lee, General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, and General James Longstreet.

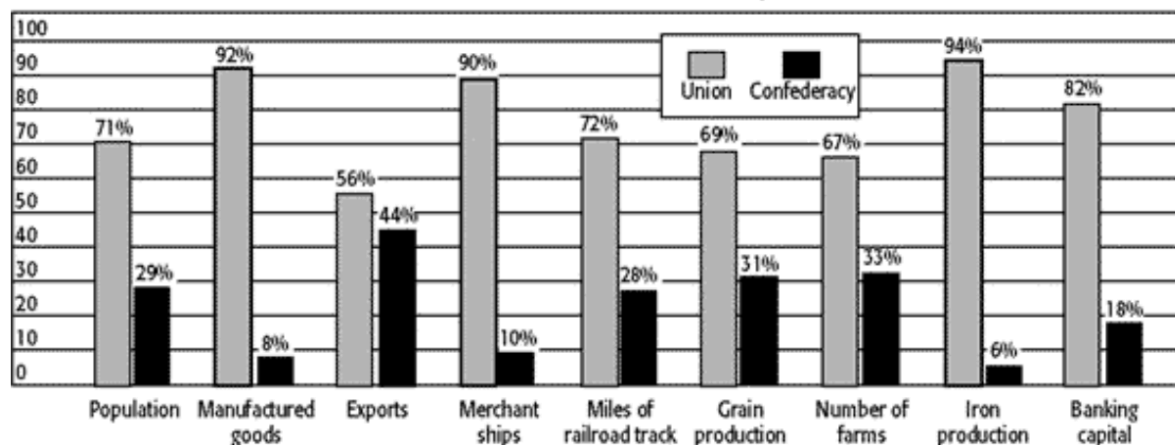


The Confederacy aimed to secure its independence and maintain its social and economic system, which was heavily dependent on slavery. Southern leaders hoped that European powers like Britain and France would support them due to their reliance on Southern cotton, but this support never fully materialized. The South faced increasing hardships as the war progressed, particularly due to the Union blockade that cut off essential supplies. By 1864, the Confederate army was struggling with shortages of weapons, food, and soldiers. After suffering a series of devastating defeats—especially after Union General William Tecumseh Sherman’s “March to the Sea” in late 1864—the Confederate government collapsed. On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered to Grant, effectively ending the war, though some resistance continued until June 23, 1865, when Cherokee Confederate General Stand Watie became the last Confederate commander to surrender.

7. Background Information

The American Civil War did not begin suddenly in 1861; it was the result of decades of rising tensions between the North and the South. These tensions were primarily caused by differences in economy, political ideology, and slavery. While the North developed an industrial economy with wage labor, the South relied on plantation agriculture and the labor of enslaved African Americans. These fundamental differences created conflicts over national policies, state rights, and the expansion of slavery into new territories.

Resources of the Union and of the Confederacy



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

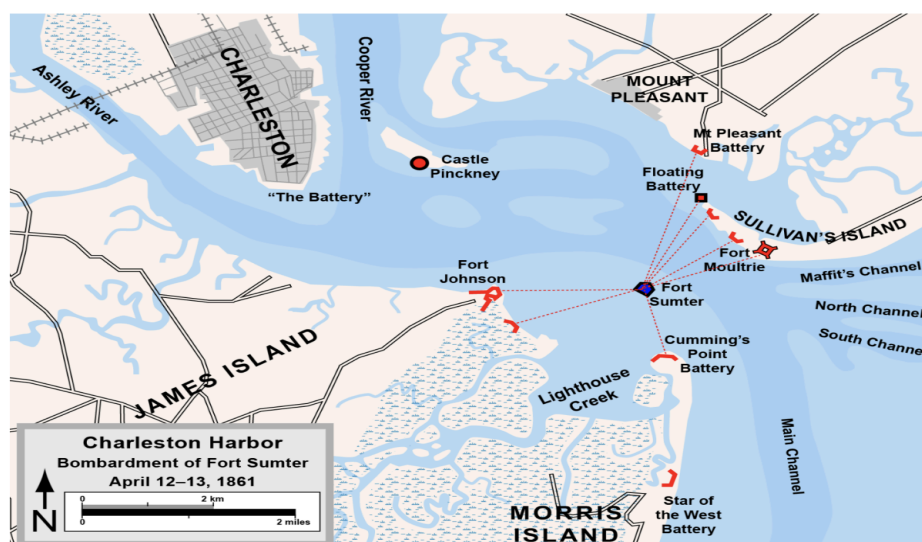
One of the earliest efforts to prevent conflict over slavery was the Missouri Compromise of 1820. This law admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state, maintaining a balance between slave and free states in the Senate. It also banned slavery in new territories north of the 36°30' latitude line. However, as the U.S. expanded westward, the issue of whether new states should allow slavery continued to cause disputes. The Compromise of 1850 was another attempt to settle these tensions. It admitted California as a free state but allowed territories like Utah and New Mexico to decide for themselves whether to permit slavery. The compromise also strengthened the Fugitive Slave Act, which required

citizens in free states to help capture and return escaped enslaved people. This law outraged many Northerners and increased anti-slavery sentiment.

Tensions escalated further with the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. This law repealed the Missouri Compromise and allowed the people of Kansas and Nebraska to vote on whether to allow slavery, a concept known as popular sovereignty. This led to violent conflicts between pro-slavery and anti-slavery settlers, known as “Bleeding Kansas.” Meanwhile, national politics became increasingly divided. The newly formed Republican Party, founded in 1854, strongly opposed the expansion of slavery. In 1857, the Supreme Court issued its controversial ruling in the Dred Scott v. Sandford case, declaring that African Americans were not citizens and that Congress had no power to prohibit slavery in the territories. This decision enraged the North and strengthened the abolitionist movement. In 1859, abolitionist John Brown attempted to start a slave rebellion by attacking the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. His raid failed, and he was executed, but his actions deepened the divide between North and South.

The final breaking point came with the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860. Lincoln, a Republican, opposed the expansion of slavery but assured the South that he would not interfere where it already existed. However, Southern leaders saw his election as a direct threat to their way of life. In response, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union on December 20, 1860. Over the next few months, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas also seceded. These states formed the Confederate States of America in February 1861, electing Jefferson Davis as their president. After Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, he made it clear that he did not recognize secession and vowed to preserve the Union.

The first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter, a Union-controlled fort in Charleston, South Carolina. The fort was low on supplies, and Lincoln attempted to send provisions. However, before the supply ships could arrive, Confederate forces under General P.G.T. Beauregard bombarded the fort on April 12, 1861. After 34 hours of relentless shelling, the Union troops, commanded by Major Robert Anderson, were forced to surrender. Although no one was killed in the battle itself, this event officially marked the start of the Civil War. In response, Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to suppress the rebellion, prompting Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina to secede and join the Confederacy.



At the start of the war, both sides believed the conflict would be short. The Union had significant advantages, including a larger population, industrial resources, and a stronger navy, while the Confederacy relied on its superior military leadership and the advantage of fighting on familiar territory. The first major land battle of the war took place in northern Virginia on July 21, 1861, near a small stream called Bull Run (known in the South as the First Battle of Manassas). Union forces, led by General Irvin McDowell, launched an attack on Confederate troops commanded by Generals Joseph E. Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard. At first, the Union army seemed to have the upper hand, but Confederate reinforcements arrived, and General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson earned his famous nickname for standing firm against Union assaults. By the afternoon, Confederate forces launched a counterattack, causing the Union army to retreat in a chaotic panic back to Washington, D.C. The battle resulted in a Confederate victory and shattered the North’s belief that the war would be easy or short.

Over the next few years, the war expanded across multiple fronts, including the Eastern Theater, centered in Virginia and Maryland, and the Western Theater, which included Tennessee, Mississippi, and the Mississippi River region. One of the key turning points of the war was the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest single day in American history. Though the battle ended in a tactical draw, it halted Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s invasion of the North and gave Lincoln the opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Announced in September and taking effect on January 1, 1863, the proclamation declared that all enslaved people in Confederate-held territories were free. While it did not immediately free anyone, it changed the war’s purpose, making it a fight against slavery and discouraging European nations from supporting the Confederacy.

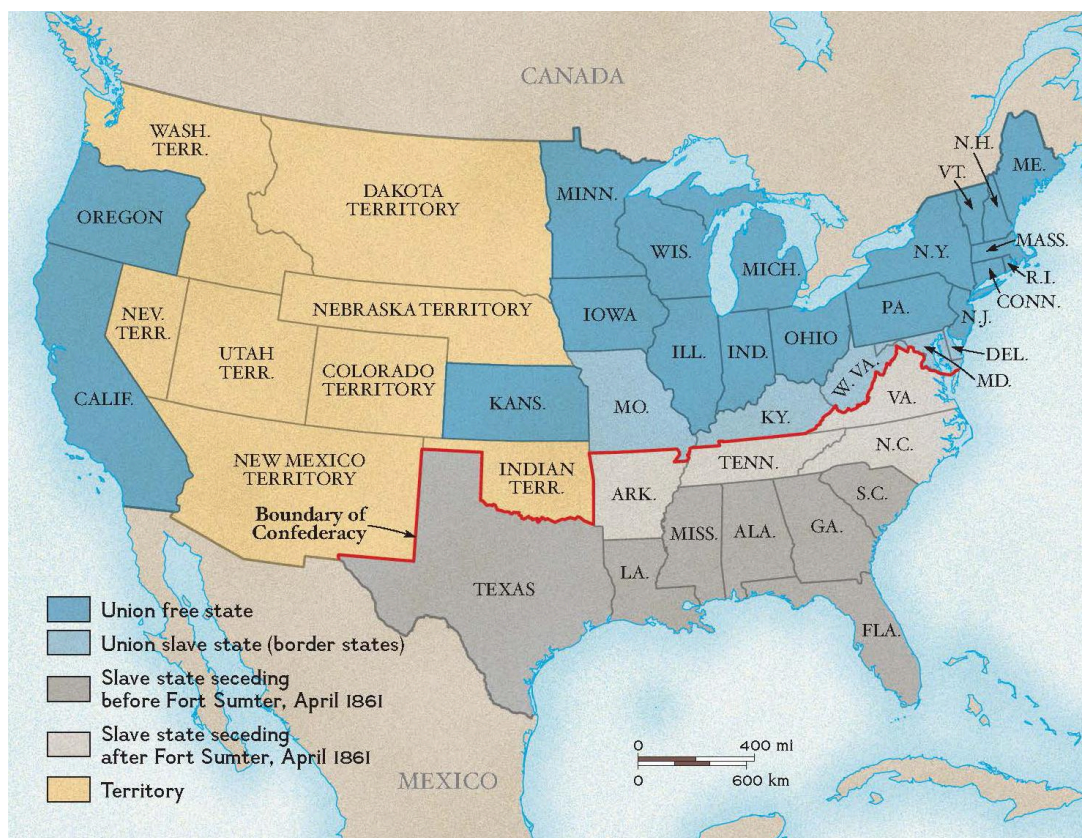


In the summer of 1863, two decisive battles shifted the momentum of the war. The Battle of Gettysburg, fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863, resulted in a major Union victory and marked the last time Lee would attempt an invasion of the North. Just one day later, on July 4, the Union won another crucial victory in the West at the Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, giving them full control of the Mississippi River and splitting the Confederacy in two. These victories significantly weakened the South’s ability to continue the war. In

November, Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, a brief but powerful speech that redefined the war as a struggle for national unity and human equality.

By 1864, Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant adopted a strategy of total war, aiming to destroy the South's ability to fight. General William Tecumseh Sherman led his infamous "March to the Sea," in which his troops captured Atlanta in September and then moved through Georgia, destroying railroads, plantations, and supplies. This strategy devastated the Southern economy and morale. Meanwhile, Grant engaged Lee's forces in a series of brutal battles in Virginia, pushing them toward eventual defeat. By early 1865, the Confederate government was collapsing. Union forces captured Richmond, the Confederate capital, on April 3, 1865. Just days later, on April 9, General Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the war. Some Confederate forces continued fighting until late May, but the Confederacy was finished. Tragedy struck the nation when Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, just days after the surrender, by Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth. His death left the country in mourning and complicated the process of Reconstruction.

The Civil War was the deadliest conflict in American history, with an estimated 620,000 to 750,000 soldiers killed, along with countless civilian casualties. The war abolished slavery, strengthened the power of the federal government, and set the stage for future civil rights struggles. However, the wounds of the war, particularly in the South, would take generations to heal, and many of the racial and regional divisions it exposed continued to shape American history long after the last shots were fired.



8. Important Events and Timeline

1. Election of Abraham Lincoln (November 6, 1860): Lincoln's election as the first Republican president led Southern states to believe that slavery would be threatened, prompting secession.

2. Secession of Southern States (December 1860 – June 1861): South Carolina seceded first, followed by ten other states, forming the Confederate States of America under President Jefferson Davis.

3. Attack on Fort Sumter (April 12–13, 1861): Confederate forces fired on the Union-held fort in Charleston, South Carolina, leading to its surrender and marking the official start of the Civil War.

4. First Battle of Bull Run (July 21, 1861): The first major battle, fought in Virginia, resulted in a Confederate victory and proved that the war would not be short or easy.

5. Battle of Fort Donelson (February 1862): Union forces under Ulysses S. Grant captured this key Confederate fort in Tennessee, opening the way for further advances into Southern territory.

6. Battle of Shiloh (April 6–7, 1862): One of the bloodiest battles of the war, fought in Tennessee, where Union forces defeated the Confederates but suffered heavy casualties.

7. Capture of New Orleans (April 25–May 1, 1862): Union forces captured the South's largest port city, gaining control of the Mississippi River's southern entrance.

8. Battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862): The bloodiest single day in American history, ending in a strategic Union victory and leading Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

9. Emancipation Proclamation (January 1, 1863): Declared enslaved people in Confederate-held territories free, shifting the war's focus to ending slavery and discouraging European support for the Confederacy.

10. Battle of Chancellorsville (April 30 – May 6, 1863): A major Confederate victory, but General "Stonewall" Jackson was mistakenly shot by his own men and later died.

11. Battle of Gettysburg (July 1–3, 1863): A turning point in the war where Union forces repelled Robert E. Lee's second invasion of the North, leading to heavy Confederate losses.

12. Siege of Vicksburg (May 18 – July 4, 1863): The Union captured this Confederate stronghold, securing control of the Mississippi River and effectively splitting the Confederacy in two.

13. Gettysburg Address (November 19, 1863): Lincoln's famous speech, redefining the war as a struggle for freedom, democracy, and national unity.

14. Battle of the Wilderness (May 5–7, 1864): The beginning of Grant's aggressive Overland Campaign against Lee in Virginia, resulting in heavy casualties on both sides.

15. Battle of Cold Harbor (May 31 – June 12, 1864): A disastrous Union assault on Confederate trenches, one of Grant's costliest mistakes.

16. Sherman's March to the Sea (November – December 1864): Union General Sherman's campaign of total war through Georgia, destroying Confederate supplies and morale.

17. Fall of Richmond (April 3, 1865): Union forces captured the Confederate capital, signaling the imminent collapse of the Confederacy.

18. Surrender at Appomattox Court House (April 9, 1865): General Lee surrendered to General Grant, effectively ending the Civil War.

19. Assassination of Abraham Lincoln (April 14, 1865): Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth just days after the war ended, shocking the nation and complicating Reconstruction.

20. Final Confederate Surrender (May 1865): The last Confederate forces surrendered, officially marking the end of the war.

9. References

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