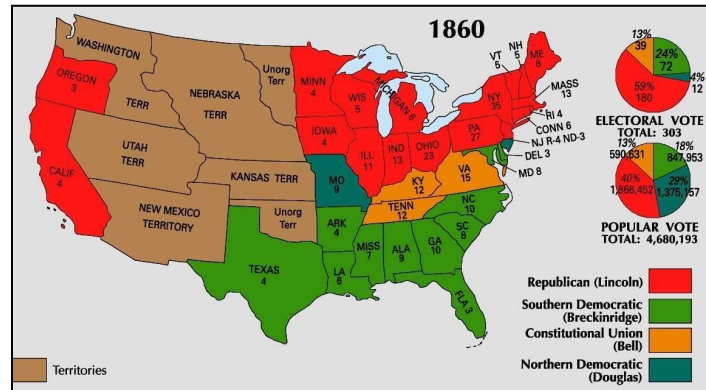


Background

On November 6, 1860 the United States of America held their general election. The race for president was especially contentious this year, as it was between four major candidates.

These key four were Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, John Breckinridge, and John Bell. After all the ballots were cast, the winner was the Republican nominee from Illinois: Abraham Lincoln. This election confirmed the



fears of many white Southerners, as they realized that they could never win another presidential election due to Northern dominance of the electoral college. In the South, it was widely believed that Lincoln would abolish slavery if he were elected, therefore his victory was not well received by the Southern states. South Carolina even went as far as to threaten secession in the event of Lincoln's victory. On December 20, 1860, a convention was held to announce the secession of South Carolina from the Union.

Shortly after South Carolina's withdrawal from the Union, its sister states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, all seceded from the Union. The states Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia all threatened to secede as well, but they needed a proper push to do so. This "push" came when President Lincoln ordered 75,000 additional troops after the attack on Fort Sumter.

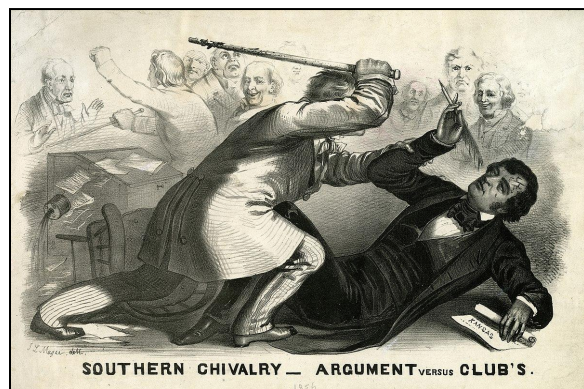
On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops fired upon Fort Sumter in South Carolina – a Union military base. In response, President Lincoln ordered the naval vessel, *Harriet Lane*, to

deliver food and water to the Union troops in Fort Sumter. Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, had ordered his troops to fire upon any vessel meant to provide supplies to the Union forces in Fort Sumter. This led to a short battle that ended in Union forces surrendering the fort. This short lived conflict is considered to be the beginning of the Civil War.

Key Events

Bleeding Kansas (1854-1859): Started after Stephen Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed. "Free soilers" (pro-slavery supporters) came rushing into the Kansas territory and established settlements to vote in the upcoming popular sovereignty election. In this, it would determine whether the Kansas territory should become a free state or a slave state. Violence erupted between these two opposing groups and heavy bloodshed was the result. This conflict is considered to be a prelude to the Civil War.

Bleeding Sumner (1856): Massachusetts senator Charles Sumner gave a speech denouncing the Kansas-Nebraska Act. In this speech, he insulted the South Carolinian senator Andrew Butler, which enraged Representative Preston Brooks— Butler's cousin. In culminating rage, Brooks walked into Sumner's office and nearly beat him to death with his cane. Sumner's injuries prevented him from returning to his seat in Congress until 1859, and Brooks



resigned before getting re-elected by his constituents. This is one of the biggest acts of extremism seen in Antebellum era America, and the disdain for it emboldened the Republican Party— allowing them to become significantly more dominant in the North.

First Bull Run (1861): The Union originally figured it would take them 90 days to force the eleven Southern states back into the union. General Irvin McDowell led his Union army on a mission to attack Richmond: the capital of the Confederacy, yet the army was intercepted by General P.G.T Beauregard and his Confederate army at Manassas Junction. The Confederates were able to defeat the Union at this battle, which ended the Northern belief of a short war—encouraging further war preparation. On the other hand, the victory led the South to believe in a short-lived war, bringing enlistment numbers to go downward.

Antietam (1862): This was the first attempt by Confederate General Robert. E. Lee to invade the North. He invaded the border state Maryland in hopes to swing it into seceding, but the sight of the Confederate army instead pushed the state into further supporting the Union. In stumbling across General Lee's battle plans, Union general George McClellan commanded the Union army



to repel the Confederates, forcing them into a retreat. September 17, 1862 would later be known as the “Bloodiest Day of the War,” due to the fact that Antietam had amassed 22,720 casualties. This victory allowed Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, veering the entire course of the

war. Abolishing slavery, this proclamation made the war’s focus upon slavery. This prevented the diplomatic intervention of Britain and France in the war, which is what the Confederacy had been aiming for to cruise towards victory. In McClellan’s failure to pursue Lee and potentially end the war, he was replaced by Ambrose Burnside.

Gettysburg (1863): The final attempt by Lee to invade the North. He wanted to invade through Pennsylvania in order to put pressure on Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C., which

he hoped would lead to a Union surrender. The battle went on for three days and after the failure of General Pickett's Charge, the confederacy surrendered and retreated thus ending any hope for a confederate victory and completely ended any chance of the confederacy receiving foreign aid. This battle was considered the "Bloodiest Battle of the War" with over 50,000 casualties.

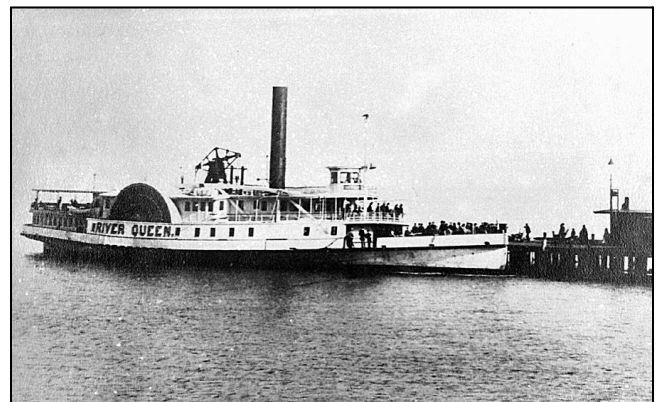
Considered the turning point of the war for the Union.

Siege of Petersburg (1864-ongoing): After General Ulysses S. Grant was put in charge of the Union army; he began a campaign to chase after Lee. This pursuit led him to the city of Petersburg. The siege began on June 9, 1864. As of the day of this conference (April 1, 1865) Grant fully believes that the siege will be successful and end very soon.

Election of 1864: In 1864, Lincoln was up for re-election and his main opponent was former Union general, George McClellan. The war was very unpopular in the North, and many viewed that it had gone on for too long and had accumulated too many casualties. This sentiment allowed the Peace Democrats or "Copperheads" to gain enough support to make Lincoln believe he would be unable to win re-election. The Confederacy viewed this election as their last hope to win the war. If McClellan won he, unlike Lincoln, would be willing to settle for peace with the Confederacy and allow slavery to persist in the South. After a massive series of Union victories and the allowance of soldiers to vote, Lincoln was able to win re-election.

Hampton Roads Peace Conference

(1865): On February 3, Lincoln and William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the Union, met with Confederate diplomats, those being Alexander Stephens, John Campbell, and Robert Hutch. This conference was top secret



and done on the river boat *River Queen* and ultimately resulted in nothing because Lincoln

refused to compromise on allowing the Confederacy to continue. Lincoln proposed the idea of compensated emancipation in which the government would pay slave owners \$300 for each slave. Seward disagreed with this plan and when submitted to Lincoln's cabinet, all of them disagreed with the idea and stopped it from going to Congress.

Factions

Radical Republicans: Was a group that believed that the main purpose of the war was to end slavery. Highly critical of Lincoln's policies, believing they were not aggressive enough (especially regarding rights for Black Americans). They created the Joint Committee on the Conduct of War, whose main purpose was to keep the executive in check. The committee investigated Lincoln's wartime decisions and monitored the progress of the Union. The minimum for them to broker peace was the complete abolishment of slavery, citizenship for the freed slaves, and suffrage for Black Americans.

Republicans: Group that believed the main purpose of the war was to preserve the Union. Wanted the end of slavery, but unlike the radicals they were not too concerned over providing rights to the slaves once they were freed. The majority of Republicans, also referred to as "moderates", were highly supportive of Lincoln and his decisions.

War Democrats: Members of the Democratic Party that were in favor of the war continuing. Believed the maintenance of the Union was the highest priority. In 1864, the faction briefly merged with the Republicans to form the Union party to better Lincoln's chances of re-election. The group decided on Andrew Johnson as his running mate.

Peace Democrats (Copperheads): Members of the Democratic Party that opposed the war. A few members of the faction were deported to the Confederacy due to their opposition to the Republican government. In 1864, they selected former Union General George McClellan as their

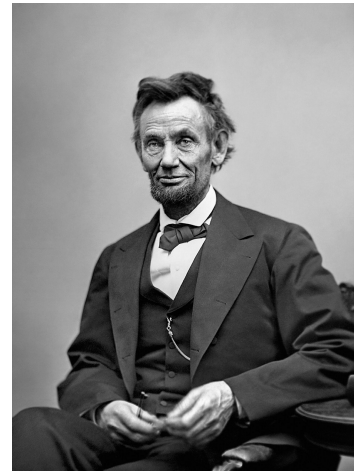
presidential candidate. They mostly desired to conclude the war in order to save Northerners' lives and end the bloodshed.

Confederates: Consisting of eleven Southern States, this faction seceded from the Union due to the fear of "Northern Tyranny." They opposed the Northern States and did not wish to abolish slavery as it was their means to making a living. The party heavily favored states' rights over federal rights as they believed the federal government did not best represent the individual man.

Key Players

Union:

Abraham Lincoln: President of the Union during the Civil War. His election directly led to the secession of the Southern States. His unwillingness to settle without the Confederacy being readmitted to the Union was among the largest reasons for the war going on for as long as it did. He issued the Emancipation of Proclamation and gave the Gettysburg Address.



Andrew Johnson: Vice President of the Union after Lincoln's re-election.

William H. Seward: Lincoln's Secretary of State. Was a leading Republican and fought for the abolition of slavery throughout his political career.

Edwin Stanton: War Democrat who became a Republican in 1862. He served as Lincoln's Secretary of War.

Benjamin Wade: Member of the Radical Republicans, chairman of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of War.

Thaddeus Stevens: Representative from Pennsylvania. Was an important member of the Republican party and consistently fought for the rights and freedoms of black Americans.

Charles Sumner: Famously beaten by a cane, Republican Senator from Massachusetts.

Ulysses S. Grant: Leader of the Union army in the western theater until he took command of the entire Union army after the Battle of Gettysburg.

William Tecumseh Sherman: Grant's right hand man, took control of the western theater after Grant was given command of the entire Union army.

Winfield Scott: Commanding Union General. He devised the Anaconda Plan which the Union used as their primary strategy throughout the Civil War.

William Rosecrans: Union General. He was rivals with General Ulysses S. Grant, and Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton. He was a prominent War Democrat, and he was asked to be Lincoln's running mate in the 1864 election. It is suspected that Edwin Stanton intercepted Rosecrans' telegram to Lincoln regarding his answer, and was thus prevented from being on the Vice Presidential ticket.

George McClellan: Leader of the Union army during the Peninsula Campaign and the Battle of Antietam. He was replaced and reinstated before being replaced again. The Democrats chose him as their candidate in the 1864 presidential election.

Clement L. Vallandigham: Leader of the Copperheads. Was arrested by the U.S. government after he tried brokering peace with the Confederacy and was banished to Tennessee as punishment.

Harriet Beecher Stowe: Prominent abolitionist. She wrote the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which was a novel that showcased the horrors of slavery. The novel was a catalyst for the breaking out of the Civil War.

Frederick Douglass: Runaway slave who became a prominent abolitionist in the North.

William Lloyd Garrison: Considered one of the foremost leaders of the Abolitionist Movement, Garrison gained notoriety for his anti-slavery newspaper entitled, *The Liberator*. Also was the founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

Confederacy:

Jefferson Davis: President of the Confederacy. Davis was committed to gaining independence for the Southern states and allowing them to keep their traditional way of life.

Alexander Stephens: Vice President of the Confederacy and a notorious racist, Stephens met with Lincoln at Hampton Roads to negotiate peace. Stephens refused to accept any terms that abolished slavery.

John Campbell: Assistant Secretary of War for the Confederacy, was part of the committee that met with Lincoln at Hampton Roads.

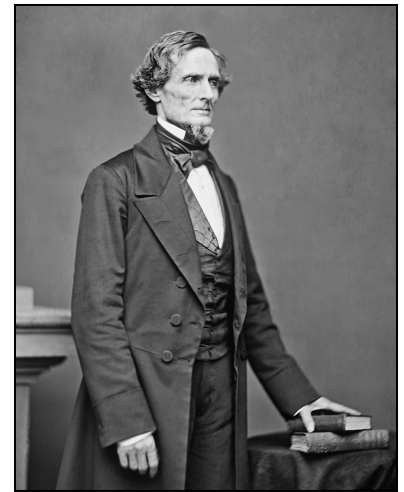
Robert A. Toombs: Confederate Secretary of State, stepped down after a year due to inability to work with Jefferson Davis. Served as a Confederate General afterwards.

Robert Hunter: Virginia Senator, was part of the committee that met with Lincoln at Hampton Roads.

John Breckinridge: Former Vice-President of the United States (served under Buchanan). Abandoned the Union to become the Secretary of War for the Confederacy.

John Tyler: Former President of the United States of America, he defected from the Union and served as a Senator in the Confederacy's Congress.

Robert E. Lee: General of the Confederate Army. Was an incredibly skilled general who managed to gain many victories despite being outnumbered and outgunned.



James Longstreet: General Lee's second in command after Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson was shot and killed at Chancellorsville.

Joseph Wheeler: Confederate military commander who was vital to their success. He led troops to victory in various battles including, Battle of Perryville and Battles of Stones River and Chickamauga.

P.G.T. Beauregard: Confederate General who led the attack on Fort Sumter and also commanded troops in the First Battle of Bull Run.

Nathan Bedford Forrest: Confederate Lieutenant General. He went on to serve as the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan after the war. Union General William Tecumseh Sherman considered killing him a top priority.

Joseph Johnston: Confederate General who led Confederate troops during the First Battle of Bull Run. He was highly critical of Jefferson Davis and disagreed with him on various issues.

Jubal Early: Confederate General who was highly critical of everyone's mistakes but his own. Led the failed Confederate invasion of Washington D.C.

Newton Knight: Confederate farmer who defected from the Confederate States. He helped Jones County, Mississippi secede from the Confederacy.

Questions for Discussion

- Should the war be continued? If so, what should the Union continue fighting for?
- On what terms should the Union settle peace for?
- How should slavery be handled when negotiating peace between the Union and Confederate?
- Can the divide between the Union and Confederates ever be healed?
- How do both the Union and Confederate armies play into this discussion?
- If peace is settled, what would reconstruction look like?
- If the Confederates are offering peace, should the Union accept it?
- Is slavery being prohibited in the Constitution enough? Or should the black community receive more compensation for their years in bondage?

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