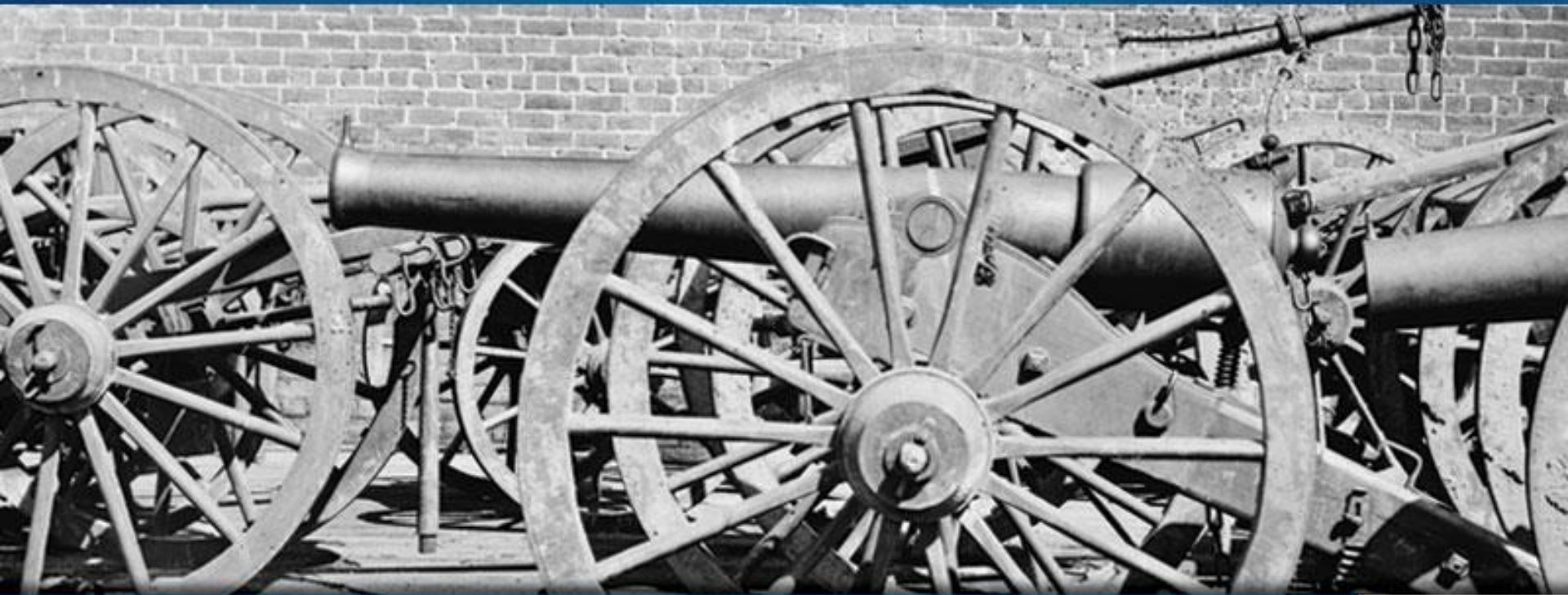


1861: The Country Goes to War



THE Civil War Curriculum

by the CIVIL WAR TRUST | Civilwar.org/curriculum

Endorsed by



Lincoln Elected President

November 6, 1860



Red – Lincoln
Yellow – Bell
Blue – Douglas
Green – Breckinridge
Purple – Non-Voting
Territories



Lincoln Elected President



In the 1860 presidential race, four men ran for president – a northern Democrat, a southern Democrat, an independent, and Lincoln, a republican.

Due to the choice of 4 candidates, Lincoln, carrying the votes of the populous North, won.

Southerners became very fearful that the anti-slavery Republicans would try to change their way of life.



Excerpt, Civilian And Gazette Weekly

November 13, 1860, Galveston, Texas

The Governor [of South Carolina], “earnestly recommended that, in the event of **Abraham Lincoln’s election to the Presidency**, a convention for the people of this State be immediately called to consider and determine for themselves the mode and measure of redress.”

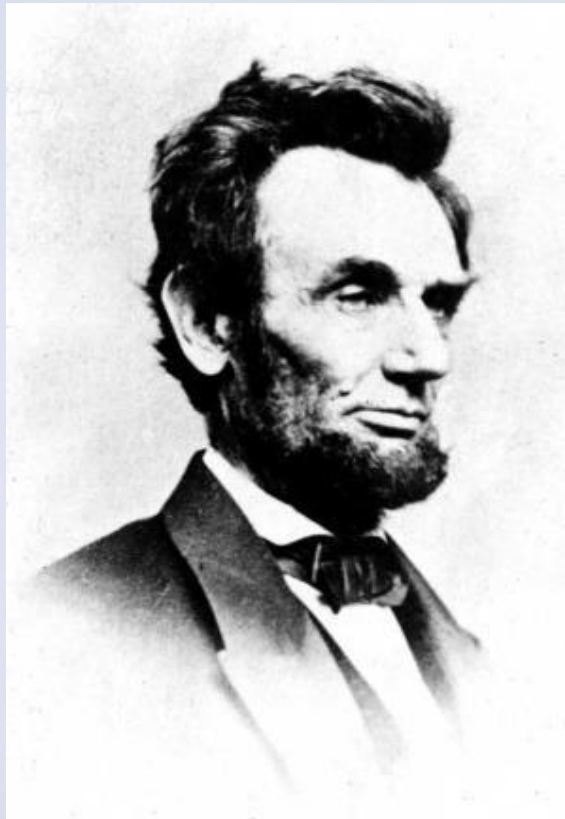
[The Governor stated the following]

"That the only alternative left, in my judgment, is the **secession of South Carolina** from the Federal Union. The indications of many of the Southern States justify the conclusion that the secession of **South Carolina would be immediately followed, if not adopted simultaneously, by them, and ultimately by the entire South....** The State has, with great unanimity, declared that she has the right peaceably to succeed, and no power on earth can rightfully prevent it.”



Excerpt, First Inaugural Address

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America



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.** You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to ‘preserve, protect, and defend it.’



Excerpt, Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union

A geographical line has been drawn across the Union, and all the States north of that line have united in the election of a man to the high office of President of the United States, whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery. He is to be entrusted with the administration of the common Government, because he has declared that that "Government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free," and that the public mind must rest in the belief that slavery is in the course of ultimate extinction.

The guaranties of the Constitution will then no longer exist; the **equal rights of the States will be lost.** The slaveholding States will no longer have the power of self-government, or self-protection, and the Federal Government will have become their enemy.



Secession of South Carolina

December 20, 1860

- On December 20, 1860 South Carolina formally seceded from, or left the Union.
- South Carolina based this action on the basis of states' rights, which they felt the new President, Abraham Lincoln, would violate.
- Within the next six weeks, six other states voted to secede. The Confederate States of America was established.



South Carolina Secedes

December 20, 1860



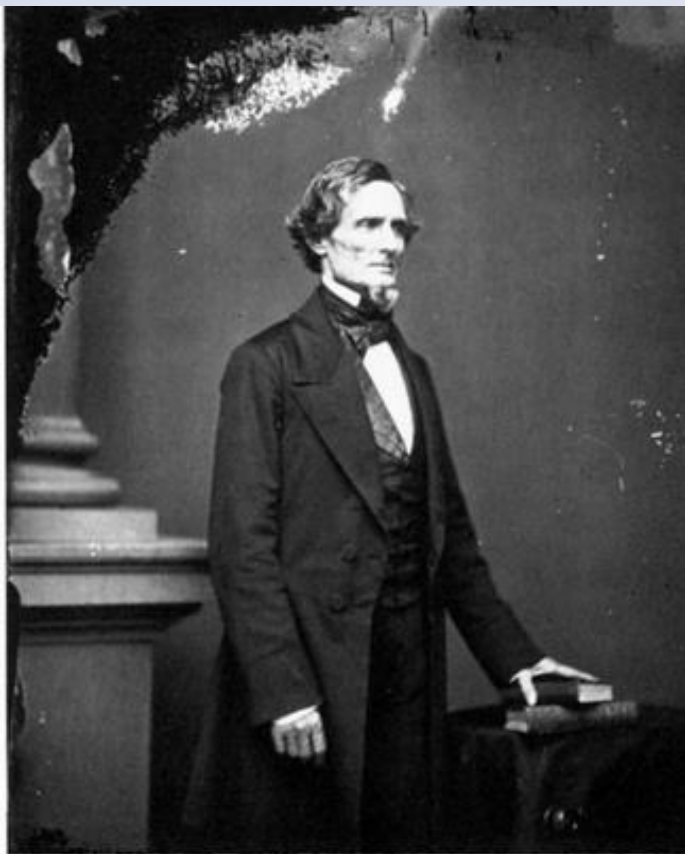
Secession

January & February, 1861



A President for the Confederacy

February 9, 1861



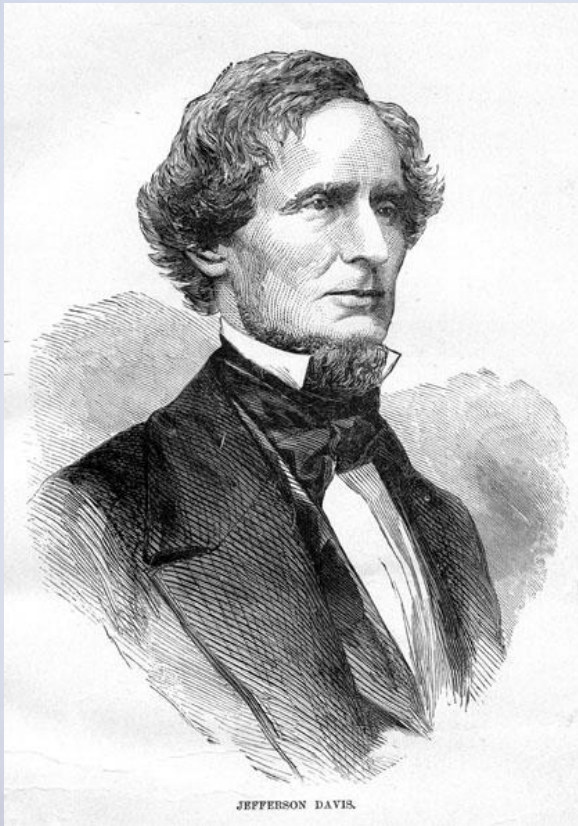
Jefferson Davis is chosen as the President of the Confederate States of America.

He will be elected that November.



Excerpt from the Inaugural Address

Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America



I enter upon the duties of the office to which I have been chosen with the hope that the beginning of our career as a Confederacy may not be obstructed by hostile opposition to our enjoyment of the separate existence and independence which we have asserted, and, with the blessing of Providence, intend to maintain. Our present condition, achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations, illustrates the American idea that governments rest upon the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish governments whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established.



Fort Sumter

April 12, 1861



Located off the coast of South Carolina, Confederate forces fired on the fort, which was unable to effectively fight back. This was done to secure the fort, end a blockade of the port of Charleston & gain munitions. The United States surrendered Fort Sumter, Union forces left the following day.

The firing upon Fort Sumter was the opening engagement of the American Civil War.



Excerpt, Surrender of Fort Sumter Effect of the News at Richmond

April 15, 1861, Richmond Enquirer

The procession had swelled to about three thousand persons, by the time the column halted at the Tredegar Iron Works, to witness the raising of a large Southern Confederacy flag over the main building of the works, which was done by the employees of the establishment. Without delay, the flag was hauled up, the band playing the Marsellaise, and cannon (manufactured at the Tredegar for the use of the Confederate Government) thundered a welcome to the banner of the South.



Virginia Joins the Confederacy

April 17, 1861



- Virginia joins the Confederate States of America.
- Richmond becomes the Capital of the Confederacy



Secession

April & May, 1861



First Manassas (Bull Run)

July 21, 1861



The first major land battle of the American Civil War, The Battle of First Manassas, also known as Bull Run, was fought just outside of Washington D.C.



Excerpt, The New York Times

July 26, 1861, New York

Governor Morgan, it will be seen by his Proclamation, published in another column, has concluded, under the requisition of the President for **more troops, to call for twenty-five thousand additional Volunteers**, to serve for three years, or during the war.

It is expected at Fortress Monroe that Magruder, the rebel commander at Yorktown, **emboldened by the success at Manassas Junction** will make a demonstration in the direction of Hampton or Newport News. All our regiments there are now inside their entrenchments, and ready for him whenever he chooses to show himself.

