

The American Civil War
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When and why did the American Civil War start?

- The Civil War in the United States began in 1861, after decades of simmering tensions between northern and southern states over slavery, states' rights and westward expansion. The election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 caused seven southern states to secede and form the Confederate States of America; four more states soon joined them. The war between the States, as the Civil War was also known, ended in Confederate surrender in 1865. The conflict was the costliest and deadliest war ever fought on American soil, with some 620,000 of 2.4 million soldiers killed, millions more injured and much of the South left in ruin.
- The beginning of the Civil War can be said to have begun when South Carolina seceded from the Union in December, 1860. It was quickly joined by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. Texas also seceded, though it played little part in the war. In February 1861, these states formed the Confederate States of America and elected Jefferson Davis as President.

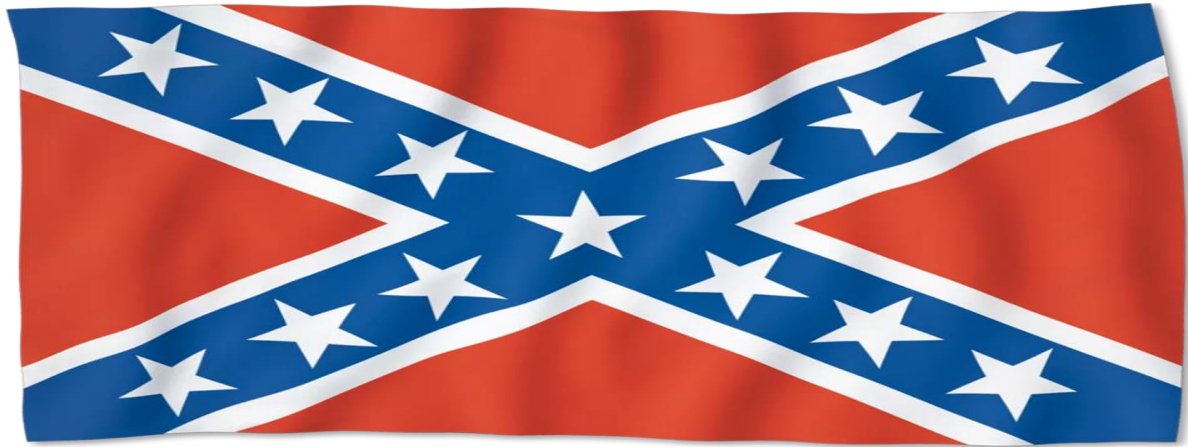


Who Was Apart of The Confederate?

The Confederacy grew to control at least a majority of territory in those eleven states (out of the 34 U.S. states in February 1861), and it claimed the additional states of Kentucky and Missouri by assertions from native secessionists fleeing Union authority.

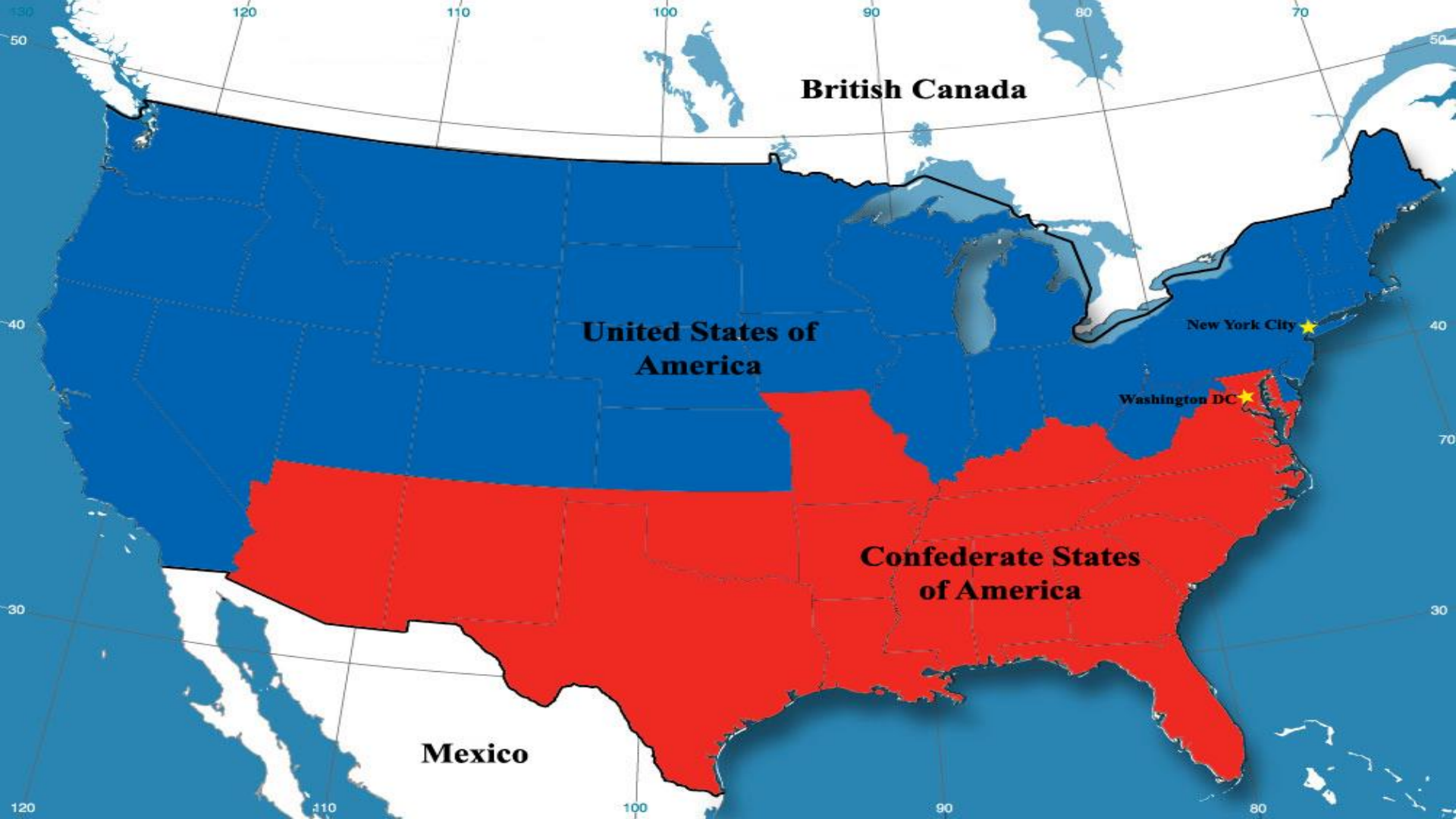
These states were given full representation in the Confederate Congress throughout the Civil War.

The two remaining slave states, Delaware and Maryland, were invited to join the Confederacy, but Delaware declined and nothing substantial developed in Maryland due to intervention by federal troops.



Where the war took place!

- The American Civil War took place in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky and Arkansas, as well as South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia and Washington D.C. Battles also took place in Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama.
- Major battles were Antietam, fought in Maryland in September, 1862, and First and Second Manassas, fought in Virginia in the summer of 1862. Other major battles were Kennesaw Mountain, fought in Georgia in June, 1864 and Shiloh, fought in Tennessee in April of 1862. Naval battles of the Civil War also took place in the Atlantic Ocean.



British Canada

United States of America

New York City ★

Washington DC ★

Confederate States of America

Mexico

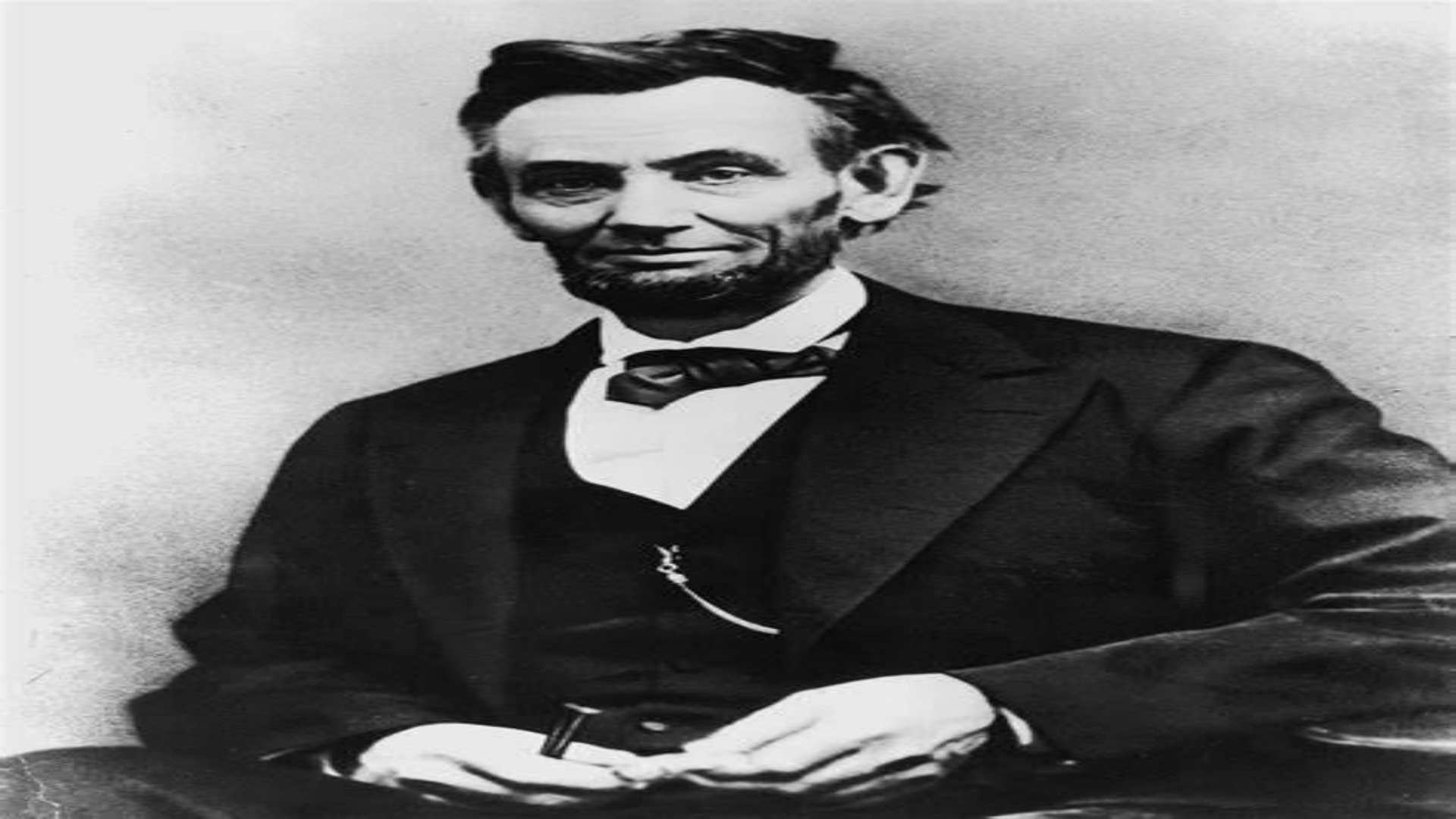
When did the war end?

- The war effectively ended on April 9, 1865, when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at the Battle of Appomattox Court House.
- Confederate generals throughout the Southern states followed suit, the last surrender on land occurring on June 23.
- Much of the South's infrastructure was destroyed, especially its railroads.
- The Confederacy collapsed, slavery was abolished, and four million enslaved Black people were freed.
- The war-torn nation then entered the Reconstruction era in a partially successful attempt to rebuild the country and grant civil rights to freed slaves.



Aftermath of Civil War and Reconstruction

- Lincoln had used the occasion of the Union victory at Antietam to issue a preliminary [Emancipation Proclamation](#), which freed all enslaved people in the rebellious states after January 1, 1863.
- The Emancipation Proclamation deprived the Confederacy of the bulk of its labor forces and put international public opinion strongly on the Union side.
- The Ten Percent plan was a Reconstruction plan for the south put forward by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. The basics of the plan were that a state would be readmitted when 10 percent of its 1860 voting population had taken an oath of allegiance to the Union and accepted the end of slavery.
- Only high rank Confederates such as army officers and government officials would be except from a full pardon for their role in the conflict.
- The plan was deeply unpopular with Radical Republicans in Congress who felt it was much too lenient towards the Confederates.
- In 1865 and 1866 southern states pass "Black Codes" which were laws to restrict the freedom of Blacks in the region.
- In the north these codes were viewed as a way to get around the 13th amendment and to allow slavery to exist under a different name.
- The defining feature of the post-Civil war Black Codes were vagrancy laws which allowed for the newly freed Black population to be arrested and sentenced to hard labor.
- In 1866 the Radical Republican congress reacted by placing the south under military rule as part of their program of Reconstruction and to pass various laws such as the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the 14th Amendment.
- Military reconstruction would last until 1877.



References

- [American Civil War ends – HISTORY](#)
- [Where Did the Civil War Take Place? \(reference.com\)](#)
- A&E Channel (2009, October 15). History Channel:
<https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/>

