

# The Civil War

FROM THE ELECTION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO LEE'S  
SURRENDER AT APPOMATOX COURTHOUSE

- Election of 1860
- Lincoln's victory leads to South Carolina's secession in December, 1860.
- Rational: Nullification Theory
- February, 1861: Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana & Texas vote for secession.
- Their delegates meet in Montgomery, Alabama on 8 February and declare a new nation, the Confederate States of America.

## **The road to Secession**

- Jefferson Davis as president.
- A single-six year term as president.
- A two house Congress & Supreme Court.
- Constitution modeled on the federal version except the supremacy of the States' is enshrined in it.
- Lincoln does nothing provocative for the moment as eight slave states bordering the Union remain loyal.

## **Confederate States of America**

- April 1861: Confederates bombard Sumter outside Charleston Harbor after they have taken over other federal arsenals and forts in their areas.
- 15 April 1861: Lincoln declares insurrection and calls for 75,000 volunteers.
- In response to the insurrection: Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee & Arkansas also leave the Union.
- The Confederate States have 11 states with a population of 9 million of which 3.5 million are slaves.

**Fort Sumter & after...**

- Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri remain undecided.
- Lincoln is determined to keep their loyalty.
- The North has overwhelming advantages in economic, demographic, financial terms.
- The South has a vast territory and plans a 'strategic defense' as the English settlers had done during the War of Independence.
- The South initially has a better caliber of military leaders; Robert E. Lee & James Longstreet

## **The first battle of Bull Run & after...**

- Initially the federal military system is inept and inefficient
- Gradually Union officers of caliber, Sherman & Grant (ultimately Supreme Commander of Federal Armies), emerge
- Jefferson Davis & Abraham Lincoln
- On paper; Davis is more qualified but appearances can be deceptive...

## **The Northern leadership v. the South**

- The Anaconda Plan
- 1862: Battle of Seven Pines
- Second battle of Bull Run
- 1862: Capture of Forts Henry & Donelson
- Battle of Shiloh
- British neutrality
- Blockade Runners
- April 1862: Confederate draft law
- *Ex parte Merryman* (1861)

**The Civil War runs its course**

- Battle of Antietam
- 22 September, 1863: Emancipation Proclamation
- 1 January, 1863 : declares all slaves free in Confederacy
- Slavery continues in Border States
- March 1863: Federal Conscript Act
- July, 1863: Battle of Gettysburg
- 1864-1865: Sherman's drive through the South
- 3 April, 1865: Richmond surrenders
- 9 April, 1865: Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House.

**The Civil War runs its course**