

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TIMELINE



THE SOUTH SECEDES (1861)

South Carolina leads Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas in secession after Lincoln was elected President of the United States. Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina threaten secession as well. In February, the seven seceding states create the Confederate government. They seize Federal forts, including Fort Sumpter.

MARCH TOWARDS WAR

- President Lincoln's inauguration
- Attack on Fort Sumpter
- Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina join the Confederacy.
- West Virginia is formed.
- Slave states, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri did not join the Confederacy.



FIRST BATTLES OF WAR

- First Battle of Bull Run ended in Southern victory and a chaotic retreat for the Union army. Northern General McDowell is replaced with General George B. McClellan.
- Northern Navy allows a successful blockade in Port Royal and then all the Sea Islands of South Carolina.



EARLY EVENTS OF 1862

- General McClellan loses his command after ignoring Lincoln's orders to move.
- The Battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac (to ironclads) happened on March 9th.
- The Battle of Shiloh - heavy losses for both sides. Union won.
- Fort Pulaski, Savannah Harbor, falls to the Union.



SUMMER/FALL 1862

- General McClellan faces Confederate troops in a series of battles in the Peninsula Campaign.
- Stonewall Jackson defeats Union forces at the Battle of Shenandoah.
- General Jackson took Harper's Ferry.
- Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in rebelling states after the bloodiest battle to date - Antietam.



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WINTER 1862/1863

- Confederates win at Fredericksburg, Virginia, and the Union Army struggles to find good leadership.
- General McClellan is replaced by General Burnside, who is replaced by General Hooker. November 1862.
- President Lincoln passes the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring that all slaves in rebelling states are free.

SPRING 1863

- In April, the Confederates win the Battle of Chancellorsville. It is a costly victory with many casualties.
- Union General Grant lays siege to Vicksburg. After six weeks, Confederate General John Pemberton surrendered, giving up the city and 30,000 men.



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SUMMER 1863

- On July 1, a chance encounter between Union and Confederate forces began the Battle of Gettysburg. The North won the battle, but failed to follow Lee as he retreated back to Virginia.

FALL/WINTER 1863

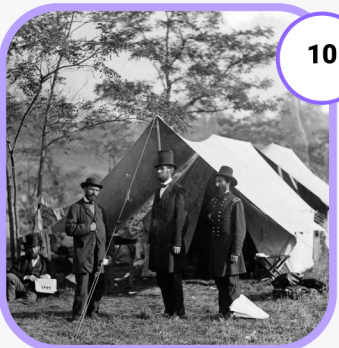
- In September, the South maintained control after the Battle of Chickamauga.
- In November, the North won the Battle of Chattanooga, and opened the way for Sherman's attack on Atlanta.
- Both sides pretty much hunkered down for the winter.



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SPRING 1864

- General Grant, now commander of the Union Army, attacks General Lee repeatedly in the Wilderness Campaign.
- The South was beginning to deeply feel the loss of men. The North could replace their soldiers; the South could not.



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THE SIEGE OF PETERSBURG

The Siege of Petersburg, a ten-month standoff in which the Union army tried to rout the Confederates from their most crucial supply and transportation hub. The siege lasted from June of 1864 through April of 1865. Meanwhile...

SUMMER 1864

- In July, Confederate General Jubal Early leads his troops within five miles of Washington D.C. before he is driven back.
- In August General Sherman marches on Atlanta, and after a short standoff, captures the city on September 1st.



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FALL 1864

- After his victory at Atlanta, General Sherman begins his "March to the Sea." He and his men destroyed factories, bridges, railroads, and public buildings in a path 300 miles in length and 60 miles wide through Georgia. September through November 1864.



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WINTER 1864/1865

- November of 1864, President Lincoln was reelected for a second term.
- December 1864, Sherman captures but does not destroy Savannah, Georgia, and gives the city to the President as a Christmas present.
- Sherman continues his destructive march through the Carolinas.



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APRIL 1865

- General Lee surrenders at Appomattox.
- The Civil War is officially over.
- President Lincoln recommends a peaceful reconstruction.
- President Lincoln is assassinated while watching a stage play with his wife.



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