



## **Emergency White House Meeting of the United States of America, 1862**

**Agenda:** Developing a Coordinated Response to the Confederate Aggression.

**Freeze Date:** 20th September , 1862



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## Chairperson's Address

*"The best way to predict the future is to create it."*

- Abraham Lincoln

This statement made by Abraham Lincoln perfectly captures the essence of our committee in a singular sentence. In order to hope for the best, you have to do your best. Delegates, we are absolutely honoured to welcome you to the Emergency White House Meeting of the United States of America, 1862, where the survival of our Union hangs in the balance.

This committee is set in a period when the Confederate rebellion has reached its zenith, showing its unprecedented levels of audacity and destruction. Exactly three days before our committee, one of the most fatal battles unfolded at Antietam Creek, causing immense casualties. Although the Union efforts paid off, the job is not finished (casual Kobe Bryant reference). Delegates, your objective is to establish a state free from the shackles of slavery and overthrow the Confederates by all means. This battle is just the beginning of your efforts to unite America once again. From political maneuvering to ensuring military dominance, this committee will test your adaptability, strategic foresight, and the ability to read during a time of civic unrest. Did we mention that European third-parties are also eyeing on possible involvement? Brace yourselves delegates, the problems multiply faster than Richmond can print Confederate currency (no shade to the



other committee). As Lincoln's closest advisors, you are equipped with the entire machinery of the Union government, use it to the best of your capabilities.

As your chairpersons, we expect the committee to provide impactful solutions to all of these aforementioned problems, while also being prepared to adapt to the dynamic and ever changing nature of this committee. To succeed in this committee, you need to provide us with fiery speeches, well-crafted paperwork, exceptional leadership and lastly, the determination to ensure victory for the Union. Will this unprecedented meeting rise to the challenge or collapse under the weight of history? We look forward to finding out.

Wishing you all the best!  
Deves Mittal and Agnidip Banerjee,  
Co-Chairpersons,  
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## Letter of Invitation

Dated: September 18, 1862

To whoever it may concern,

If this letter has found its way to your desk, your judgment and character oblige your presence at a juncture of grave national consequence. You are among a select few whose counsel is not only respected but required. The contents of this letter and the matters discussed henceforth are to be treated with utmost confidentiality.

On the morning of **September 20th, 1862**, you are hereby summoned here, to the White House for an Emergency White House Meeting in my presence. The issues involved are pressing, confidential, and serious, related to the very fate of the Republic.

The country remains ever grateful for the courage illustrated by our soldiers in the battle of Antietam, that has won us ground not just on the battlefield, but in history. It is now our task, as trustees of this great Union, to make their sacrifice meaningful, not in words, but in actions.

You each bring critical elements to the table - be it military insight, political acumen, and even the voice of the people. You may disagree in conviction or in approach but the moment calls for your presence, preparation, honesty and unity.



This is not a symbolic gathering. Decisions will be made which may determine the course of the government in the crucial days ahead. Inaction or inefficiency shall bear heavy tolls on the Union. Your voice carries weight, your absence would speak louder still.

Enclosed within are relevant briefings to assist you in your preparation. Should you require further clarification, communicate with my office through the usual secure channels.

I look forward to your attendance.

Let's make America Great Again.

Abraham Lincoln  
President of the United States

The White House, Washington D.C. , USA , 1862



## About Freeze Date and Committee Details

Delegates, please keep in mind that the committee will be taking place on the 20th September, 1862. It is also to be noted that this will be a **Joint Crisis Committee with the Union on one side and the Confederate states on the other**. With regards to the freeze date, it is to be kept in mind that all events which have taken place after the 20th September, 1862 are NOT to be referred to during committee sessions. The Executive Board of this committee has complete jurisdiction over every activity or event that takes place after said freeze date.

Also delegates, as mentioned earlier, this committee will be a **Joint Crisis Committee** and will be working in tandem with the other Joint Crisis Committee, Emergency White House Meeting of the Confederate States of America, 1862. Actions taking place in our committee will be affecting the other aforementioned committee and vice-versa. Please note, there will also be *joint sessions*, where delegates of both the committees will meet, in a fast paced crisis environment. Updates in either of the committees will affect the proceedings in both committees.



## Committee Overview

The Emergency White House Meeting of the United States of America has been called at a time when the fate of the United States itself remains at stake. Members in this committee are the pillars of President Abraham Lincoln's executive administration, including his war advisors, generals, and department heads charged with defining the Union's strategic direction against the Confederate insurrection.

This is not only a policy-making committee but also one that provides real-time governance in wartime. Delegates will have to navigate political turmoil, mobilize war resources, maintain border state loyalty, and, most importantly, decide the direction of the war in the future. All decisions made in this room will have a direct bearing on the survival of the Union.

It is the morning of September 20th, 1862, and while the fields of Maryland are still soaked with the blood of thousands, the nation stands at an unmistakable crossroad. The Battle of Antietam, fought just three days ago, has caused over 22,000 casualties in a single day but as a symbolic turning point in a war that has, until now, seen more questions raised than answers offered. Though General Robert E. Lee's forces have withdrawn and the Potomac once again marks the line between Union and rebellion, President Abraham Lincoln gathers with a growing sense of urgency, burdened not only by the military



implications of recent events but by their political and moral ramifications as well.

Delegates, this committee, exists at a moment where any decision taken by us will change the course of our continent. The Union has seen marginal military success, yet the inability of its generals to decisively end the conflict is beginning to wear heavily on public patience and political capital. As the Confederate army retreats, it is not with defeat but with defiance, and troubling reports indicate that foreign sympathies are planning to sideline the Confederates.

To understand the gravity of this committee, one must first understand its stakes. Over the past year and a half, eleven Southern states have seceded from the Union, forming the Confederate States of America in open defiance of federal authority. The causes of this rupture are long-standing and complex, deeply rooted in disputes over state sovereignty, federal power, and most of all, slavery, an institution that the Southern economy is built upon and the Northern conscience increasingly cannot abide by. When Fort Sumter was fired upon in April 1861, it was not simply a military escalation but was the final spark that set ablaze a nation already soaked in ideological tinder.

The format of this committee reflects the unpredictable nature of the conflict itself. Delegates will represent members of Lincoln's Emergency Meeting and other key Union figures, each armed with individual portfolios, state influence, and policy perspectives. The committee will proceed in a dynamic, communique-heavy, update-driven format which means events will evolve constantly,



shaped both by historical fact and the committee's response to each new crisis. Delegates will be expected to craft directives, engage in backroom negotiations, respond to sudden updates, and draft communiqués that can shape not only military maneuvers but national policy. Simultaneously, a parallel Confederate committee will respond to the same developments, meaning decisions made here can directly impact the actions of your adversaries and vice versa.

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## Timeline of Events

- 1) **30th April 1803-** The Louisiana Purchase occurred in 1803 and was a vast acquisition of territory (828,000 square miles) from France by the United States of America, doubling the size of the nation and encompassing land west of the Mississippi River for \$15 million. The purchase strengthened the country materially and strategically, but it also created a debate over the question of federal powers and state rights since the purchase greatly increased federal powers.
- 2) **1st January 1808-** On March 2, 1807, Congress passed landmark legislation that went into effect on 1st January 1808, and this ended the importation of African slaves to the United States. This act ended the highly lucrative transatlantic slave trade but did allow domestic trade between states to continue.
- 3) **6th March 1820-** The Missouri Compromise became law with the admission of the states of Missouri and Maine into the United States of America and this stipulated the latitude 36 '30 above which slavery could not be permitted.
- 4) **29th December 1845-** In 1836, the Texans had seceded from Mexico and had set up the Republic of Texas wanting to be a part of the US. The US Senate approved the annexation on 27th February, 1845 and President James Polk signed the annexation



bill into law on 29th December, 1845 recognizing Texas as the 28th state of the Union.

- 5) **25th April 1846 - 2nd February 1848-** The Mexican-American War kicked off in 1846 over the US annexation of Texas and a border dispute. The US forces were victorious, and they acquired 500,000 square miles of Mexican territory westward from Rio Grande to the Pacific Ocean. The war reopened the debate over slavery as the Northerners unsuccessfully attempted to include the Wilmot Proviso into the peace treaty, which would have banned slavery in any new territory acquired by the US from Mexico.
- 6) **18th September 1850-** The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which was a part of the broader Compromise of 1850, was passed which caused a great rift between Northern and Southern states. This Act mandated the return of escaped slaves to them even if they were in the free states and made the federal government responsible for finding these slaves.
- 7) **30th May 1854-** The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 created the territories of Kansas and Nebraska and allowed residents to decide whether or not slavery would be legal in their respective states. This led to widespread violence in these states, especially in Kansas, which came to be known as “Bleeding Kansas”.
- 8) **6th March 1857-** In the case of Dred Scott vs. Sanford, the Supreme Court ruled that African Americans could never be



citizens of the United States, upheld the institution of slavery, declared that the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional.

- 9) **6th November 1860-** The Democratic Party split along North-South lines over the issue of slavery. Abraham Lincoln, the presidential candidate of the Republican Party, won the elections despite not being on the ballots of most Southern states. South Carolina became the first state to secede from the United States on 20 December citing reasons of Northern hostility.

**10) *Events which took place in 1861:***

- i) The “Deep South” continues to secede from the Union comprising Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.
- ii) On February 4, representatives from these seven states met in Alabama and created the Confederate States of America. On **March 4**, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States of America.
- iii) Fort Sumter is a sea fort in Charleston Port, South Carolina, built as a part of the US Coastal Defense system. South Carolina had seceded and demanded the surrender of the fort controlled by Union



forces. On **12 April**, Confederate forces surrounded the fort and started bombarding it, marking the start of the American Civil War. The fort surrendered to Confederate forces on **April 13, 1861**.

iv) On **April 15**, Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers for the Union Army to quell what he considered as an “unconstitutional rebellion”. The Upper South consisted of Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee, all of which seceded from the Union ending on **20th May**.

v) On **July 21, 1861**, the first major land battle of the American Civil War occurred known as the First battle of Bull Run and Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee defeated the Union army led by Irwin McDowell.

vi) General George B. McClellan took over command of the Army of Potomac in September 1861. On **November 8**, the Trent Affair occurred between the UK and the Union.

### ***11) Events which took place in 1862:***

i) In February, General Grant captured the Forts Henry and Donelson which opened the Tennessee river to the Union and earned Grant the nickname of “Unconditional Surrender” Grant.



ii) The Army of Tennessee under Major General Grant defeats Confederate forces under Albert Johnson in the Battle of Shiloh from **April 6 to 7.**

iii) New Orleans, one of the largest cities of the Confederacy, was captured by the Union on **1st May**. The Peninsular Campaign which had started in March finally picks up momentum when the Union Army under George B. McClellan captures Yorktown on 4 May. This campaign would end in Union failure in the Seven Days Battle where

Robert E. Lee used 92,000 men expertly to defeat a much larger Union army of 105,000 men.

iv) Robert E. Lee invades the North for the first time and is stopped at the Battle of Antietam on **17th September** which is the bloodiest day in American history with 23,000 American casualties and it is a Union victory.

*20th September 1862- Emergency White House Meeting of the United States of America will be convened by President Abraham Lincoln.*



## Main Causes of the American Civil War

1. **Slavery:** Slavery has been the disease that has been eating away and degrading the American promise of freedom and equality. The Founding Fathers of the nation like Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, were vehemently anti-slavery but were against outlawing slavery entirely because of a fear of losing the support of Southern states, which was crucial during the period of independence of the USA. As such, they hoped to stop the expansion of slavery and believed that slavery would then die a slow, painful death. As years passed, North and South evolved along two different lines. Northern cities began rapidly industrializing, while the Southern climate allowed for large amounts of labour intensive crops mainly cotton. As such, one half of the country was free of slaves while the other half was economically dependent on them. The invention of the **cotton gin by Eli Whitney in 1793** led to the explosion of cotton trade as the cotton gin made it easier and faster to separate cotton fibres from seeds dramatically increasing cotton production. As such, more and more labour was needed to cultivate the cash crops and slowly slavery became entrenched in the Southern economy and culture. Meanwhile, there was a growing abolitionist movement in the North. There was general mistrust between the North and South as the North believed that the South was expanding slavery throughout the country while the South believed that the North was hell bent on taking away the slaves of the South. It was this general mistrust and the events



which followed that led to the culmination in the American Civil War.

2. **The Missouri Compromise-** The Missouri Compromise of 1820 was a law that tried to address the growing sectional tensions in the United States of America over the issue of slavery. The territory of Missouri first applied for statehood in 1817 but Congress did not begin to consider enabling acts to allow the territory to create a state constitution until February 1819. Missouri's attempt to become the first state west of the river Mississippi and question of slavery within its borders set off an intense debate in the Congress which was divided into pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions. In the North, where abolitionist sentiment was growing, most people opposed the expansion of slavery into new territories. During the debate, James Tallmadge of New York attempted to introduce an amendment into the statehood bill that would have ended slavery in Missouri by freeing all children born of slaves after Missouri had become a state and also freeing all slaves once they had reached the age of 25. The amendment bill narrowly passed in the House of Representatives, where the Northerners had a little edge but the Senate immediately rejected the Tallmadge amendment. The following summer, when Congress was out of session, several petitions were generated in the Northern states urging their representatives to deny Missouri's statehood if it entailed the spread of slavery, while the South signed petitions threatening secession if Congress blocked Missouri. The country looked ready to boil over into civil war over the question of slavery. When the House was reconvened in



December 1819, it was faced with a request for statehood by Maine. At the time, there were 22 states; half of them were pro-slavery and the rest were anti-slavery. If Maine couldn't be accepted as a state at the same time as Missouri, then the North would be at a numerical disadvantage in the Senate. Eventually, the Senate decided to tie together Missouri and Maine as an enabling act and added an additional provision excluding slavery from all other lands of Louisiana Purchase north of the 36°30 latitude. Henry Clay who was the Speaker, skillfully led the compromise between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery parties. This Act helped Henry Clay earn the nickname of "Great Pacificator". On 3rd March 1820, the House passed the Senate version of the Bill and President James Monroe signed the bill into law four days later.

- 3. Mexican-American War-** This war pitted a politically divided and militarily underprepared Mexico against the expansionist-minded administration of James Polk who believed that America had a "Manifest Destiny" to spread across the North American continent to the Pacific Ocean. Mexico severed relations with America after the annexation of Texas in March 1845. In September 1845, US President James Polk sent John Slidell on a secret mission to Mexico City to negotiate the disputed Texas border, settle US claims against Mexico and purchase the territories of New Mexico and California for up to \$30 million. Mexican President Jose Joquain Herrera, already aware of the fact that Slidell planned to dismember the country, refused to receive him. In response, the US President ordered troops under General Zachary Taylor to occupy the disputed



territory between Nueces and Rio Grande in January 1846. In May 1846, Polk planned to send a message of war to Congress on the grounds of Mexican refusal to pay US claims and negotiate with Slidell, but he learnt that Mexican troops had crossed the Rio Grande and attacked Taylor's troops, injuring or killing 16 of them. He revised his war message to Congress on May 11 Polk claimed that Mexico had "*invaded our territory and shed American blood on American soil*". Although Congress approved the war, America was politically divided. The Whigs viewed the war as Polk's attempt at more land grabbing. The main issue was whether the encounter had actually taken place or if it had been falsified and the willingness of Americans to acknowledge the Mexican contention that the Nueces river formed the border between the two countries. Active Whig opposition not only to the legitimacy of Polk's claim but also to the war continued itself throughout the war. In December 1846, Polk accused the Whigs of treason. In January 1847, the Whig-controlled House voted 85 to 81 Polk for having "*unnecessarily and unconstitutionally*" initiated war with Mexico. Fierce opposition came from Abraham Lincoln, a representative of Illinois, who in December 1847 introduced the Spot Resolutions which sought to obtain full knowledge of the incident in Rio Grande. Ultimately, the House did not act on Lincoln's resolutions. Northern abolitionists saw this war as an attempt by slave states to extend slavery and enhance their powers with the creation of even more slave states in the newly captured Mexican territories. US forces led by General Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott invaded Mexico and captured key



Mexican territories like Mexico City. The Mexican Army were poorly coordinated, was underprepared, and were easily beaten by the superior American forces. The war ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) with Mexico ceding a vast amount of territory in exchange for \$15 million.

- 4. Compromise of 1850-** The Compromise was a series of bills passed mainly due to address issues related to slavery which has been exacerbated by the election of Zachary Taylor as the President in 1849. The bills provided for slavery to be decided by popular sovereignty in the admission of new states, abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, settled a Texas boundary dispute and established a stricter Fugitive Slave Act. By 1850, sectional disagreements regarding slavery led to the straining of relations between the North and South. Senator Henry Clay looked to solve the problem of slavery through a series of resolutions. In one of the most heated congressional debates in history, the Senate debated Clay's resolutions for seven months.

The important aspects of the Compromise were:-

- a. **Fugitive Slave Act of 1850-** There had already been a Fugitive Slave Act in 1793 but this act was aimed to strengthen the federal government against escaped slaves. Slaves would escape from the South through the Underground Railway, would assume new identities, and live freely in the North. The Commissioner before whom the the fugitive was brought for a hearing would be compensated \$10 if the individual was found to be an



escaped slave and \$5 if the accused was found innocent. In addition, any person aiding and proving a fugitive with shelter and oos would be given six month imprisonment and \$1000 fine. The Act was broadly condemned in the North. It sparked great outrage throughout the North and was seen as moral outrage as well as a violation of personal liberties and freedom. The Northern States refused to enforce the law and passed stronger personal liberty laws which collided with the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The act galvanized the abolitionist movement in the North with more people becoming active in the cause of freeing slaves. Thousands of free blacks fled to Canada, the Caribbean and Africa after the law was passed since their continued freedom was not guaranteed.

- b. **Territorial Changes-** The Compromise of 1850 also admitted California as a free state meaning that slavery was prohibited within its borders. The committee also included the organization of the New Mexico and Utah territories allowing residents to decide whether to permit or abolish slavery through popular sovereignty. The Act also included the abolition of slave trade in the district of Washinton .The Compromise also resolved a dispute between Texas and the new territories by transferring a part of the disputed territory to the federal government, with Texas receiving \$10 million in return.



The Compromise actually heightened tensions by allowing states to decide themselves whether slavery would be legal or not in their respective states like Kansas. The compromise failed to bridge the gap between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions, leading to increased political polarization and sectional hostility. **While the Compromise temporarily averted the secession of the South, it only postponed the conflict which would erupt a decade later in the form of the American Civil War.**

Delegates, in 1852, the famous book **Uncle Tom's Cabin** written by Harriet Beecher Stowe was published. The novel tells the story of a slave named Uncle Tom who is a devout Christian and his story of getting sold to various owners. The book highlights cruelty, injustice, and human crushing effects of slavery. It becomes a massive bestseller, selling over 300,000 copies in the first year. This book exposed the evils of slavery and helped awaken the anti-slavery sentiment in the North. It gave the regular Northerners a vivid, clear and emotional view of what slavery really meant and shifted the moral debate on slavery into mainstream consciousness. Although this is not the main cause of the Civil War but it circulated among people the horrors of slavery causing national awakening.

**5. Kansas-Nebraska Act 1854-** In 1854, Senator Douglas of Illinois presented a bill which became one of the most consequential bills in American legislature history. In 1820, the Missouri Compromise had excluded slavery from the Louisiana Purchase except north of the



36°30 latitude. By the 1850s, there was huge demand to organize the western territories. The Mississippi River had long served as an important highway, but to properly access the western territories, a *transcontinental railroad* was required. Stephen Douglas wanted a northern route of railroad via Chicago, taking the railway through the unorganized Nebraska territory where slavery had been prohibited according to the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Others favoured a southern route through Texas. Stephen introduced a bill treading a middle ground which promised to organize the western territories “with or without slavery” as decided by the people of the state following the concept of popular sovereignty. His Southern Allies forced him to include a clause to repeal the Missouri Compromise. This kicked off one of the most intense debates in the Senate. The Northerners viewed this as an attempt by the South to spread slavery into the entire country and fought back ferociously. On 4 March, the Senate passed the Act 37-14 to pass the bill, which became law on 30th May, 1854. The Northern States viewed the Act as a betrayal of the Missouri Compromise and a Southern attempt to expand slavery.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the Missouri Compromise, created two new territories and allowed for popular sovereignty. It produced further violence called as the “Bleeding Kansas”

**6. Dred Scott vs Sanford-** In 1846, an enslaved black man named Dred Scott and his wife, Harriet sued for their freedom in the St. Louis



Circus Court. They claimed that they were free because they had lived on free territory for a long period of time where slavery was prohibited. What appeared to be a straightforward lawsuit between two private parties became an 11 year legal struggle that culminated in one of the most notorious decisions in Supreme Court history. Scott initially lost his case which worked his way through Missouri Court and finally into the Supreme Court. On its way to the Supreme Court, the case acquired immense popularity as it grew in scope and significance, with slavery becoming the most explosive issue in American politics. On March 6, 1857 Chief Justice Roger B. Taney read the majority opinion of the Court stating that enslaved persons were not citizens of the United States of America and thus could expect any protection from the federal government or the courts undoing years of progress with the strike of a gavel. The opinion also stated that Congress had no authority to ban slavery from a federal territory. He ignored precedent, distorted history, imposed a rather rigid interpretation of the Constitution, ignored specific grants of power and tortured meanings out of obscure clauses. Two justices, John Mclean of Ohio and Benjamin R. Curtis of Massachusetts wrote devastating critics of Taney's opinion showing that Africans -Americans had voted in a number of states at the time of founding.

**7. 1860 Presidential Election-** Following on the heels of the Dred Scott decision which made slavery legal in all states, the Presidential Election of 1860 exposed further sectional differences between both North and South but also in North between those who wanted to abolish slavery and those who wanted to protect the institution. The



then President James Buchanan decided not to run for re-election. The important political parties which participated in the elections were:

- a. **The Republican Party-** The Republican party was created by a mixture of former Whigs, Free Soliers, anti-slavery Democrats, Abolitionists and other anti-slavery activists. The main goal was to prevent the expansion of slavery. The Republican had previously nominated John Freemont in the 1856 election but had lost to Buchanan. The 1860 Republican Party convention at Chicago, Illinois from May 16-18 to decide the Presidential nominee was a pivotal moment in American history. As the convention progressed, it became clear that the frontrunners Seward, Bates and Chase had each alienated parts of the Republican Party. Eventually they nominated Abraham Lincoln for president with Hannibal Hamlin acting as his running mate.
- b. **Democratic Party-** The Democratic Party nomination was chaotic and historic, which resulted in a major split in the party along North and South lines. In the first convention in South Carolina, the Southern Democrats walked out because of the party's refusal to adopt a pro-slavery platform. In the Second Convention at Baltimore, the Northern Democrats nominated Stephen Douglas while the Southern Democrats held their own convention in Kentucky, where they nominated John C. Breckinbridge.
- c. **Constitutional Union Party-** This party was focused on preserving the Union and the Constitution and did not take a



stand on the issue of the slavery. They chose John Bell as the Presidential nominee.

The contests were fought fiercely with Lincoln and Douglas dominant in the North and Bell and Beckinbridge duelling for support in the South. On election day, Lincoln captured slightly less than 40% of the popular vote but he won a majority in the electoral college with 180 electoral college votes by sweeping the North and also winning the Pacific Coast states of New Oregon and California. Douglas won nearly 30% of the vote but won only 12 electoral votes. Breckinridge won 18% of the electoral votes and garnered 72 electoral votes winning most of the South as well as Delaware and Maryland. Bell won 12% of the votes and secured 39 electoral votes. Lincoln did not win any votes in the states that would go on to form the Confederacy. By the time of Lincoln's inauguration in March, seven Southern states had seceded and barely after a month Lincoln had taken office, the country became engaged in civil war.

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## Secession of States

From the 1840s to the 1860s, the Southerners frequently threatened to withdraw from the Union as anti-slavery sentiment in the North grew. The Compromise of 1850 eased some of the sectional strife, but the problem of prohibiting or permitting slavery in the western territories continued to inflame both sides throughout the 1850s. The newly formed Republican Party was formed around the idea that slaveholding would not be permitted in the free territories. The Southerners threatened that the election of a Republican president in 1860 would make secession a necessity. After the election of Lincoln in 1860, a special convention was called in South Carolina on 20th December, 1860, which unanimously passed an ordinance of secession. South Carolina became the first state to secede followed by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas by 1st February 1861. On 4th February, the convention of seceded states open in Montgomery, where they adopt a provisional constitution for the Confederate States which has a few changes from the original US Constitution most notably a clause protecting slavery. Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephens are chosen as the Provisional President and Vice-President of the Confederacy respectively. On March 4, Lincoln was inaugurated as the President of the United States in Washington where he declares secession to be illegal. On April 12, 1861 Confederate forces fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina occupied by Union troops thus officially beginning the *American Civil War*.



Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee joins the Confederacy after the Battle of Fort Sumter with the last secession coming in 8 June, 1861.

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## The Union Government

### Economy

The Civil War had significant impacts on the War economy. The American economy had been caught in transition on the eve of the Civil War. What had been almost purely an agricultural economy in the 1800s was in its first stages of industrial revolution. The North in contrast to the South was an industrial and manufacturing hub. By 1860, 90% of the nation's manufacturing output came from the Northern states. The North produced 17 times more cotton and woollen textiles than the South, 30 times more leather goods, 20 times more pig iron and 32 times more firearms. Although only 40% of the Northern population was engaged in agriculture, the Northern farmers were out producing their Southern counterparts because of a high degree of mechanization in their farming techniques. The Union's industrial and economic capacity soared during the war as the Union continued its rapid industrialization to suppress the rebellion. As the war dragged on, Union's advantages in factories, railways and manpower put the Union at a great advantage. North's large number of railway tracks gave it a distinct advantage. Union forces moving south or west to fight often travelled on newly laid train tracks.



## **Military**

The Union Army was the land force that fought for the Union in the American Civil War. It was also known sometimes as the Federal Army. When the American Civil War began in 1861, there were only 16,000 men in the American Army and of these many Southern officers resigned and joined the Confederate Army. Due to the drastic shortage of men, President Lincoln called for the states to raise 75,000 men. The war proved to be far longer and bloody than anyone predicted and on July 22, 1861, Congress authorized a volunteer army of 500,000 men. The Union Army was composed of various organizations which were organised geographically. There were several armies each of which were assigned a major region to operate in like for example Army of Tennessee (principal army in the Western theatre) operating in Tennessee and the Army of Potomac (principal army of Eastern theatre) aiming to capture Richmond. Soldiers were classified into infantry, cavalry and artillery. Below major units like armies, soldiers were organized mainly into regiments, the main fighting unit with which a soldier would march and be deployed with. The theoretical strength of a regiment was 1,000 men.

The Navy was divided into geographic squadrons which were classified into:-

- 1) North Atlantic Blocking Squadron**
- 2) South Atlantic Blocking Squadron**
- 3) East Gulf Blocking Squadron**



- 4) **West Gulf Blocking Squadron**(this squadron captured the city of New Orleans)
- 5) **Mississippi River Squadron**(for joint Army-Navy Operations in inland rivers)

**Overall Union War Strategy-** The Union war strategy was divided into three phases:-

- A) **Anaconda Plan-** Under this plan, the superior Union Navy would blockade the Southern ports to prevent the Confederacy from importing critical war supplies and exporting cotton, crippling their economy and war effort.
- B) **The Mississippi River-** The North planned to take control of the great Mississippi River which would sever the economic artery of the South as it was a major transportation and communication route. Moreover, it would divide the Confederacy into two.
- C) **Richmond-** The Union planned for the Army of Potomac to move from Washington into Virginia to capture Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy.



## *Foreign Policy*

The primary goal of the Union was to prevent European powers from formally recognizing the Confederate States of America. This was crucial since recognition would legitimize the Confederacy and could potentially then lead to European military intervention. Russia under Tsar Alexander II was the only major European power to openly support the Union. The Union sent diplomats to European countries to try to explain their position and try to persuade them to remain neutral. They also engaged in trade and diplomatic negotiations to prevent the Confederacy from receiving material support from Europe.

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## Main Events of the War

### *First battle of Bull Run(July 21,1861)*

This was the first full scale battle of the war. The heavy fighting that occurred woke both sides to the sobering reality of the war and dismissed the Northern notion that it would be a quick, short war.

On July 16, Union army of 35,000 set out from Washington under Mc. dowell with great enthusiasm and little training. The Union army met the Confederates at the railway junction at Manassas, just west of the Bull Run creek. The railroads there connected the strategically important Shenandoah Valley with the Virginia interior. Union general Mcdowell planned to make quick work of the Confederate army before Confederate reinforcements could arrive. On July 17, both sides skirmished along Bull Run at Blackburn's Ford near the center of the Confederate lines. Meanwhile , Confederate reinforcements arrive on 20th July.

The Union were slightly outnumbered with about 29,000 men. Mcdowell made a new plan aiming to undertake a flanking movement around the enemy's left flank. His delay in advancing would prove his undoing. Constant delays on the march by inexperienced officers as well as effective scouting by the Confederates gave up the Union plan. In the morning, Union artillery shelled the Confederate positions across Bull Run. Two divisions cross at Sudley Ford and make their



way south to the Confederate left flank. The Confederates send a weak force to intercept this attack and the Union divisions had the upper hand throughout the morning as they drive back the enemy from Mathews Hill to a nearby hilltop called Henry House Hill. The Union army pauses its attack and brings on more reinforcements weakening their own right flank. However, McDowell then placed his rifled Union batteries on the west side of Henry Hill who became targets of the Confederate artillery. The Union are unable to break the Confederate lines even further, and they start to panic when a surprise Confederate attack on the Union right flank begins to cause panic and eventually the whole army starts to retreat in mass confusion. Their defeat is sealed when Confederate cavalry smash into the disorganized Union soldiers and massacre them. Union casualties were estimated at 2,896. By July 22, remnants of the shattered Union Army reached Washington and McDowell is relieved of command. The Union realized the need for larger, better trained armies which will lead to the formation of the *Army of Potomac*.

### **Trent Affair (8th November 1861)**

The Trent Affair was a diplomatic crisis that occurred, which nearly precipitated a war between the Union and Great Britain. On 8th November, Captain Charles Wilkes, commanding the Union frigate San Jacinto seized from the neutral British ship Trent in international waters, two Confederate diplomats, James Murray Mason and John Slidell who were seeking the support of Great Britain and France for the Confederate War effort. Britain, while officially neutral, viewed the action as an insult to international law and an insult to its sovereignty. The British government demanded the release of the



envoys and an apology from the Union and threatened war if consequences were not met. To avoid war, the US released both the envoys, and the ship was allowed to continue on its journey, though they did not issue any formal apology. Charles Wilkes was seen as a hero by the entire North and Congress. The diplomatic crisis highlighted the delicate balance of international relations and the importance of foreign recognition during the Civil War.

### **Battle of Fort Henry (6th February, 1862)**

The battle of Fort Henry occurred as part of the Union plan to open a water route by capturing the Mississippi River into the Confederate heartland by capturing the forts of Henry and Donelson. In January 1862, Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant and Flag Officer Andrew Foote were commissioned to lead an expedition to capture the twin forts. In Tennessee, Fort Henry was badly situated on a low bank of the Tennessee River and was a bad defensible position.

On February 2, 1862, Grant moved with a force of 15,000 soldiers, four ironclads and three timber clad ships. The Confederate fort was guarded by 3000 soldiers. On 4-5 February, Grant disembarked his troops from the Union ships and learned that the enemy had abandoned Fort Heiman and intended to defend Fort Henry. On February 6, Grant's infantry approached the fort from the south while the Union ships bombarded the fort from the North. The Union ships absolutely destroyed the Confederate defenses and all of the heavy



guns of the fort were captured. The Fort surrendered to the Union on next day.

### **Battle of Fort Donelson**

On 14 February, the Union ironclads moved upriver to bombard Fort Donelson. However, many of the heavier guns in Fort Donelson damaged many of the Union ironclads. Union general Grant began contemplating an extended siege. Early in the morning of 15 February, the Confederate launches an assault and strikes the Union right and drives it back from its position on Dudley's Hill. The Union officers attempted to reform the disintegrating lines but the Rebel attacks continued to drive the Union army back. However, the rebels stop attacking and the Union army manages to regain the lost territories. Grant reasons correctly that the Confederate right must be greatly reduced in strength given the heavy assault from the Confederate left. He was correct and the Union managed to capture large swathes of fortifications surrounding the fort. On February 16, General Buckner surrendered the fort to General Grant.

These victories allowed the Union to gain control of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, opening up vital supply routes and allowed the Union to launch deeper offensives into the Confederacy.



### *Battle of Shiloh(6-7 April 1862)*

Shiloh located in southwestern Tennessee, is a place of great beauty and peace. However,almost 150 years later it was the location of a gruesome battle where two armies were embroiled in an awful and bloody struggle. The battle had the largest amount of casualties in the American continent at the time.

After the Union victories at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in 1862,the Confederates retreated from Kentucky and left much of the western and Central Tennessee in control of the Union.This permitted Major General Ulysses S.Grant to push his troops towards Corinth, Mississippi, the strategic intersection of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and the Memphis and Charleston Railroad which was a vital troop and supply conduit for the South.Grant ascended the Tennessee River by steamboat, disembarking his Army of the Tennessee at the Pittsburg Landing 22 miles northeast of Corinth. There,he established a base of operations on a plateau west of the river, with his forward camps being posted two miles inland around a church called Shiloh Meeting House. Grant waited before engaging the Confederates as he wanted to be reinforced by Carlos Buell's Army of Ohio.



On 6th April Sunday, the Confederates made a surprise attack on the Union forward camps around Shiloh House. The Union army of 40,000 was completely surprised by this attack. However, the Union slowly rallied and bitter fighting consumed the Shiloh House. Throughout the morning, the Union brigades lost ground as they were pushed back and were forced to fight a succession of defensive standards at Shiloh Church, the Peach Orchard, Water Oak's Pond and the Hornet's Nest. By nightfall, Grant's battered division retired to a strong position extending west from Pittsburgh landing where massed artillery and rugged ravines protected their flanks. The fighting ended for the day with the Union army having been pushed back.

In the night, reinforcements of the Union army arrived in the form of the Army of Ohio which the Confederates were unaware of. At dawn on April 7, Grant launched an attack on the Confederates. Throughout the day, the combined Union armies numbering over 54,000 men hammered the Confederate army of only 34,000 troops. Despite facing some Confederate counterattacks, the much stronger Union army pushed back the Confederates. Forced back, the Confederates were forced to flee from the battlefield and Shiloh was back in Union



hands. The loss of life on both sides was staggering. The Union forces suffered approximately 13,047 casualties which included 1,754 killed, 8,408 wounded, 2,885 missing or captured. Grant though victorious, was vilified by the Union press after being caught unprepared at Pittsburg Landing. Critics called for him to be dismissed but Abraham Lincoln defended him. By the end of May, Corinth fell under Union control allowing Grant to focus on gaining control of the Mississippi river.

### **The Battle of New Orleans**

The Battle of New Orleans from 24-25 April was a combined Army and Navy offensive to capture the city of New Orleans. At the time of the Civil War, New Orleans was the largest city of the Confederacy and a vital trade hub especially for cotton and sugar. It held a very important strategic location on the Mississippi River and its capture would mean control on a huge section of this key waterway.

From the start of the war, the Union military leadership targeted New Orleans as a means of denying the Confederacy one of its most important ports. In January 1862, Captain David Farragut assumed



command of the West Gulf Blocking Squadron and assembled his ships along the Gulf Coast and the Lower Mississippi River where two forts, Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip, guarded the approach to New Orleans. The two forts boasted heavy rifled and smooth bore cannons that guarded the river. The two forts between them boasted around 1,200 men and about 100 artillery guns. Around the fort stood auxiliary fortifications while a defensive chain stretched across the river between two forts to prevent the passage of enemy ships. The city was moreover guarded by 3 Confederate ironclads, two traditional warships and several unarmed support craft as well as six cotton-clad rams of the River Defense Fleet.

On April 16, Captain Farragut ordered the Union fleet into positions below the forts and two days later on 18th April, the Union ships opened fire on the forts. Although Fort Jackson suffered heavy damage during this barrage, both forts remained standing even after a second bombardment on 19 April. Farragut ordered several ships to try to destroy the chain between the twin forts under the cover of darkness which was causing the Union Navy a lot of trouble but ultimately failed. Finally on 23rd April Union gunboats Pinola and Itasca opened a gap in the chain. On 24th April, the Union Navy advanced on Confederate positions with the corvette Hartford leading the



charge. On 25 April, Farragut anchored his vessels in the port of New Orleans and on April 28, Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip surrendered after continued heavy bombardment from the Union fleet. Federal infantry occupied the city on 1st May, 1862.

New Orleans was the first major Confederate city to be captured by the Union. However the citizens of New Orleans resisted Union rule. The Federal commander Benjamin Butler imposed martial law over the city and ruled it with an iron fist. He demanded oaths of allegiance, confiscated weapons, devised a relief plan for the poor and jailed a large number of uncooperative citizens. Butler also issued the very controversial General Order no. 28 which held that any woman who insulted or showed contempt to any Federal soldier or officer would be regarded and treated as a common prostitute. The order provoked protest and outrage in both North and South. He was soon replaced by General Nathaniel P. Banks on the orders of President Abraham Lincoln.



## *Peninsular Campaign*

George McClellan took command of the Army of Potomac after the debacle of the First Battle of Bull Run. He became the commander-in-chief of all Union armies after the resignation of Winfield Scott. Although McClellan organized and trained the inexperienced army, he remained too hesitant and cautious despite having a great numerical advantage over the Confederate Armies.

On 27th January 1862, the President Lincoln issued Special Orders No.1 which called for a coordinated land and naval attack on the Confederate forces no later by February 22 and a supplemental army designated the main Confederate army at Manassas and Centreville as the target. McClellan immediately responded with a proposal to send Union troops down the Potomac River and then up the Rappahannock, a plan which Lincoln did not believe in. It placed McClellan between the Confederate army and Richmond, the capital of Confederacy leaving Washington DC exposed. The president also worried that McClellan was too content on capturing Confederate capital at the expense of the Confederate army. He would later submit a revised plan where he would transfer the Army of Potomac by ship



from Alexandria down the Chesapeake Bay to Fort Monroe and then march it up the peninsula between the York and James rivers.

McClellan expertly transported his army including 130,000 troops, 15,000 horses, 1,100 wagons and 44 artillery batteries down the Chesapeake Bay but his campaign stalled once on land. He decided to siege Yorktown on 5th April instead of attacking the city with his numerically superior army because of his overcautious nature. Lincoln was very angry by this decision and his relationship with McClellan continued to deteriorate. McClellan's delay in attacking Yorktown allowed the Confederacy valuable time to reinforce the defense of Richmond and he did not capture the city until 4th May. McClellan sent a telegram back to Washington claiming that his "success was brilliant" overstating what in reality was a minor success. On May 20, McClellan crossed the Chickahominy River and was only fifteen miles away from Richmond whose civilians prepared to evacuate. However, again instead of directly attacking, McClellan stopped and waited for more reinforcements. Fighting paused for several weeks as McClellan waited for his big guns to arrive to lay siege to the city. On 25 June McClellan advanced on Oak Grove but he was attacked on his right flank by Confederate troops. The Union army managed to repel



the assault however McClellan got scared and feared that this was only a prelude to a massive attack by the Confederates so he began to pull back his army. The smaller Confederate army began to chase him and being even more spooked by this, McClellan withdrew his army all the way to Washington and the Peninsular Campaign came to a quiet end.

The Union army was unsuccessful in capturing Richmond despite having an overwhelming superiority in men and material. The campaign highlighted tactical insufficiency of McClellan and dampened Union morale especially after initial promise of victory and the eventual failure to capture Richmond. The Union suffered approximately 15,000 losses.

### **The Battle of Antietam**

The Battle of Antietam was a pivotal engagement during the Civil War fought on 17th September near Antietam Creek in Maryland. It resulted in a Union victory and was the deadliest one-day battle in American history with over 23,000 casualties. The battle ended the first Confederate invasion of the North and gave back hope to the Union.



Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia invaded the North for the first time and Lincoln tasked McClellan's Army of Potomac to stop him from threatening Washington D.C. With numerically superior Union forces closing in, Lee decided to make his stand near Antietam Creek. The countryside was open good for accurate artillery fire and moving infantry. The water of the creek was deep, swift and crossable at only three places making it a good defensible position. In a scene as if it is from a movie, detailed plans of the Confederate army's campaign plan Special Order 191 issued by Robert E. Lee is discovered by Union troops wrapped around some cigars on September 13. The plan contained detailed information about Confederate troop movements and targets. On 16 September, Union general McClellan arrived with his army. The next day, McClellan attacked with his army. The battle began at dawn when Union troops under General Hooker mounted a powerful assault on the left flank of the Confederates. The assault is bloody with thousands of dead Union troops lying in the cornfield and the Union attack was repulsed. In the center, Union assaults against the Sunken Road pierce the Confederacy lines but this advantage is not exploited by the Union army by providing further reinforcements. In the afternoon, third and final assault by Major General Ambrose Burnside Ninth Corps pushes over a bullet strewn bridge at Antietam Creek. The bridge would later come to be known as Burnside's Bridge because of his heroic attack. However, again the Union army failed to drive home its advantage.

There were 12,401 Union casualties in the Battle. Doctors at the scene are overwhelmed. On September 19, Lee withdrew from



Maryland and his first invasion of the North ended in defeat. Though the battle itself was a draw, in the wider strategic sense, it repulsed the invasion of the North and revived Union morale. The Union victory at Antietam, even though the battle was costly in terms of casualties, provided a much-needed boost to Union morale. The battle successfully prevented the Confederate army from invading Maryland, a border state, and potentially gaining more support for the Confederate cause. McClellan fails to pursue the disorganized Confederate army because of his overcautious nature and Lincoln was very displeased with him.

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## Current State of Affairs

**18th September, 1862-** The Army of Northern Virginia fights minor engagements as the defeated and demoralized Confederate Army withdraws from the North. Although the Union has suffered massive losses and almost 25% of the Union forces are casualties, the Union leadership is elated at the victory of defeating the best Confederate general, Robert E. Lee in battle for the first time. The Confederate defeat sets off warning bells in London and Paris.

**20th September, 1862-** The Union leadership has heard rumours that unknown foreign powers have begun aiding the Confederacy's war effort. Buoyed and confident after their recent victory, there is talk and whispers among the Union politicians to finally make the war about ending the institution of slavery and freeing all the slaves through a Proclamation.



## **Important Laws and Acts**

**1) Northwest Ordinance 1787** - The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 was a landmark piece of legislation passed by the Congress on 13th July, 1787. The Ordinance provided for the Northwest Territory, situated north of the Ohio River, east of the Mississippi River, and south of the Great Lakes, encompassed land that would later become states like Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. The Ordinance outlined a three-stage process for territories to get statehood: initial governance by appointed officials, establishment of a local legislature once the population reached 5,000 free adult males, and finally, the right to draft a state constitution and apply for statehood with a population of 60,000. If approved, the new state would enter the Union on equal footing with the original states. The Northwest Ordinance stated in Article VI that slavery would be outlawed in these territories.

**2) Missouri Compromise 1820**- The Missouri Compromise was a significant piece of legislation passed in 1820 to address the issue of slavery in the United States, specifically in the newly acquired territories. The Act admitted Missouri as a slave state while Maine was admitted as a free state into the United States of America. The Compromise also established a latitude of 36° 30' across the territory of Louisiana Purchase above which slavery was outlawed. (For more info see above)



**3) Compromise of 1850-** The Compromise of 1850 were a series of laws proposed by the “*Great Compromiser*” Henry Clay of Kentucky and passed by the Congress to avert a crisis occurring between the North and South over the issue of slavery. Here, the principle of popular sovereignty was introduced whereby the words “slavery” was not mentioned in the constitution of the territories of New Mexico and Utah which were formed from the territories ceded by Texas. This essentially allowed the territories to decide for themselves if they would or would not outlaw slavery in their states. (For more info see above)

**4) Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo-** This treaty signed on 2nd February, 1848 ended the state of war between the United States of America and Mexico. The peace talks were negotiated by Nicholas Trist, chief clerk of the US State Department who has accompanied General Winfield Scott as a diplomat and President Polk’s representative. Trist negotiated with a special Mexican commission and sent the treaty to President Polk. When the Senate reluctantly ratified the treaty by a vote of 34 to 14 on March 10, 1848, it removed Article X guaranteeing the protection of Mexican land grants. By the terms of the treaty, Mexico ceded to the United States the territories of California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, most of Arizona and Colorado and parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Wyoming. Mexico relinquished all claims to Texas and recognized Rio Grande as the southern boundary with the United States. In return, the US government paid Mexico \$15 million as well as paying all the debts owed by American citizens to the Mexican government.



**5) Confiscation Act of 1861-** The First Confiscation Act of 1861 was a US federal law passed in the early months of the American civil war. As the Senate met in extraordinary session from July 4 to August 6, 1861, it considered the Confiscation Act, which was designed to allow the federal government to seize property including slave property, being used to support the Confederate rebellion. Specifically, the act provided that any slaves used by the Confederacy in military service would be freed, even if they had been captured by Union forces. The act aimed to cripple the Confederacy by depriving them of resources and manpower, including slaves. The Senate passed the final bill on August 5, 1861, by a vote 24 to 11. President Abraham Lincoln was hesitant to sign it fearing that it would be seen as a desperate last attempt by the Union especially after recent military victories of the South. He had to be lobbied by several powerful people and only then he signed the bill into law on 6th August, 1861.

**6) An Act to Suppress the Rebellion Against and the Resistance to the Laws of the United States 1861-** This law aimed to authorize President Lincoln to use military force against the Confederate States, which had been resisting the authority of the Union government. The law specifically allowed the President to deploy troops when resistance to the federal government made it "impracticable to enforce the laws of the United States" through ordinary judicial proceedings. Grounded in the 1795 Militia Act, this measure expanded the discretion of the President to call forth both the militia and Regular Army to suppress insurrections and execute the laws of the Union



**7) Declaration of Paris 1856-** The Declaration of Paris 1856 was a multilateral treaty signed on April 16, 1856, during the Congress of Paris, which ended the Crimean War. It established fundamental principles of maritime law during wartime. The declaration, based on a previous agreement between France and the UK, aimed to clarify and codify rules regarding the treatment of neutral and enemy property during naval warfare. The declaration affirmed that the neutral flag (flag of a non-belligerent state) covers enemy goods with the exception of contraband of war. Privateering, i.e the practise of authorizing privately owned ships to attack enemy ships is abolished.

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## Committee Procedure

This committee will follow the procedure abiding to the Conference Handbook provided on the X-MUN website, throughout the three days of committee. By the end of the third day of the conference, the Executive Board will be looking forward to a Directives to be debated upon. Also, the delegates are to note that all Position Papers need to be sent to [jcc1.xmun2025@gmail.com](mailto:jcc1.xmun2025@gmail.com) by 9th June, 11:59 pm. After this, no further Position Papers will be accepted. Delegates are requested to make a detailed position paper as it is the first impression the Executive Board will get of your capabilities. The Executive Board will be accepting public communiques & private communiques and the communication lines will remain open from time to time, upon the discretion of the Executive Board. Delegates, please note that this committee will also be facing numerous updates based on the communiques received as well as ones based on the discretion of the Executive Board.

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## **Advice for Research and Preparation**

Delegates, please keep in mind that you are members of Abraham Lincoln's Emergency Meeting being convened at the White House at one of the most critical junctures of the War. Each of your portfolios exercises certain powers and responsibilities that you should keep in mind. Therefore, extensively research on your specific portfolio and use the powers to your advantage. But, keep in mind, the decisions you take affect the entire Union side as a whole and the Union is collectively responsible for any and all actions taken.. Use communiques smartly with the help of communicate archs which will help you reach your objective. Your mission is to establish clear and lasting Union superiority over the Confederacy- militarily, politically, and ideologically.

I would advise you to go through the study guide extensively for research, and beyond that refer to the links attached on the next page.

You can also go through the [youtube video](#) attached. This was one of the best videos I found on YouTube, which you all can refer to start with your research.

*Prepare with depth, Think radically and Lead Strategically.*



## Citations

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