



## Emergency White House Meeting of the Confederate States of America, 1862

**Agenda:** Formulating a comprehensive strategy to ensure Southern Independence.

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



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## Chairperson's Address

*"A people morally and intellectually equal to self-government must also be equal in self-defence".*

-Jefferson Davis

Delegates,

You are in the eye of the storm. The question is can you find your way out? Welcome to The Emergency White House Meeting of the Confederate States of America, 1862. The Confederate States of America stand at a crucial juncture, teetering on the edge of oblivion. After having seceded from the American Union, the Confederates hope to chart their own course, free from the scrutiny of the Northern states. You are tasked with the duty of making sure that it remains here even after the storm passes.

Throughout this fast paced committee you will be faced with a number of obstacles that in the heat of the moment may seem insurmountable, but the way in which you control the situation is what will ultimately decide your fate in this committee. We expect you to be proficient in all aspects even in the direst times. Creative solutions to difficult problems, impassioned speeches and immense lobbying will be required to cement your position at this meeting. Solidarity is the name of the game, but will you be able to keep your wits about you while all others are losing theirs, and blaming it on you? Never forget, to survive is a layman's job but to thrive is the essence of true success.

Fighting the Union you are undoubtedly facing an almost David vs. Goliath like situation, you certainly have your work cut out for you.



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Tune out the noise and weather the storm. That is your mission, and we look forward to watching you complete it.

*Till June,*  
Rohan Sen and Parth Singhanian,  
Co-Chairpersons,  
The Emergency White House Meeting of the Confederate States of  
America, 1862.  
X-MUN 2025.

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## Letter of Invitation

Dated: September 18, 1862

To whoever it may concern,

This letter finds you at a time of great reckoning. With our current losses in Sharpsburg, we are wounded but our resolve remains steadfast. It is vital that the Confederacy takes action to assert its independence from the north and represent the true voice of America.

After being impressed by your judgment, your character, but most importantly, your loyalty to America, it is not I, Jefferson Davis, but the Confederacy who summons you to the real White House in Richmond, on 20th September, 1862 in the morn.

Our men might be down right now, but our spirit remains high. The Confederacy is fighting for a cause, which is celebrated not only here in the continent of America but even in the salons of London and Paris. It is upon us to ensure that our spirit remains eternal as all our efforts come to fruition.

Some of you are well-known in the fields where you excel while the rest remain unknown due to the very nature of their task. However, each of you bears a crucial role—whether in the art of war, the craft of governance, or the voice of America.

Though your convictions and methods may differ, this hour demands your presence, your readiness, your candor, and above all, your unity.



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This is not just any meeting. This meeting will form the spear which the Confederacy launches as it develops and evolves so that we can Make America Great Again. Succeed and you shall become a cornerstone in the success of our cause. Fail and the Confederacy might suffer wounds that can't be healed with our fire extinguished.

Knowledge of this meeting shall remain privy to you and you only. Any further communication regarding the same shall be done with my personal staff confidentially.

We shall live for the Confederacy and die for it too - for those we hold close...and those we never meet.

I look forward to your contributions.

Jefferson Davis,

President of the Confederate States of America

The White House, Richmond, Virginia, 1862.



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## Timeline

**1) 30th April 1803-** The Louisiana Purchase was the 1803 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 a landmark legislation which 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 and wanted 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 to 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 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 their 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 Stanford, the Supreme Court ruled that African Americans could never be citizens of the United States, upheld the institution of slavery and 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 in the ballots of most Southern states. South Carolina



becomes the first state to secede from the United States on 20 December citing reasons of Northern hostility.

## 10) 1861-

A) The “Deep South” continues to secede from the Union comprising Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas.

B) 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.

C) 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.

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

E) 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.



F) 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) 1862-

A) 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.

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

C) 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.

D) 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.



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**20th September 1862- Emergency White House Meeting of the  
Confederate States of America is convened by President Jefferson  
Davis.**

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## 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 the 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 into 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 South believed that 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.

**A) The Missouri Compromise-** The Missouri Compromise of 1820 was a federal law that addressed the issue of slavery in new states. The territory of Missouri first applied for statehood in 1817 but Congress



only began to consider legislation to allow the the territory to create a state constitution until February 1819. The attempt by Missouri to enter into the United States set off an intense struggle within Congress which was divided into two sections: pro-slavery and anti-slavery much like the country itself. During the ensuing debate, James Tallmadge of New York who was an anti-slavery politician, attempted to introduce an amendment into the legislation which would have ended slavery in Missouri by freeing all children born of slaves after Missouri had officially become a state and also freeing all slaves once they had reached the age of 25. the Southerners reacted with strong opposition to the Tallmadge amendment and it sparked intense anger and fear among Southerners as they feared that this amendment intended to limit the expansion of slavery which they saw as essential to their economic and social systems. The amendment bill passes narrowly in the House of Representatives where the Northerners had more power but the amendment was ultimately rejected by the Senate. The rejection of the amendment was seen as a political victory for the South demonstrating their power and influence in Congress. The amendment highlighted the growing sectional differences between the North and South on the issue of slavery. When the House 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 South would be at a numerical advantage in the Senate which the Northerners were not prepared to accept. Eventually, the Senate decided to tie together Missouri and Maine as an enabling act and added an additional proviso 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.

**2) Mexican- American War:** Mexican-American War occurred between the United States of America and Mexico from April 1846 to February 1848. The government of President James Polk believed that America had the “Manifest Destiny” to spread across the North American continent to the Pacific Ocean. Texas gained its independence from Mexico in 1836 and initially, the Congress was hesitant because of Northern opposition and fear of war with Mexico. 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 on January 1846. On May 1846, Polk planned to send a message of war to Congress on 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*”.



Southern leaders and citizens largely supported the War, seeing it as a way for the US to increase its territory. They were particularly interested in acquiring new land especially the southwestern territory for cotton cultivation and by extension, for slavery. Southern leaders like Jefferson Davis overwhelmingly supported the War seeing it as an opportunity for territorial expansion as well as spreading their slave-based economy. The US forces were much better equipped and led by more capable officers and generals like General Winfield Scott and General Zachary Taylor as compared to the Mexican Army. As such, the US forces quickly gained the upper hand in this conflict. The war ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) with Mexico ceding a vast amount of territory in exchange for \$15 million. This land, known as Mexican Cession, included present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Colorado, Wyoming and Texas. Many Southerners saw the Treaty as a victory for the *Manifest Destiny*. The war's outcome and acquisition of new lands fueled a sense of national pride and accomplishment. The Southerners feared that new territories would be open to free labour potentially tipping the balance of power in the Congress and Senate in favour of the hated North. The treaty reinforced the existing divisions between the North and South making it difficult to find common ground and ultimately leading to the American Civil War.

**3) Compromise of 1850:** The Compromise was a series of bills passed mainly due to address issues related to slavery. The bills provided for slavery to be decided by popular sovereignty in the admission of new states, abolition of slavery in a District of Columbia, settled a Texas boundary dispute and established a stricter Fugitive Slave Act. By 1850, sectional disagreements regarding slavery led to straining of



relations between 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:-

**4) 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 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 Southern Leaders viewed the Act as a major victory for slaveholders and essential to protecting their property rights. It provided the Southerners a legal basis to capture and bring back enslaved black people who had escaped to the free states which they believed that the Constitution guaranteed. The enforcement of the law in the Northern states did not please the Southerners which often led to violent acts, legal resistance and worsening North-South relations.

**5) 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 Washington. The Compromise also resolved a dispute between Texas and the new territories by transferring a part of disputed territory to the Federal government with Texas receiving \$10 million in return. The Southerners feared the loss of their economic and social system based on the institution of slavery and was determined to prevent its restriction. They saw the compromise only as a temporary solution.

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 forces 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.

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. In the Southern states, the book was met with widespread outrage and condemnation. They viewed the novel as harmful exaggeration of slavery and a tool to fuel abolitionist sentiment in the North. They feared that the book would incite slave rebellions and further divide the country.



**6) 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 Missouri 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 Southerners believed slavery was beneficent, and was endorsed by the Bible. In 1854, a proslavery book called “The Planter’s Northern Bride” was written in response to “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”. On 4 March, the Senate passed the Act 37-14 to pass the bill which became law on 30th May, 1854. The act opened the possibility of expanding slavery into territories where it had previously been banned under the Missouri Compromise.

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



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**7) Bleeding Kansas:** Bleeding Kansas was almost a mini civil war fought in Kansas from 1854 to 1859 between pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces. The Kansas-Nebraska Act had allowed the people to decide for themselves if they wanted to outlaw or legalize slavery in their state. As a result, thousands of anti-slavery and pro-slavery people flocked to the Kansas territory in order to swing the vote in their favour.

On 30 March 1855, thousands of heavily armed pro-slavery Missourians poured across the border where they not only illegally cast their own ballots but also stuffed the ballot boxes with many fictitious votes resulting in a number of pro-slavery politicians being voted into the state legislature. In response, anti-slavery formed their own government in Lawrence, Kansas and thus violence was on the horizon. On 21 May 1856, hundreds of pro-slavery men entered Lawrence and set fire to buildings and destroyed the printing press of an abolitionist newspaper. This incident came to be known as the "Sack of Lawrence" which officially ignited a guerilla war between the both sides. Most of the violence was largely unorganized. The most horrific incident occurred in May 1856 when an abolitionist fanatic John Brown and his sons murdered five pro-slavery settlers in cold blood. In 1859, with an armed band of 16 white and 5 black abolitionists, he raided Harper's Ferry which was a federal armoury but he was captured by a contingency of US marines led by Colonel Robert E. Lee and he was hanged for treason. However, John Brown became a symbol of abolitionism by the North and was seen as a martyr across the North. A political struggle to determine the future state's position centered around the Lecompton Constitution proposed in 1857. The question was finally settled when Kansas was admitted as a free state in January 1861.



**8)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 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. This ruling essentially nullified the Missouri Compromise, as Taney ruled that Congress had no authority to prohibit slavery in US territories. Southerners viewed it as a constitutional endorsement of slavery and a protection of their property rights. “The Southern opinion upon the subject of Southern slavery,” trumpeted one Georgia newspaper, “is now the supreme law of the land.”

**9)1860 Presidential Election:** Following on the heels of the Dred Scott decision which made slavery legal in all states, the Presidential



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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 Fremont 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.



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**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 strifes 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 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 of 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 is 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 joined the Confederacy after the Battle of Fort Sumter with the last secession coming on 8 June 1861.



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## The Confederacy

### Economy

As late as 1860, the Southern United States was still overwhelmingly rural, its economy based extensively on the planting and exportation of staple crops, especially cotton. Cotton, by 1840, had become the most valuable export product of the nation, more than all other products combined. Two-thirds of the world's total supply of cotton came from the South, though it was backward in industrial progress, with only some 29% of the country's railway tracks and 13% of its banks. Although efforts were made to harness enslaved labor for manufacturing, the Southern economy was still predominantly agricultural.

Conversely, the North was evolving toward a manufacturing and commercial economy. Northern states by 1860 controlled 90% of the country's manufacturing production, with much higher levels of textile, leather, pig iron, and firearms production than the South. This industrial capacity gave the Union huge resource and infrastructure advantages in the Civil War.

The North also received a large volume of European immigrants, seven-eighths of whom settled in states that remained free. This added to the Union population, which stood at about 23 million compared to the Confederacy's 9 million, out of which roughly 3.5 million were slaves. This meant that the Union had access to a higher number of manpower-aged males, increasing its man power during the war.



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Wealth of the Southern economy was mostly invested in the institution of slavery. The economic worth of enslaved people in 1860 surpassed the combined worth of the nation's factories, railroads, and banks. Confederate leaders expected that their hegemony in the production of cotton would garner diplomatic and military aid from European nations such as France and Britain.

But the Southern economy weakened as the war went on. The tactics of General Ulysses S. Grant, employing the stronger transportation and supply systems of the North, put pressure on Confederate troops as well. Though the Union could fight long battles, the Confederacy was running out of supplies and manpower, collapsing economically at the end of the war.

### *Military*

The Confederate States Army (CSA), also called the Confederate army or the Southern army, was the military land force of the Confederate States of America. It is impossible to know exactly how many individuals served in the Confederate war effort—Army, Navy, and Marine Corps—since many records were incomplete or destroyed. But estimates place between 750,000 and more than 1 million serving. This number does not include an undetermined number of enslaved Black individuals who were forced to serve the military by doing things such as building fortifications or hauling supplies. The estimates include the number of personnel who served during the entirety of the Civil War, and not the numbers at any particular moment in time, and exclude those in the Confederate Navy or Marine Corps.



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There was no official overarching military commander or general-in-chief of the Confederate States Army throughout most of the Civil War. Strategic guidance and leadership came in the person of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, himself a former United States Army officer and former United States Secretary of War, as commander-in-chief of land forces and naval forces in all theatres. At various times, some generals had considerable power: Robert E. Lee was charged with directing Confederate military operations from March 13 to May 31, 1862, and Braxton Bragg had a similar position beginning February 24, 1864. Later, on January 23, 1865, Congress formally appointed Lee General in Chief of the Confederate Armies, a position he occupied from January 31 to April 9, 1865.

Notable geographic squadrons of the navy were:

- 1) **James River Squadron**(Its primary mission was to defend the James River approach to Richmond, the Confederate capital).
- 2) **Charleston Squadron**
- 3) **Mobile Squadron**
- 4) **Savannah Squadron**

### **Overall Confederacy War Strategy:**

**Cotton Strategy:** Early in the war, the Confederacy pursued a strategy of cordon defense—trying to defend the whole area by stretching troops from Texas to Virginia. Politically, Jefferson Davis had few options. Southern governors were worried about the possibility of Union invasions, and citizens looked to their new government for visible demonstrations of military protection. Davis also feared that temporary occupation by the Union would irrevocably destroy slavery in those areas.



Significantly, this strategy was more a product of circumstance than an intentional plan.

**Offensive-Defensive strategy:** Realizing the weakness of a static defense, Confederate commanders, including President Jefferson Davis, pursued an "offensive-defensive" strategy. It was one of defending essentially Southern territory while seeking opportunities to go on the offensive when it was to their advantage. It was intended to use interior lines of communication to focus forces against Union invaders and, if feasible, take the war into Northern borders to sway public opinion and political results.

### **Weapons used by the Confederacy:**

#### **Infantry weapons:**

- 1) Springfield Model 1861 Rifle Musket:** The most common Union weapon, widely captured and reused by the Confederacy. It was a .58 caliber, muzzle-loading rifle-musket, accurate up to about 500 yards.
- 2) Enfield Pattern 1853 Rifle-Musket:** High prized, .577 calibre, most common imported rifle.
- 3) Smoothbore Muskets:** This was one of the older weapons still used early in the war but it was less accurate and had a shorter range.



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**4) Richmond Rifle:** Confederate copy of the Springfield M1855, manufactured at the Richmond Armory, used extensively in the Army of Northern Virginia.

### **Foreign Policy**

The Confederacy sought to use its cotton exports as a means to secure diplomatic recognition and assistance from European powers, especially Britain and France. By placing an embargo on cotton exports, Southern politicians believed that they could generate economic pressure that would force European intervention. This strategy, however, failed as European countries resorted to other sources, including India and Egypt, reducing the diplomatic bargaining power of the South.

### **Socio-Political Structure**

The Constitution of the Confederate **States** was the supreme law of the Confederate States of America. The Constitution was created on 11th March, 1861 and it was ratified on 29th March, 1861. The Constitution came into effect on 22nd February, 1862. The Confederate Constitution followed the U.S. Constitution for the most part in the main body of the text but differs in some key way. For example, it gave the right of owning slaves to individuals and also emphasized on the sovereignty of each state thereby limiting central authority. In the Union where the President can serve for a 4-year term and could get re-elected but in Confederacy, the President serves for a six year term and could not be re-elected. There was no central



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law regarding the regulation of slave trade, it was controlled by individual states.

The Confederacy had a complex social structure and it was primarily based on a hierarchical system. At the apex of the system, it was wealthy landowners and plantation owners and the bottom rung consisted of the enslaved black. In the middle were the Yeoman farmers who were middle class white farmers with small amounts of land. These farmers owned very little to no slaves and they only supported the Confederate out of loyalty to their respective state and in order to maintain white supremacy. The plantations of the South, with white ownership and an enslaved labor force, produced substantial wealth from cash crops. It supplied two-thirds of the world's cotton, which was in high demand for textiles, along with tobacco, sugar, and naval stores (such as turpentine). These raw materials were exported to factories in Europe and the Northeast. Planters reinvested their profits in more slaves and fresh land, as cotton and tobacco depleted the soil. There was little manufacturing or mining; shipping was controlled by non-southerners. The plantations that enslaved over three million black people were the principal source of wealth.

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## **Main Events of the War**



**8th March, 1861-** Jefferson Davis first issued a proclamation for calling up militias on March 8, 1861. This action was authorized by the Confederate Congress, which passed a law allowing the President to call up a certain number of men.

**15th April 1861-** President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteers in response to the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter to serve for 90 days to crush the Confederate uprising. It was intended for 90 days but ended up lasting for 4 years.

**19th April 1861-** Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation of blockade of Confederate ports by Union ships in accordance with the *Anaconda Plan*.

### **First battle of Bull Run (July 21st, 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 widely popular notion that it would be a quick, short war.

On July 16, the Union army of 35,000 set out from Washington under McDowell 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 Confederacy had an army of 22,000 under the command of Brig. Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard. The railroads there connected the strategically important Shenandoah Valley with the Virginia interior. The Confederates established a strong defensive line along Bull Run, prepared to withstand the initial Union assault. They



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planned to counterattack the Union forces as they attempted to cross Bull Run and move around the Confederate left flank. Confederate reinforcements, including troops from the Shenandoah Valley, were expected to arrive and bolster the defensive position. On July 17, both sides skirmishes along Bull Run at Blackburn's Ford near the center of the Confederate lines. Meanwhile, Confederate reinforcements arrive on 20th July.

While Union troops marched on Manassas with the intention of delivering a decisive blow, Confederate generals Joseph E. Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard mounted a defense in coordination that surprised most with its strength. Although their early attempts were repelled, Southern soldiers, with reinforcements brought rapidly by rail from the Shenandoah Valley, stood firm—most notably under Brigadier General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, whose steadfast defense on Henry House Hill changed the course of the fight. When Union attacks failed, a fierce Confederate counterattack shattered the enemy lines and drove Northern troops in disorganized flight back toward Washington.

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 have 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 in Chinn Ridge 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. Confederate casualties were about 1,982. For the South, the fight was a vindication of their courage to fight and the rightfulness of their cause, demonstrating that Confederate independence was not so easily vanquished.

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

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 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. From the Confederate perspective, the Trent Affair was a moment of high hope that almost delivered the foreign recognition they desperately sought.

### **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. Fort Henry guarded the Tennessee River, and Fort Donelson guarded the Cumberland River. These rivers were vital transportation routes for the Confederacy, connecting important cities and resources.

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. Many of the Confederate soldiers defending Fort Henry were armed with old flintlock rifles, some dating back to the War of 1812. They were also poorly drilled and lacked the resources of the Union army. The inclement weather and poor sanitation had left many soldiers ill, further reducing the garrison's strength. Recent rain storms had caused the Tennessee River to rise, flooding parts of the fort and rendering some guns unusable. The Confederate garrison at Fort Henry numbered around 3,400 soldiers and thus were vastly outnumbered.

On February 2, 1862, Grant moved with a force of 15,000 soldiers, four ironclads and three timber clad ships. The Confederate fort was



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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 the next day.

**Battle of Fort Donelson-** On 14 February, the Union ironclads moved upriver to bombard Fort Donelson. Confederate General Gideon J. Pillow, who had assumed command, was tasked with holding the fort against an advancing Union force led by Ulysses S. Grant. However, many of the heavier guns in Fort Donelson damaged many of the Union ironclads. The Confederates were buoyed by their victory in damaging the Union ironclads and thus decided to go on the offensive. Early in the morning of 15 February, the Confederate launched an assault and struck the Union right and drove it back from its position on Dudley's Hill. The Union officers attempted to reform the disintegrating lines but the Confederate attacks continued to drive the Union army back. However, the Confederate stops attacking and the Union army manages to regain the lost territories which proved to be a fatal mistake.. 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.

For the South, the loss of Fort Donelson was a devastating blow. It wasn't just a strategic loss but also led to the capture of more than



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12,000 Confederate troops and many high-ranking officers. The defeat gave Union forces control over the Cumberland River and paved the way for additional Union invasions deep into the heart of the Confederacy. The battle also undermined Confederate morale and revealed weaknesses in the South's capacity to defend key areas against determined Union attacks. The defeat was the start of the Confederacy's struggle to retain dominance of the Western Theater.

### **Battle of Shiloh(6-7th 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. The Confederate plan relied heavily on a surprise attack to overwhelm Grant's forces before they could fully prepare. The Confederate leadership believed they could win the battle and



potentially destroy Grant's army, preventing a Union push into the South before Grant's army could be reinforced.

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 Confederate brigades pushed back the Union army who 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. That afternoon, while leading an attack on the left end of the Union's Hornets' Nest line, Commander Albert Sidney Johnston was shot in the right knee. The bullet severs an artery and the commander bleeds to death. General. Pierre G. T. Beauregard is appointed the new Confederate commander. Believing his army victorious, Beauregard calls a halt to the attacks as darkness approaches. 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 Confederate



forces suffered approximately 10,669 casualties which included 1,728 killed, 8,012 wounded, 995 missing or captured. Grant though victorious, was vilified by the Union press after being caught unprepared at Pittsburg Landing. Johnston's death was a damaging blow to Confederate morale, particularly for President Jefferson Davis, who held Johnston high in personal and professional esteem. By the end of May, Corinth fell under Union control allowing Grant to focus on gaining control of the Mississippi river. After Shiloh, the Confederates were mostly on the defensive in the Western Theater. Many in the South had expected a quick and decisive victory in the West; Shiloh disproved that notion. The Confederacy nearly won on the first day but failed to press their advantage. Poor coordination and fatigue led to a missed chance to crush Grant's army. This failure highlighted logistical and organizational weaknesses in Confederate command.

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

The Battle of New Orleans from 24-25th April was a combined Union 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. At its peak, New Orleans housed more than 50 slave markets, and some 750,000 enslaved people were forcibly shipped to New Orleans, generating tens of millions of dollars for the New Orleans economy while changing the city's social and political fabric. In addition to slaves, more than half of all the cotton grown in the United States passed through New Orleans. Tobacco and sugar



followed closely behind as top exports. By 1862, New Orleans embodied the image of the Deep South.

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. As an enemy vessel struggled to break the chain, Confederate forces in the two forts could concentrate a destructive fire upon their victims. 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 16th, 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 25th April, Farragut anchored his vessels in the port of New Orleans and on April 28th, 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. In June 1862, Butler again met controversy when he ordered the hanging of William Munford, a Confederate sympathizer who tore down a U.S. flag over the New Orleans Mint. For his infamy, Confederate sympathizers nicknamed him "The Beast" or "Spoons Butler," for the silverware looted by some Union troops. He was soon replaced by General Nathaniel P. Banks on the orders of President Abraham Lincoln.

The Battle of New Orleans was a calamitous loss that saw the South's most important port and one of its economic lifelines fall. New Orleans was significant not only for its location on the Mississippi River but also for its importance in the Confederate economy, as it was a trade and cotton-export center, a major one, for the South's most important cash crop. The permanent loss of New Orleans was considered one of the worst disasters suffered by the Confederacy in the western theatre of the war.



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## *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, President Lincoln issued Special Orders No.1 which called for a coordinated land and naval attack on the Confederate forces no later by February 22nd 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



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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. Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston waited to see what McClellan's next moves would be. On May 4th, after careful consideration, Johnston ordered the 13,000 troops back toward Richmond. The next day, Union and Confederate forces clashed near Williamsburg, as the rebel forces withdrew closer to their capital. 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. On May 31st, Johnston led Confederate forces in an attack on McClellan's forces south of the Chickahominy River, six miles east of Richmond. General Johnston was severely injured during the two-day battles of Seven Pines and Fair Oaks. Confederate President Jefferson Davis quickly replaced Johnston with Robert E. Lee: a West Point graduate and veteran of the "Old Army." Lee's appointment changed the course of the campaign and the course of the war. Fighting paused for several weeks as McClellan waited for his big guns to arrive to lay siege to the city. Lee was ready to strike at the Union hard and push them back down the peninsula. Throughout June, Lee began devising plans of counterattacks. In the meantime, Lee had his men dig defenses around Richmond and called in reinforcements from other parts of the Confederacy. Lee planned to launch his operation on June 25th, however, McClellan attacked first at Oak Grove, located west of Richmond, starting the Seven Days' Battles. June 26th began with



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Lee's plan to split his army into four separate divisions in an attempt to overwhelm McClellan on multiple fronts, and to cut off and destroy pieces of McClellan's army. Lee anxiously waited for General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's divisions who were behind schedule. Lee decided to continue without Jackson, fearing that they had lost the element of surprise. Major General A.P. Hill and his men assaulted the Union and pushed them east through Mechanicsville. As the Union retreated further and further, more Confederates moved with them not giving them room to breathe. The Confederates suffered more than 1,500 casualties, while the Union losses numbered some 450 casualties. The following days saw an unrelenting series of attacks that cost Lee dedicated soldiers and resulted in tactical defeats. However, the battles gave Lee strategic victories as McClellan continuously retreated after every battle despite having superior forces. On June 27th, the Confederates led costly and uncoordinated charges throughout the day at Gaines' Mill, causing McClellan to begin falling back on his supply line. On June 28th, the Confederates led a failed reconnaissance mission on Golding's Farm. On June 29th, there was a failed attempt at striking the Union's rear at Savage's Station. On June 30th, the Battle of Glendale was a minor Confederate victory in which a Union division and commander was captured. However, the Confederate's advances were stopped after the Union engaged in counterattacks. With McClellan on the run, constantly falling back toward the James River and his supply base at Harrison's Landing, on July 1st Lee was focused on destroying McClellan's army and securing Richmond. The Battle of Malvern Hill was a tactical defeat for the Confederates. Lee ordered an all-out frontal assault on the Union position. The Confederates suffered over 5,000 casualties just on Malvern Hill alone. While again victorious, McClellan nonetheless withdrew, ending the campaign.



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 Union's failure to capture Richmond, despite the significant advantage they held, was a morale boost for the Confederacy. The campaign solidified Robert E. Lee's position as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. His performance during the Seven Days' Battles, particularly his aggressive defense, earned him respect and solidified his leadership. The Confederacy gained the strategic initiative in the Eastern Theater. Lee's victory in the Seven Days' Battles allowed him to carry the war away from Richmond's defenses and into Union territory.

### *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.

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. Lee wanted to move the war out of Virginia, which had endured repeated battles and destruction. Invading the North would force Union forces to withdraw from the South to defend their own territory. A major Confederate victory in the North could damage Northern morale and weaken



public support for the war. Lee hoped that a victory on Union soil would shift momentum and possibly lead to a political settlement favorable to the South. 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 10,316 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 sank the Confederate.



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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.

**19th September, 1862-** The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Lord Palmerston holds an emergency meeting of his Cabinet and decides to send covert support and military aid of arms and supplies to the Confederacy through ships crossing the Atlantic under neutral flags. The Emperor of France, Napoleon III, learning of the British decision and in his desire to weaken the power of the Union, also decides to covertly support the Confederacy.

**20th September, 1862-** The Union leadership is unaware of the monumental decisions taken by the British and French governments. 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.

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## Important Laws and Acts



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**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



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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. Trisk 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.

**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



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the exception of contraband of war. Privateering i.e the practise of authorizing privately owned ships to attack enemy ships is abolished.

### **Note on Paperwork:**

Delegates, please refer to the conference handbook to know the types of paperwork allowed in the committee with their formats. Further details will be clarified in the orientation.

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## **Citations**



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