The American Civil War was a severe conflict that lasted from 1861 to 1865, fought primarily between the states of the Union and the Confederacy. The war was fought over issues of states' rights and slavery, eventually leading to the secession of 11 Southern states and the formation of the Confederate States of America. The war resulted in significant damage to both economies and a paradigm shift in American politics and society.

### Major Events Leading to the Civil War

**1848 - 1860**

- **1848:** Mexican War
  - Mexico ceded most of the Southwest
  - U.S. acquired Texas, New Mexico, and California

- **1850:** Compromise of 1850
  - Slavery prohibited in new territories
  - Fugitive Slave Act

- **1854:** Kansas-Nebraska Act
  - Missouri Compromise overturned
  - Senate passes Cuiujo-Blethen amendment

- **1860:** Abraham Lincoln elected President
  - South Carolina secedes
  - Other states follow

- **1861:** Civil War begins
  - Fort Sumter
  - Abraham Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers

### People of Importance

- **Abraham Lincoln**
  - 16th President of the United States
  - Towering figure in American history
  - Led the Union to victory

- **Ulysses S. Grant**
  - Commander-in-Chief of the Union armies
  - Lead to victory at Vicksburg and Gettysburg
  - Later President of the United States

- **Robert E. Lee**
  - Confederate General
  - Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia

### Casualties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Union</th>
<th>Confederacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>624,702</td>
<td>315,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded</td>
<td>1,167,000</td>
<td>511,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,791,702</td>
<td>827,573</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Deadliest Battles

- **Gettysburg**
  - July 1-3, 1863
  - 45,000 casualties
- **Vicksburg**
  - May 18-22, 1863
  - 30,000 casualties
- **Chattanooga**
  - September 19, 1863
  - 23,686 casualties

### How Does This War Compare to Other American Wars?

- **Civil War**
  - 750,000 casualties
  - The most casualties of all wars in American history

### United States of America 1860

The United States of America was a collection of 31 states, with 29 in the Union and 12 in the Confederacy. The map shows the division of states during the Civil War.

### Between 1861 and 1865, Americans made war on each other and killed each other in great numbers — if only to become the kind of country that could no longer conceive of how that was possible.

- The war was about a “new birth of freedom.”

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**Primary Source:** Various historical texts and records on the American Civil War.