

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

1861-1865



WHO FOUGHT WHO?

the North

vs

the South

the Union

vs

the Confederacy

blue

vs

gray



SITUATION BEFORE THE WAR

• TWO DIFFERENT SOCIETIES •

North

- industrialised society
- railroad connections
- economy relies on industry
- economy relies on free labour
- development of city life
- urbanization
- immigration from Europe: cheap labour

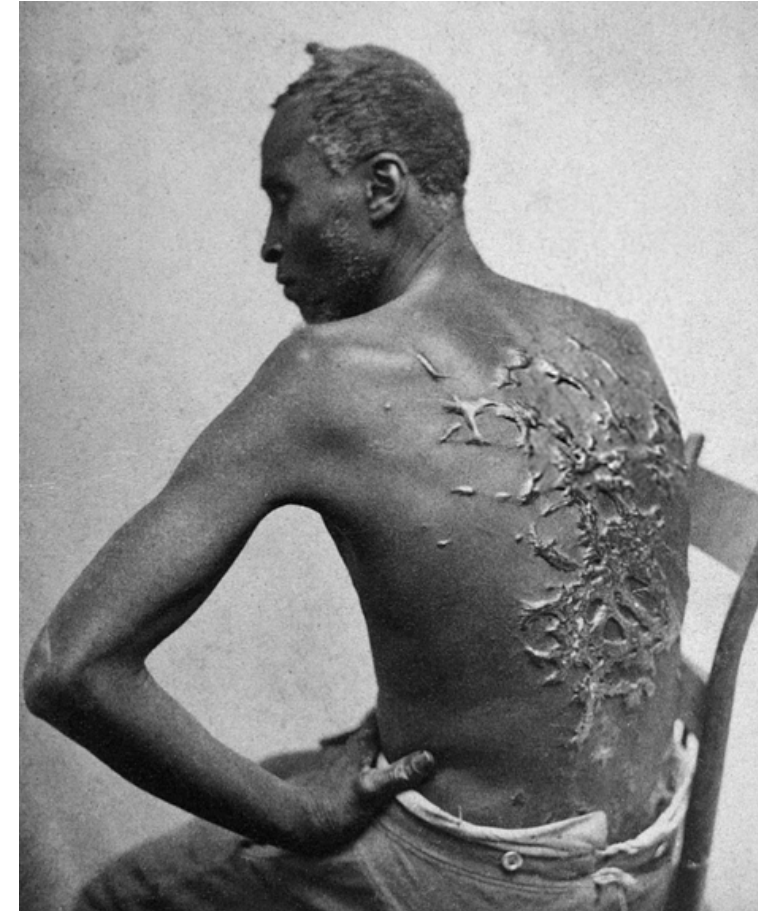
South

- rural society
- fertile land
- economy relies on agriculture
- economy relies on slaves
- antiquated lifestyle
- large family farms / plantations
- no immigration: slaves



FACTS ABOUT SLAVERY

- The first slaves were brought to the British Colony Jamestown in 1619.
- By 1860 the slave population in the US was close to 4 million.
- Slave masters bought and sold slaves.
- Many masters took sexual liberties with enslaved women.(Rape)
- Mothers and children were separated to break family ties.
- Overseers made sure slaves worked hard. (whipping and torture)
- George Washington and Thomas Jefferson held slaves. (317, 600+)
- There were many slave revolts. (Nat Turner)



CAUSES FOR THE WAR

• CAUSE 1: THE ELECTION OF LINCOLN •



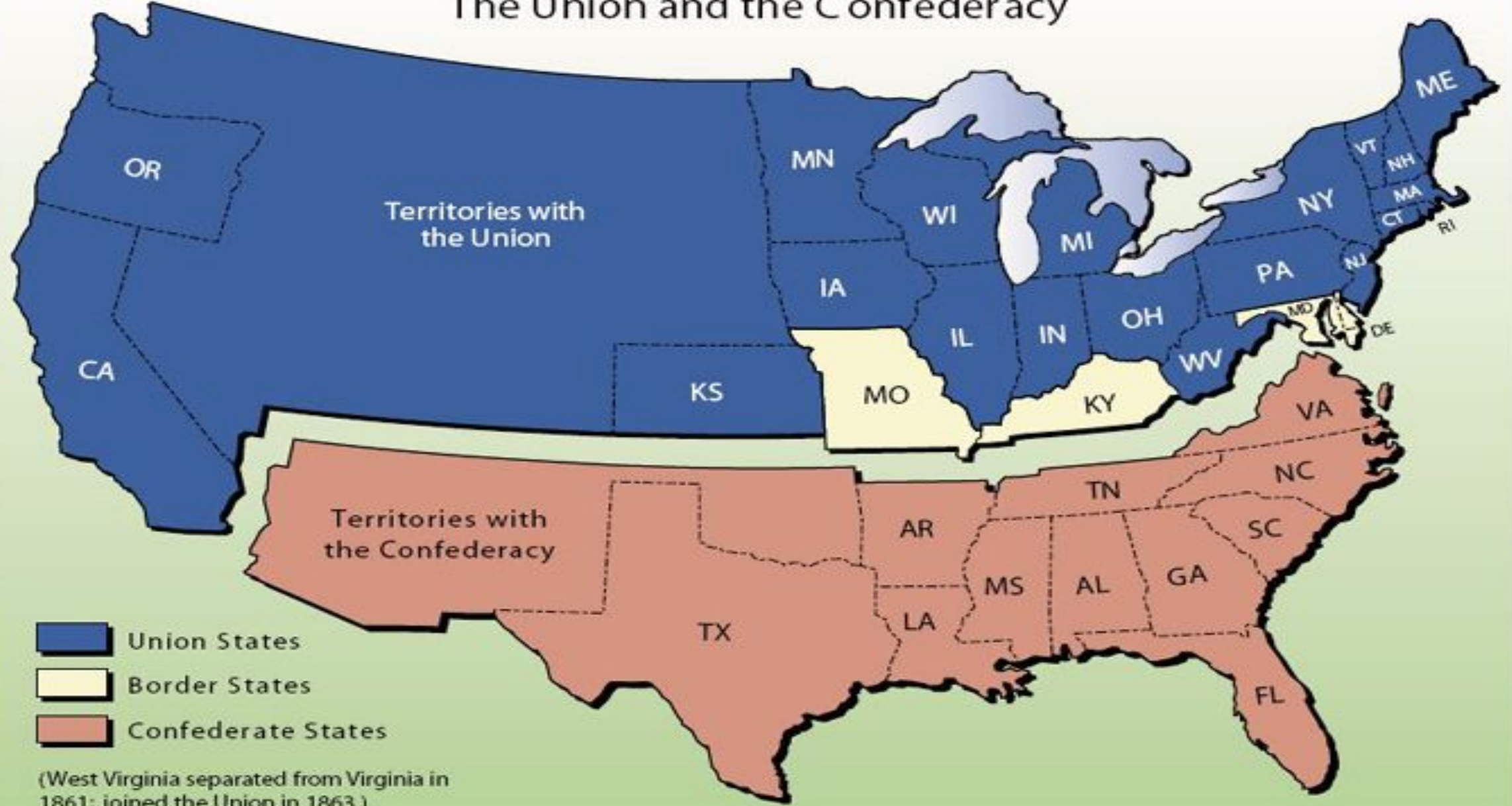
In 1860, Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th President of the USA.

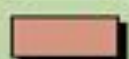
He won the election without winning a single Southern state. Southern states did not agree with Lincoln's anti-slavery stance and refused to be represented by someone who stood for the interests in the north. ("not our president")

So most Southern States decide to secede from the Union. (secession: to leave the Union) These states form the Confederacy and appoint their own President, Jefferson Davis.



The Union and the Confederacy



-  Union States
-  Border States
-  Confederate States

(West Virginia separated from Virginia in 1861; joined the Union in 1863.)



CAUSES FOR THE WAR

• CAUSE 2: SLAVERY •

- Fears of the Southern States:
-
- Abolitionist movement
- Lincoln's anti-slavery vision
- End of the southern business model
- End of the southern way of life (Southern Pride)
- End of slavery
- End of powerful and wealthy families
- End of white supremacy





FACTS ABOUT THE WAR

- **Beginning:** Confederates bombard the Union at Fort Sumter (April 1861)
- **Modern warfare:** distant impersonal rapid-fire weapons / artillery
- **Casualties:** Union: 360 000 - South: 258 000 (Vietnam 47 000)
- **The Union had more soldiers at their disposal**
- **The South had more skilled generals (tacticians)**
- **Famous Union General:** Ulysses S. Grant
- **Famous Confederate General:** Robert E. Lee
- **Famous Battles:** Battle of Gettysburg (Lincoln's Gettysburg address)
- **End of war:** Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse (April 1865)



CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR



- The defeat left the South devastated and humiliated (Southern Pride)
- Impact on the southern economy and psyche (until today?)
- Civil War Amendments to the Constitution
- Reconstruction
- Jim Crow era



AMENDMENTS VS REALITY

Amendment 13

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Amendment 14

1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Amendment 15

1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.



AMENDMENTS VS REALITY

Amendments

- End of slavery?
- Right to citizenship?
- Right to vote?
- All men are created equal?

Reality

- Jim Crow laws / lynch mobs / KKK
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- Jim Crow laws / systemic exclusion
- Segregation and discrimination



2020: WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- KKK still exists
- President Trump does not denounce white supremacists => why?
- Black lives matter VS police brutality => modern lynching?
- Racial profiling => suspicious by nature?
- 40% of people in prison are black => accident?
- Once convicted of a crime: you lose the right to vote => accident?
- Segregation through wealth: gated communities VS poor ghettos

