

American History

What Was the Biggest Turning Point of the Civil War?



The Civil War is a puzzle with thousands of intricate pieces made up of people and events. The people - Abraham Lincoln, George McClellan, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson, and William Tecumseh Sherman – are complex and flawed, worthy of being characters in a play. The events – the Battle of Antietam, the Siege of Vicksburg, the Battle of Gettysburg, the election of 1864, and Sherman’s March to the Sea – are high drama, where multiple outcomes are seemingly always possible.

In the end, these puzzle pieces fit together to form one picture: Union victory. On the path to Union victory, some moments proved to be pivotal – and these moments are seen as “turning points” in the Civil War. Some of these “turning points” happen quickly – like an explosion. Others unfold slowly – like a spark that eventually leads to a fire. Either way, these events were pivotal to the outcome of the war.

This activity provides eight choices – four battles and four developments off of the battlefield. All choices deserve consideration, but only one can win.

What was the most important turning point of the Civil War?

Civil War Timeline

1860

Nov. 6 Lincoln Elected President

Dec. 20 South Carolina Secedes

1861

Feb. 1 Texas Becomes the Seventh State to Secede

Feb. 18 Jefferson Davis Appointed the First President of the CSA

March 4 Lincoln Inaugurated as President

April 12 Confederate Forces Fire on Fort Sumter

April 15 Lincoln Calls for 75,000 Troops

April 17 Virginia Secedes

July 21 Battle of Bull Run

Nov. 8 "Trent Affair"

1862

Jan 1 Inflation in the Confederacy Hits 12% per Month

April 16 Confederacy Institutes a Military Draft

Sept. 17 Battle of Antietam

Sept. 22 Lincoln Issues the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

Nov. 7 Lincoln Fires McClellan as Leader of the Army of the Potomac

1863

Jan. 1	Emancipation Proclamation Takes Effect
April 2	Richmond, Virginia Food Riots – 5,000 People Involved
May 18	Siege of Vicksburg Begins
July 1-3	Battle of Gettysburg
July 4	Confederates Surrender at Vicksburg
July 13-16	New York City Draft Riots
Nov. 19	Gettysburg Address

1864

April 8	Senate Passes the 13 th Amendment
Sept. 1	Atlanta Falls to the Union
Nov. 8	Lincoln Wins Re-Election
Nov. 15	Sherman's March to the Sea Begins
Dec. 22	Sherman Captures Savannah, GA

1865

Jan. 31	House of Representatives Passes the 13 th Amendment
March 4	Lincoln Inaugurated for a Second Term as President
April 9	Lee Surrenders at Appomattox Courthouse
April 14	Lincoln Assassinated

Lincoln's Evolving Views on Slavery and Race



- The average human brain weighs three pounds and contains about 100 billion neurons, with over 100 trillion connections, creating a complex and dynamic belief system that is unique for each human being.

“I hate (slavery) because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world,” Abraham Lincoln said during a debate with Stephen Douglas in Peoria, Illinois in 1854. Lincoln was not just against slavery because of its injustice towards the slaves, but also because it undermined a fledgling democracy. In a later debate in Charleston, Illinois, Lincoln stated something very different. “There is a physical difference between the white and black races,” he said. “There must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race.” While Lincoln was against slavery, he clearly struggled with the issue of equal rights for African-Americans.

When he assumed the Presidency in 1861, Lincoln's goal was to keep the Union together and to keep slavery from spreading to the west. Midway through the war, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This ended slavery in areas controlled by the Confederacy. By the end of the war, Lincoln was instrumental in passing the 13th Amendment – which ended slavery completely. As circumstances changed, Lincoln's views on slavery adapted and evolved.

Lincoln's views on racial equality are a bit more complex. In the early stages of the war, Lincoln favored colonization of ex-slaves to Africa or Central America. This is significant because colonization was seen as a way to avoid citizenship for African-Americans. However, Lincoln allowed African Americans to fight for the Union in 1864– a move that could be seen as potentially embracing citizenship for African Americans. In the end, his assassination keeps us from knowing exactly what his thoughts were regarding racial equality at the end of the war.

Lincoln's evolving views on slavery and race allowed the Union to morph and change as the war unfolded. Lincoln made it possible for the purpose of the war to change – from a war to keep the Union together, to a war to end slavery.

Primary Source	Secondary Source
<p>“My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union...”</p> <p>- Abraham Lincoln – “Letter to Horace Greeley” – August 22, 1862</p>	<p>“Lincoln was especially careful not to drag the issue of slavery into the war, although it was a hesitation he did not enjoy...</p> <p>But Lincoln dared not push that conviction, or the war, to the point of making it an outright assault on slavery. For one thing, as he repeatedly acknowledged, he had no constitutional authority to emancipate slaves...</p> <p>Lincoln also had to remember that there were still four slave states – Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland – that had not seceded from the Union...”</p> <p>- Allen Guelzo – <u>Fateful Lightning</u> – 2012</p>

By the Numbers	Why Keep It In?
<p>62: The Emancipation Proclamation sat in Lincoln’s desk for 62 days as he waited for a Union victory in the field. He officially released it five days after the Battle of Antietam - on September 22, 1862.</p> <p>13: The 13th Amendment finally ended slavery – but only after a difficult political battle. The Senate passed the 13th Amendment on April 8, 1864, and then the House of Representatives passed it on January 31, 1865. It became law when Georgia became the 27th state to ratify it on December 6, 1865 – almost eight months after Lincoln’s death.</p>	<p>Why Keep It In?</p> <p>Lincoln’s leadership was most important when it came to the issue of slavery. He demonstrated his political genius by successfully dealing with two very different groups: Radical Republicans who wanted slavery to end immediately, and Democrats who were against freeing the slaves. Lincoln’s adaptability kept the Union together while the Confederacy eventually ripped apart.</p> <p>Why Vote It Out?</p> <p>This is way too philosophical. The Civil War is about action.</p>

Battle of Antietam



- Visitors walk along the “Sunken Road” at the Antietam Battlefield near Sharpsburg, Maryland. Hundreds of Confederate soldiers died in the “Sunken Road” at the Battle of Antietam.

In September of 1862, General Robert E. Lee had the Union on their heels.

After Union failure during the Peninsula Campaign and Confederate victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Lee seemed almost invincible. He thought one more victory might prove to Britain and France that the Confederacy could stand on its own. Confederate hopes for victory in the Civil War rested largely on Britain and France. Through “cotton diplomacy,” the South hoped to force Britain and France to intervene in the Civil War in order to keep the flow of cotton coming from the South to the textile mills of Europe.

Lee set his sights on Maryland – a slave state that had stayed loyal to the Union. He had an elaborate plan for the Maryland campaign that called for splitting his army into several smaller groups. This strategy had worked extremely well for him in the past, confusing Union leaders into inaction. What ensued at Antietam was the single bloodiest day of the Civil War. There were over 23,000 casualties in twelve hours of fighting at Antietam – a number that dwarfs the 6,600 U.S. casualties on D-Day during World War II.

After the two armies fought to a stalemate on September 21, Lee waited for another Union attack on September 22. It never happened. The Confederates retreated back to Virginia the next day. McClellan claimed victory, but did not pursue Lee’s retreating Army of Northern Virginia. McClellan was fired a short time later by President Lincoln.

Primary Source



- “The Dead of Antietam” – Alexander Gardiner took photos two days after the battle, and these photos went on display at Matthew Brady’s studio in New York City a month later.

Secondary Source

“Antietam was victory enough to allow Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation...

The Proclamation profoundly altered the character of the war by linking restoration of the Union with the destruction of slavery. The prospects for a compromise settlement, always doubtful, were now eliminated, since a Union victory would entail destruction of the social fabric of the South.”

- Richard Slotkin – The Long Road to Antietam - 2012

By the Numbers

2 to 1: The approximate advantage McClellan had over Lee regarding the number of soldiers available to each of them. The Union had about 75,000 soldiers - the Confederates had about 38,000.

3: The battle is typically broken up into three iconic parts: the Cornfield, the Sunken Lane, and Burnside’s Bridge.

191: A Confederate soldier lost a copy of Lee’s “Special Orders 191.” These orders detailed Lee’s plans for the campaign. They ended up in the hands of General George McClellan, the commander of the Army of the Potomac.

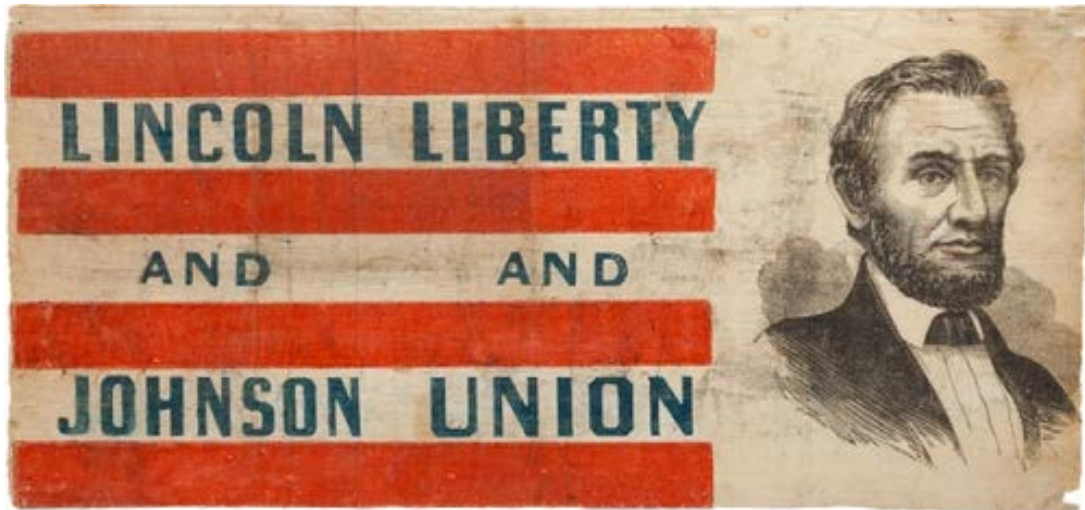
Why Keep It In?

The victory at Antietam directly led to the Emancipation Proclamation, which completely changed the war. After Antietam, slavery seemed doomed. Although Great Britain continued to monitor the war – this was the closest they ever came to recognizing the Confederacy. After the Emancipation Proclamation, British recognition of the Confederacy was unlikely.

Why Vote It Out?

The Union did not deliver a knockout blow – the war continued for almost three more years. Besides, wasn’t Gettysburg the more important Confederate invasion of the North?

Election of 1864



- Election flag for Abraham Lincoln (1864)

For most of 1864, it looked like President Lincoln would be voted out of office.

Lincoln faced Democratic opposition from the beginning of the war – and they would say they had reason to oppose Lincoln. During the opening days of the Civil War, Lincoln suspended habeas corpus. This meant the federal government could jail suspected southern sympathizers without charging them with a crime. Democrats claimed this was proof that Lincoln was abusing his power. During the midterm election of 1862, Republicans lost twenty-three seats to Democrats in the House of Representatives. Democratic Congressman Clement Vallandigham of Ohio openly called for a negotiated end to the war.

Lincoln even faced a division in his own party. A member of Lincoln's own cabinet – Salmon Chase - openly sought the Republican nomination for President himself. Chase was a strong abolitionist who felt like Lincoln's policies regarding slavery were not strong enough. Lincoln's opponent in 1864 was George McClellan – the same George McClellan who enjoyed the rabid support of his troops while leading the Army of the Potomac. Lincoln had fired him from that post in 1862. To top it off, history was not on Lincoln's side. After Andrew Jackson was re-elected in 1832, eight consecutive Presidents – beginning with Martin Van Buren and ending with James Buchanan - had failed to be re-elected.

The Presidential election of 1864 was highly contested and focused on one issue - the direction of the Union war effort. Should the Union fight the war to the bitter end, or should the Union negotiate an end to the war and make concessions to the South?

Primary Source	Secondary Source
<p>“This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to co-operate with the President elect, as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration...”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President Abraham Lincoln – “Blind Memorandum” – August 23, 1864 	<p>“The election held in the middle of (the Civil War) became the first democratic canvass ever successfully carried out during a civil war anywhere, at any time. It was an election in which the issue was what kind of nation this was going to be – unified, however painfully, without slavery; or permanently divided with or without it. That was the way Americans of that time - North and South – viewed it. And that made it perhaps the most critical election in our history.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John C. Waugh – <u>Reelecting Lincoln: The Battle for the 1864 Presidency</u> - 1997

By the Numbers	Why Keep It In?
<p>47: John Fremont was the last Republican challenger to withdraw from the race – and that happened only 47 days before the election. Until then, not only was Lincoln’s re-election very much in doubt – his re-nomination by the Republican Party was in question as well.</p> <p>212-21: That was the final count in the Electoral College – a landslide win for Lincoln.</p> <p>475,000: That is the number of residents of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois that had been born in the South. 40% of residents of those three states had either been born in the South or had parents who had been born in the South. How they would vote was very much in doubt.</p>	<p>The North had many advantages over the South – in population, in factories, and in railroads – but the only way that would make a difference was if the Union was united. By 1864, was the Union its own biggest enemy? Was a lack of support for the war the biggest threat to Union victory? Was the election of 1864 a final victory over internal dissent?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Why Vote It Out?</p> <p>Even if the election was in doubt for most of 1864, it ended up being a blowout. And, the main reason Lincoln won re-election was because of a victory on the battlefield – in this case, the Union victory at Atlanta. Lincoln’s political victory was tied to military victories.</p>

Battle of Gettysburg



- About 1.5 million people from around the world visit the Gettysburg Battlefield every year, making it the most visited Civil War battlefield. A few of them also visit General Pickett's Buffet – an eating establishment located just next to the battlefield in Gettysburg.

In May of 1863, Robert E. Lee met with Confederate President Jefferson Davis and proposed a second invasion of the North. Davis and his cabinet approved Lee's plans, and set in motion a series of events that culminated in the most intense battle American soil has ever seen.

After losses at Shiloh and Corinth, the war was turning against the Confederacy in the west. The Confederacy needed a victory in the east to take pressure off of its armies in the west, but there were other reasons to attack. Union leadership was in turmoil. On June 28, General George Mead was summoned by his superiors in the Union Army, and he thought he might be getting fired. Instead, he was promoted and put in charge of the Army of the Potomac just days before the Battle of Gettysburg. European intervention was still a possibility. There would be British observers at Gettysburg. Provisions were running low on the home front, and inflation was spiking. Plus, Lee's daring tactics had led to major victories during the Peninsula Campaign, Second Bull Run, and at Chancellorsville. It had nearly led to victory at Antietam. A second invasion would put Lee on Northern soil once again – attacking both Union armies and morale.

What ensued at Gettysburg is a part of our national heritage. The names a part of our national DNA: Big Round Top, Little Round Top, Culp's Hill, the Devil's Den, the Peach Orchard, Cemetery Ridge, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, General George Pickett, and the Gettysburg Address. In the end, the Union won a major victory at Gettysburg while Lee and his army escaped to Virginia to fight another day. The war would continue for almost two more years.

Primary Source	Secondary Source
<p>“I do not believe you appreciate the magnitude of the misfortune involved in Lee’s escape. He was within your easy grasp, and to have closed upon him would, in connection with our other late successes, have ended the war. As it is, the war will be prolonged indefinitely...”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President Lincoln – Letter to General George Meade – July 14, 1863 	<p>“The Northern public were growing weary of the war, and a peace movement that would have granted the South independence was growing, fueled in large part by two major defeats to the Army of the Potomac, at Fredericksburg in December 1862 and Chancellorsville in May 1863. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia appeared invincible...”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - D. Scott Hartwig – Chief Historian at Gettysburg Military Park – 2013

By the Numbers	Why Keep It In?
<p>0 – This was the number of times the Confederacy invaded the North after the Battle of Gettysburg.</p> <p>10 – That is how many roads lead into Gettysburg – a town with a population of approximately 2,000 people in 1863. These ten roads contributed to the complexity of the battle – and this complexity made many outcomes possible.</p> <p>164,000 – This was the number of soldiers involved in the battle – 93,000 for the Union and 71,000 for the Confederacy. Only six U.S. cities had a larger population than that in 1860: New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Boston and New Orleans.</p>	<p>The Confederacy was closer to winning at Gettysburg than you might think. Only the quick thinking of General Winfield Hancock kept the Confederacy from gaining the key high ground on day one. While Pickett’s Charge looks like a suicide mission today, frontal assaults like that had worked in the past – a good example being a frontal assault conducted by the Union at the Battle of Pea Ridge earlier in the Civil War.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Why Vote It Out?</p> <p>Gettysburg might be the best known choice – but that doesn’t mean it’s the most important. Besides – wasn’t Antietam the more important Confederate invasion of the North?</p>

The Siege of Vicksburg



- The “Shirley House” – also known to troops at the time as “The White House” - is the only surviving Civil War era structure at Vicksburg Military Park. In front of the “Shirley House” are “bombproofs” – bunkers and tunnels where the citizens of Vicksburg and Confederate soldiers sought protection from Union artillery during the siege.

Vicksburg, Mississippi is perhaps the best example of how geography affected the Civil War.

On a prominent bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, Vicksburg sits at a spot where the Mississippi River curves in a manner that gives whoever controls that spot a clear view of the river for miles in both directions. Needless to say, Vicksburg was an important city during the Civil War. Whoever controlled Vicksburg controlled the movement of troops and war materials up and down the Mississippi River.

In June of 1863, the Union had control of the entire Mississippi River – except for Vicksburg. It proved to be a difficult city for the Union to conquer. After many months of frustration, General Ulysses S. Grant executed an elaborate move and ordered Union troops to cross to the western side of the Mississippi River and march south of Vicksburg before crossing the river again. At that point, Grant then marched toward Jackson, the capital of Mississippi. After taking Jackson, Grant march west toward Vicksburg, where he put the city under siege for nearly two months.

Vicksburg fell to the Union on July 4, 1863 – one day after the Battle of Gettysburg ended - giving the Union complete control of the Mississippi River.

Primary Source	Secondary Source
<p>“They have fought as if the very life of the Confederacy turned upon the issue there; and it was the foreboding that this issue must go against them that excited that desperation which impelled the reckless dash of LEE into Pennsylvania. No man has understood better than JEFF. DAVIS, whose own home is on the banks of the Mississippi, that the power which holds that ‘inland sea,’ as Mr. CALHOUN termed it, ruled the continent...”</p> <p>- New York Times - July 8, 1863</p>	<p>“The capture of Vicksburg was the most important northern strategic victory of the war, perhaps meriting Grant’s later assertion that ‘the fate of the Confederacy was sealed when Vicksburg fell.’”</p> <p>- James McPherson – <u>Battle Cry of Freedom</u> - 1988</p>

By the Numbers	Why Keep It In?
<p>2: The Union victory at Vicksburg essentially split the Confederacy into two parts – with Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas isolated in the west, away from Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.</p> <p>47: This is the number of days the siege of Vicksburg lasted.</p> <p>1907: Citizens of Vicksburg reportedly did not celebrate the Fourth of July until 1907.</p> <p>29,495: That was the number of Confederate troops that surrendered to Union forces at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. By comparison, General Lee led 71,000 Confederate troops into battle at Gettysburg.</p>	<p>Why Vote It Out?</p> <p>Battles in the east get a lot of attention, but victory in the west made victory in the east possible for the Union. The fall of Vicksburg made it possible for the Union to surround the Confederacy and devote more manpower and firepower to battles in the east.</p> <p>The number of troops in the west pales in comparison to the number of troops in the east. Plus, the Confederacy was closest to gaining independence at Antietam or Gettysburg. The war was decided in the east because that is where Lee took calculated risks and attempted to win the war in 1862 and 1863 – and failed.</p>

Sherman's March to the Sea



- The focus of Sherman's March was to destroy the Confederacy's capacity to make war. Railroads were a major target for Sherman. Here, a Union soldier stands beside one of "Sherman's Neckties." These were pieces of railway that were heated over a bonfire and twisted around a tree. This rendered the rail line unusable.

Taking a Union army and marching right through the heart of the Confederacy without supply lines? The idea was almost absurd.

This was precisely what General William Tecumseh Sherman proposed to General Grant after Atlanta fell to the Union in July of 1864. The idea of "Total War" – targeting anything that could be used to support the war effort of the Confederacy - was hatched. His goal was to "make Georgia howl." Sherman left Atlanta on November 15 and emerged at Savannah, Georgia a little over a month later.

Many of Sherman's targets were civilian, in the form of grain, cotton and livestock. His army lived off of the land along the way. Surprisingly, Sherman spared the beautiful city of Savannah. However, after reaching Savannah, he turned north and marched through South Carolina, heading toward its capital city of Columbia. Sherman's troops destroyed much of the state that had initially led the secession movement.

Sherman's March was a strike at the heart of the Confederacy – a strike that was largely unopposed, and a strike that made it obvious that by the end of 1864, the Confederacy was crumbling. The Civil War would never be the same.

Primary Source	Secondary Source
<p>“...I hastened back to my frightened servants and told them that they had better hide, and then went back to the gate to claim protection and a guard. But like demons they rush in! My yards are full. To my smoke-house, my dairy, kitchen, and cellar, like famished wolves they come, breaking locks and whatever is in my way. The thousand pounds of meat in my smoke-house is gone in a twinkling...”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dolly Sumner Lunt – “A Woman’s Wartime Journal – An Account of the Passage Over a Georgia Plantation of Sherman’s Army on the March to the Sea” – November 19, 1864 	<p>“Sherman’s march across Georgia delivered a fatal body blow to the Confederacy. The march to the sea finished off what was left of the shorter regional rail lines in Georgia and made it almost impossible to keep Lee’s army in Virginia supplied with food and ammunition from the granaries and factories of the lower South.”</p> <p>Allen Guelzo, Professor at Gettysburg College - <u>Fateful Lightning</u> - 2012</p>

By the Numbers	Why Keep It In?
<p>37: That is the number of days that it took for Sherman’s army to march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia – where they could establish communication with Union forces again through the Union navy.</p> <p>285: The march lasted 285 miles, and the width of the destruction ranged from 20 to 60 miles along the way.</p> <p>60,000: This was the number of Union troops on Sherman’s March. By comparison, the entire Confederate Army numbered about 200,000 in January of 1865.</p>	<p>Emotion and practicality. This campaign was all about inflicting psychological terror on the entire Confederate population and making it impossible for the Confederacy to support its army. And, if a country can’t stop an opposing force from marching right through the middle of it, how can it survive?</p> <p>Why Vote It Out?</p> <p>Sherman’s March is flashy, but the outcome of the Civil War had been decided by this point. Maybe it was more decisive in shortening the war rather than actually winning the war?</p>

Internal Conflicts in the Confederacy



- Gutzon Borglum – most famous for his work at Mount Rushmore – began the Confederate Memorial at Stone Mountain, Georgia in the 1920's. Located just thirty minutes northeast of Atlanta and completed in 1972, the memorial features Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Stonewall Jackson. The carving is 76 feet tall, 158 feet wide, and extends 42 feet into the mountain. By contrast, George Washington's head at Mount Rushmore is about 60 feet tall.

From December 20, 1860 until June 8, 1861 – beginning with South Carolina and ending with Tennessee - eleven states seceded from the United States. At the time, they stated that one of the reasons they did this was to escape the control of a strong central government. They felt that the federal government was either abusing its power or was getting ready to abuse its power. They viewed themselves as an oppressed people. They compared secession to the American Revolution. In the beginning, many people in the South viewed the war as a "romantic adventure" - famously depicted in the ballroom scene from the movie *Gone With the Wind*, where Southerners danced and celebrated secession. After the Battle of Bull Run, there was a lot to celebrate.

In order to fight the Civil War, the Confederate States of America took two controversial actions: they taxed their citizens, and they instituted a military draft. From the way they cultivated the land to the way that they worshipped, the Southern way of life was based upon the action of the *individual* rather than the individual being a part of a *group*. Moreover, when Southerners did identify with a group – it was with their *state*, more so than with the *Confederate States of America*. Assessing taxes and instituting a military draft are the actions of a strong central government. As the war progressed, states were less and less willing to meet the demands of this central government.

As the war unfolded, these internal problems became an anchor for the Confederacy. The same spirit of individualism that inspired secession eventually help lead to its destruction.

Primary Source	Secondary Source
<p data-bbox="186 365 787 436">“It seems military men are assuming the whole powers of government to themselves...</p> <p data-bbox="186 480 797 709">I had therefore concluded to take no notice of this matter till the meeting of the legislature when I expect to ask the representatives of the people to define the bounds to which they desire the Governor to go in the defense of the rights and sovereignty of the state...”</p> <ul data-bbox="235 751 787 905" style="list-style-type: none"> - Governor Joseph E. Brown (Georgia) – Letter to Alexander Stephens, Vice-President of the Confederate States of America – September 1, 1862 	<p data-bbox="824 323 1437 905">“State governors frustrated the exemption process by claiming more state officers than they needed and by obstructing the conscription process. The classic example was Georgia’s Governor Joe Brown, who exempted more men than any other governor and fought conscription (the draft) in the courts. President Davis wrote Brown extended letters – actually legal briefs – and in November of 1862 sent former interim Secretary of State William M. Browne on a diplomatic mission to seek the compliance of the Georgia governor. The state Supreme Court in Georgia upheld the draft unanimously; still Brown persisted and withheld troops whenever possible.”</p> <ul data-bbox="868 947 1404 1018" style="list-style-type: none"> - Emory M. Thomas – <u>The Confederate Nation</u> (1979)

By the Numbers	Why Keep It In?
<p data-bbox="186 1278 781 1430">0: That was the number of political parties in the Confederacy. There was no rival political party to organize dissent. This led to a Confederacy that was increasingly fractured.</p> <p data-bbox="186 1474 760 1583">5%: The Confederacy was only able to raise about 5% of its revenue to pay for the war from taxes. The rest had to be borrowed.</p> <p data-bbox="186 1627 797 1814">9,000%: During the war, prices rose in the South by more than 9,000%. This runaway inflation was the result of the Confederacy borrowing and printing money to fund the war effort.</p>	<p data-bbox="824 1272 1388 1501">In order to fight the war, the Confederate government had to exert control over the states. In doing so, they violated the very principles upon which they claimed it was founded: states’ rights. That contradiction meant the Confederacy was doomed.</p> <p data-bbox="993 1545 1260 1583">Why Vote It Out?</p> <p data-bbox="824 1627 1430 1778">The Confederacy was able to work through these problems for at least two or three years. Continued victories in the field would have alleviated this problem.</p>

New York City Draft Riots



- An engraving from the August 1, 1863 edition of Harper's Magazine, with a caption that read "Charge of the Police on the Rioters at the Tribune Office." Other engravings in the issue portray a drugstore being ransacked, a dead soldier being dragged through the streets, and an African-American being lynched during the riots in New York City.

In July of 1863, the citizens of New York City literally tore their city apart.

The immediate cause of the riot was the newly instituted military draft – and more precisely, the provision that allowed wealthy individuals to pay \$300 to buy their way out of mandatory military service. There were other factors that contributed to the violence. In 1860, approximately 47% of New York City was born in other countries – a large jump from only 8.7% being foreign-born in 1830. Many of these immigrants resented the idea of fighting for the freedom of African-Americans, only to potentially have their jobs taken away or their wages suppressed by these newly freed slaves.

The initial targets of the rioters were the draft offices - where lotteries were held to see who would be drafted into the Union Army – but the violence spread. Rioters attacked innocent African-Americans, the home of the Mayor of New York City, city offices, the offices of the New York Times, and an orphanage for black children. The New York militia was absent from the scene after being called to duty at Gettysburg two weeks earlier. New York City police and firemen battled the rioters in vain. Only federal troops – fresh from the Battle of Gettysburg – were able to quell the violence and restore order to the city.

The New York City Draft Riots are the second largest civil uprising in American history – behind only the Civil War itself.

<p>Primary Source</p> <p>“The outbreak was the natural consequence of pernicious teachings widely scattered among the ignorant and excitable populace of a great city; and the only possible mode of dealing with it was stern and bloody repression. Had the mob been assailed with grape and canister on Monday, when the first disturbance took place, it would have been a saving of life and property...”</p> <p>- Harper’s Weekly (August 1, 1863)</p>	<p>Secondary Source</p> <p>“Eventually Federal troops fresh from Gettysburg were brought into New York City. They calmly shot the rioters down, and the riots collapsed. But riots popped up elsewhere – in Boston, in Milwaukee, in the marble quarries of Vermont, and across the upper Midwest – and they were often linked, like the New York City riots, to labor disputes.”</p> <p>- Allen Guelzo – <u>Fateful Lightning</u> (2012)</p>
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<p>By the Numbers</p> <p>4: The violence lasted from July 13-16, 1863 – a total of four days of mayhem and upheaval in the largest city in the Union.</p> <p>34: The draft resumed without incident in New York City on August 19th - thirty-four days after the riots ended.</p> <p>50: Fifty building were burned to the ground – including the Colored Orphan Asylum and two Protestant churches.</p> <p>120: The estimated number of people who died during the four days of rioting in New York City by historian James McPherson. This included rioters, policemen, firemen, Union troops, and eleven black men who were lynched during the four days of rioting.</p>	<p>Why Keep It In?</p> <p>New York was the most populous state in the Union, and the riots were a big deal. The New York City Draft Riots are the second largest civil uprising in American history – behind only the Civil War itself. If this conflict would have spread to other urban centers in the North – it could have crippled the Union war effort. The ability of the Union to minimize the discontent regarding the war effort demonstrated that a majority of the country backed Lincoln and his policies, and gave the Union army the time they needed to defeat the Confederacy and avoid a negotiated end to the war.</p> <p>Why Vote It Out?</p> <p>New York City was unique from other Northern cities in that it was more sympathetic to the South.</p>
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American History

The Biggest Turning Point of the Civil War – Closed Sort

Lincoln-Slavery/Race	Antietam	Election of 1864	Gettysburg

Vicksburg	Sherman's March	Confederacy	NYC Draft Riots

Directions: Two items go in each of the eight categories listed above.

Maryland	Mississippi River	\$300 Draft Dodgers
Eleven States	212-21	Atlanta to Savannah
Pennsylvania	Immigrant Unrest	July 4, 1863
Total War	Lincoln vs. McClellan	Ended with Pickett's Charge
9,000 % Inflation During the War	Waited 62 Days to Make an Announcement	
Said "Slavery Holds Back Our Democracy"	Union Win = Emancipation Proclamation	

American History

The Biggest Turning Point of the Civil War – Closed Sort - Key

Lincoln-Slavery/Race	Antietam	Election of 1864	Gettysburg
<p>Waited 62 Days for an Announcement</p> <p>Said "Slavery Holds Back Our Democracy"</p>	<p>Maryland</p> <p>Union Win = Emancipation Proclamation</p>	<p>212-21</p> <p>Lincoln vs. McClellan</p>	<p>Pennsylvania</p> <p>Ended with Pickett's Charge</p>

Vicksburg	Sherman's March	Confederacy	NYC Draft Riots
<p>Mississippi River</p> <p>July 4, 1863</p>	<p>Atlanta to Savannah</p> <p>Total War</p>	<p>Eleven States</p> <p>9,000% Inflation During the War</p>	<p>\$300 = Draft Dodgers</p> <p>Immigrant Unrest</p>

American History

The Biggest Turning Point of the Civil War – Quiz

New York City Draft Riots

1. True/False: Union soldiers who had just finished fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg had to be sent to New York City to help put down the New York City Draft Riots.
2. There were two causes of the New York City Draft Riots mentioned in the packet. One was the fact that wealthy individuals could pay \$300 to avoid the draft. Which was the second cause?
 - a. Lack of quality leadership in the Union army
 - b. The population of New York City included a high percentage of immigrants
 - c. Citizens of New York City were manipulated by Confederate spies
 - d. Malnourishment – a lack of food for the people of New York City

Internal Conflicts in the Confederacy

3. How did the state of Georgia deal with the central government of the Confederate States of America?
 - a. Georgia went out of its way to cooperate with the Confederate States of America
 - b. Georgia withheld support for the Confederate States of America
4. Which best describes political parties in the Confederacy during the Civil War?
 - a. There were eleven political parties – one for each state
 - b. There were not any major political parties – just many small political parties that were not very organized
 - c. There were two main political parties – the Democrats and the Republicans.
 - d. There really weren't any political parties

Sherman's March to the Sea

5. How was Sherman's March an example of "Total War?"
 - a. It was expensive
 - b. It happened at the end of the war
 - c. It was an example of a general acting on his own, without approval of his superiors
 - d. Sherman's army targeted anything that could support the Confederate war effort – including civilian property

6. After marching through Georgia, Sherman and his army continued their destruction in what other state?
 - a. Florida
 - b. Tennessee
 - c. Alabama
 - d. South Carolina

The Siege of Vicksburg

7. Vicksburg, Mississippi fell to the Union one day after another major battle. What battle was this?
 - a. Antietam
 - b. Sherman's March
 - c. Gettysburg
 - d. Election of 1864

8. True/False: Vicksburg is a great example of how geography can make some cities more important than others.

Battle of Gettysburg

9. True/False: The Battle of Gettysburg was the result of the first - and only - invasion of the North by General Robert E. Lee.
10. True/False: President Lincoln was disappointed with General George Meade after the Battle of Gettysburg because Meade did not pursue Lee's army as they retreated back to Virginia.

Election of 1864

11. True/False: President Lincoln faced opposition from the Democrats when running for re-election, but he enjoyed the unanimous support of all Republicans in 1864.
12. President Lincoln wrote the "Blind Memorandum" in August of 1864 – about three months before the Presidential election was to take place in November of 1864. What did Lincoln say in this memo?
 - a. That he would probably lose the Presidential election
 - b. That he would probably win the Presidential election
 - c. That he was thinking about dropping out of the Presidential election
 - d. That he was tired and didn't care if he won or lost the Presidential election

Battle of Antietam

13. True/False: The Battle of Antietam took place in Maryland.
14. After the Battle of Antietam, President Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Why was the Emancipation Proclamation such a big deal?
 - a. It was instrumental in keeping Britain and France out of the war
 - b. It ended slavery forever throughout the entire United States
 - c. It helped the Union raise a lot of money for the war effort
 - d. It led directly to Union control of the Mississippi River

Lincoln's Evolving Views on Slavery and Race

15. True/False: Lincoln opposed the idea of "colonization" of freed slaves to Africa or Central America from the time he first entered politics in the 1830's.
16. Which best describes Lincoln's message in his letter to Horace Greeley on August 22, 1862?
 - a. His primary goal for the war was to end slavery
 - b. His primary goal for the war was to keep the Union together
 - c. His primary goal for the war was to destroy the South financially
 - d. His primary goal for the war was to have the United States conquer the North American continent