




# A Nation Divided and Reunited

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Unit 5– Contextualization  
1844-1877



# The Causes of the Civil War

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The expansion of the institution of slavery was the major cause for the Civil War.

- The Development of an Agrarian South
- The Development of an Industrial North
- The Development of Technological Innovations– The Cotton Gin and More Efficient Farm Implements
- The Second Great Awakening and the Development of Reform Movements in the North– particularly the Abolitionist Movement

# The Causes of the Civil War

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Important events in this process include:

- The Annexation of Texas
- The Mexican-American War
- The California Gold Rush
- The Compromise of 1850
- Uncle Tom's Cabin
- The Kansas-Nebraska Act
- The Dred-Scott Decision
- John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry
- The Election of 1860- The Election of Abraham Lincoln

# The Civil War

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- The North begins the war with tremendous advantages in money, weapons, manufacturing, infrastructure, and in population.
- The Anaconda Plan– the Union Navy blockades the South (the South fails to achieve foreign recognition)
- Shiloh– the emergence of Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman
- Antietam– Union victory enables Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation
- The Emancipation Proclamation- slaves are freed in areas that are in rebellion against the Union (it changes the nature and course of the conflict)

# The Civil War

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- The Union wins major victories at Vicksburg (which split the Confederacy in two) and Gettysburg (repelling the final major Confederate invasion of the North) in July, 1863.
- In 1864, Grant and Sherman take command of the Union war effort and while Grant pursues the major Confederate army in Virginia, Sherman marches through Georgia and the Carolinas destroying the economic infrastructure of the South. Lincoln is re-elected in 1864, as President of the United States.
- The major Confederate armies surrender in April, 1865, and Lincoln— often viewed as the greatest Presidential figure in American history becomes one of the final casualties of the conflict.

# Reconstruction

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- With the death of Lincoln, Reconstruction proceeded with his successor, Andrew Johnson, whose lenient policies angered the Radical Republicans in Congress.
- As Reconstruction had proceeded under Johnson, the former Confederate states had created what were known as the “Black Codes,” stripping African-Americans of basic civil rights protections, while former Confederate slowly began to be able to become more active in Southern politics.
- Johnson was impeached by the Radical Republicans in Congress, who assumed the power of the process of Reconstruction— which included a brief military occupation of the South and featured the passage of three crucial Constitutional amendments which defined the basic citizenship and civil rights of all Americans.
- The 13th Amendment (1865- ended slavery); The 14th Amendment (made former slaves American citizens) and The 15th Amendment (gave formerly enslaved men the right to vote).

# Reconstruction

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- Reconstruction was the first attempt to create federal agencies for the welfare of former slaves and to develop a system of public education in the South. It will not be until the New Deal of the 1930s and the Cold War of the 1950s and 1960s that the South will see the same level of federal investment.
- Reconstruction came to an end due to an economic depression (The Panic of 1873), the growth of domestic terrorist groups in the South (such as the Ku Klux Klan), and the lack of Northern political will.
- With the end of Reconstruction, a system of sharecropping and segregation began to take hold in the states of the South (a system of racial apartheid)– neither of which would come to an end until the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.