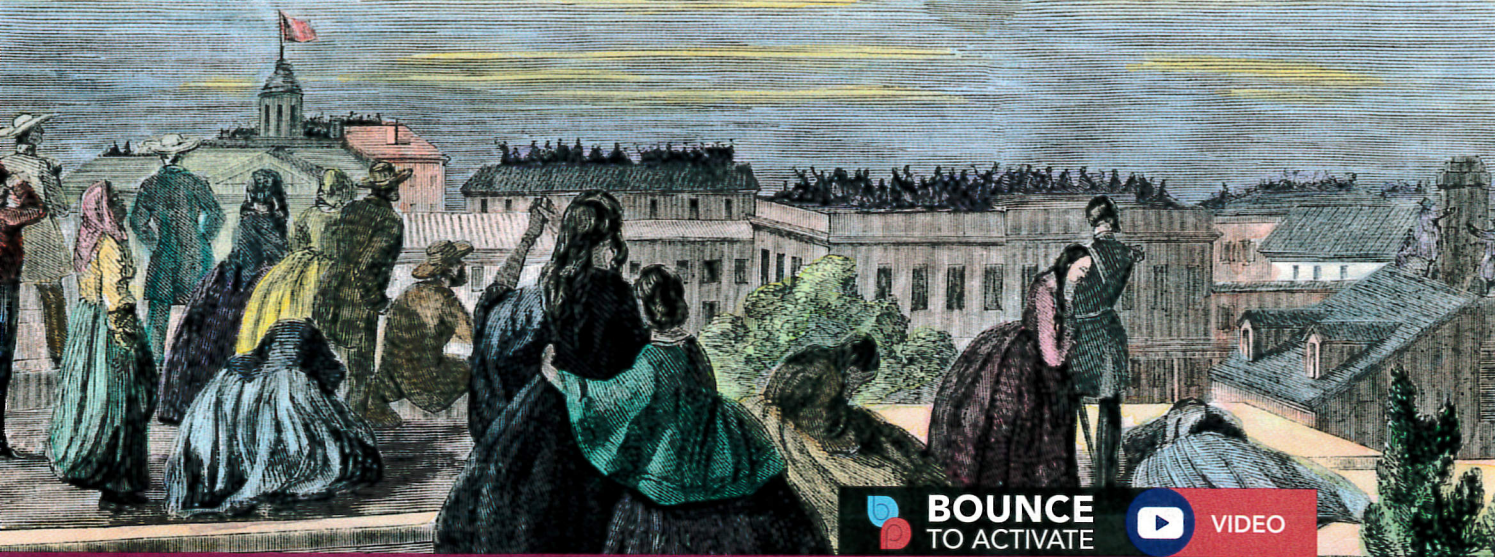


LESSON 3

Division and the Outbreak of War



 **BOUNCE**
TO ACTIVATE

 **VIDEO**

GET READY TO READ

START UP


Examine the civilians who have come to watch the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Why do you think these people have come, and what might they be thinking?

GUIDING QUESTIONS


- Why was there a Civil War?
- How did the 1860 election reflect sectional differences?
- Why did southern states secede from the Union following the election of 1860?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the North and South as the war began?

TAKE NOTES

Literacy Skills Compare and Contrast

Use the graphic organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

Practice Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary activity in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

unamendable border
acquiescence state

Academic Vocabulary

comprise
conducive

The Republican National Convention for the presidential election of 1860 took place in Chicago, Illinois. Abraham Lincoln faced William Seward for the nomination. Seward was a U.S. senator for New York. Lincoln, whose fame had increased during the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, won the nomination.

Why Did Abraham Lincoln Win the Election of 1860?

The Democrats held their convention in Charleston, South Carolina, where a lack of party unity proved costly. Southerners wanted the party to call for slavery in all new territories, but northern Democrats refused. In the end, the party split in two. Northern Democrats chose Stephen Douglas to run for president. Southern Democrats picked John Breckinridge of Kentucky.

Some Americans tried to heal the split between the North and the South by forming a new party. The Constitutional Union party chose John Bell of Tennessee to run for president. Bell was a moderate who wanted to keep the Union together.

Even before the election, South Carolina's governor had written to other southern governors. If Lincoln won, he wrote, it would be their duty to leave the Union. This sentiment revealed the strong currents of sectionalism running through the country. Many in the South felt stronger ties to their region than to the nation.

The Nation Splits Senator John Crittenden of Kentucky made a last effort to save the Union. In December 1860, he proposed a package of legislation that he said would forever guarantee slavery south of the Missouri Compromise line and prohibit it north of the line. His proposal included a Constitutional amendment that he said would be **unamendable**, one that could not be changed.

The Crittenden Compromise received little support. Slavery in the West was no longer the issue. Many southerners believed the North had put an abolitionist in the White House and that secession was now their only choice. Most Republicans also were unwilling to surrender what they had won in the national election.

On December 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede. By late February 1861, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas had also seceded.

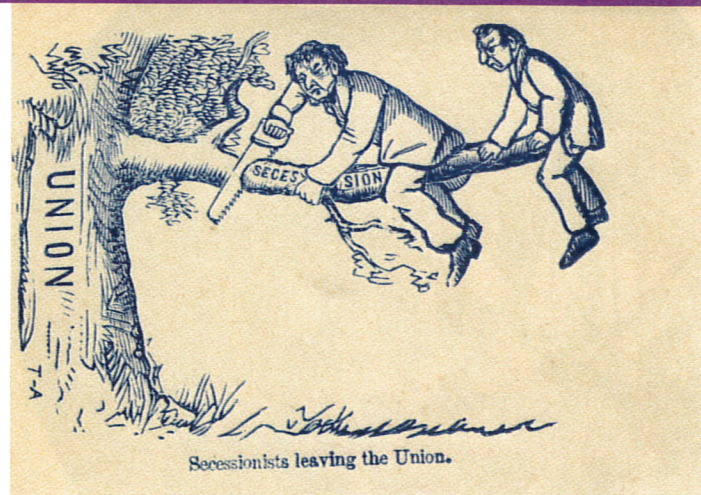
At a convention in Montgomery, Alabama, the seven states formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi became its first president.

Causes Leading to War Now a new issue emerged: Did the Constitution allow states to secede? Most white southerners believed they had the right to secede. After all, the Declaration of Independence said that "it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish" a government that denies the rights of its citizens. Lincoln, they believed, would deny them the right to force African Americans to live and work as slaves.

For many southerners, secession was an issue of states' rights. According to this view, the Constitution created a Union **comprised** of sovereign states, and each state had the authority to make decisions without interference from the federal government. Any state could decide to leave the Union at any point and to join with others to form a new government, such as the Confederacy.

Lincoln disagreed. He maintained that the Constitution shared powers between national and state governments, but did not give states sovereignty that would allow them to secede. The causes of the looming Civil War thus included sectionalism, disagreement over slavery, and disagreement over the constitutionality of states' rights.

READING CHECK **Compare and Contrast** the views of southerners and President Lincoln on the issues of state sovereignty and the right to secede from the Union.

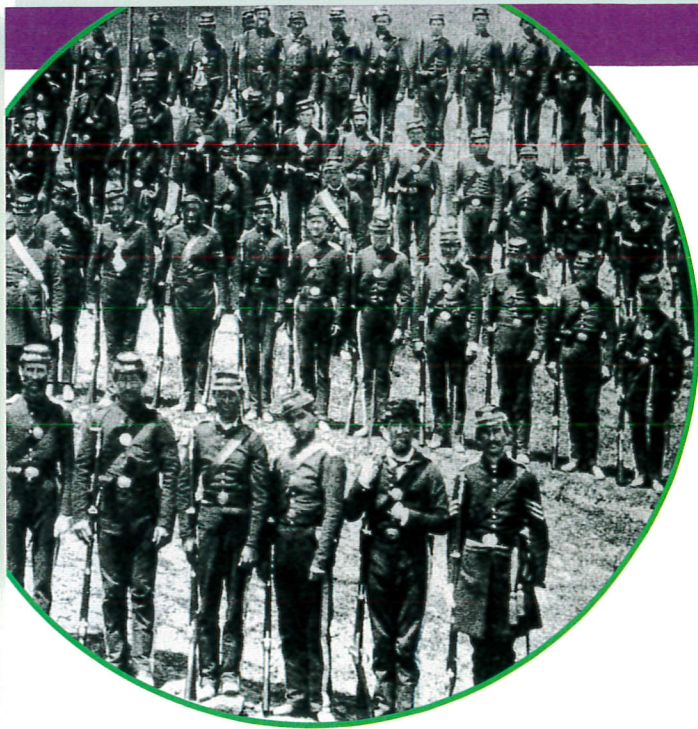


Analyze Images In this cartoon, two secessionists are sawing off the branch of the tree upon which they are sitting. **Analyze Political Cartoons** What effect do you think the artist believes secession would have on the South?

Quest CONNECTIONS

The Declaration of Independence says people have the right to "alter or to abolish" a government. What does Lincoln say about this in his speeches? Record your findings in your Active Journal.

Academic Vocabulary
comprise • v., to be made up of



▲ Confederate troops, 1861

The Outbreak of War

When Lincoln took the oath of office on March 4, 1861, he faced a dangerous situation. Seven southern states had seceded from the United States and had joined together to form the Confederacy.

Lincoln's First Inaugural Address When he took office, Lincoln delivered an inaugural address. In the speech, Lincoln warned that “no state . . . can lawfully get out of the Union.” Still, he pledged that there would be no war unless the South started it:

Primary Source

“In YOUR hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in MINE, is the momentous issue of civil war. . . . We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.”

—Abraham Lincoln, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861

Lincoln's First Inaugural Address expressed ideas about union, liberty, equality, and government. Regarding union, Lincoln emphasized that the Constitution set limits on the actions of states, and that there was no provision in the Constitution for secession. That is, the Constitution required that the Union be preserved. On liberty, again, Lincoln emphasized that the states' liberty was constrained by their acceptance of the Constitution and did not include a right to secede.

Lincoln also stated his willingness to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act, but only if the liberty of free African Americans from kidnapping and enslavement could be ensured. Regarding equality, Lincoln assured Americans that he would provide government services and enforce federal law equally in all states, whether they were slave or free states.

Finally, Lincoln stated that government required **acquiescence**, or the willingness to accept laws whether or not a person agreed with those laws. The unwillingness of the South to accept his legal election under the Constitution, he implied, was a threat to government.

Jefferson Davis's Inaugural Address By the time Lincoln gave his address, the Confederate States of America had already sworn in Jefferson Davis as president. Davis's inaugural speech was very different from Lincoln's. Whereas Lincoln pledged to keep the Union together, Davis explained why the South had decided to secede from the Union. Davis said secession was based on “the desire to preserve our own rights and promote our own welfare.”

Davis also said, “It is joyous, in the midst of perilous times, to look around upon a people united in heart, where one purpose of high resolve animates and actuates the whole—where the sacrifices to be made are not weighed in the balance against honor and right and liberty and equality.”

For Davis, liberty and equality existed only between white men. Lincoln, in contrast, believed secession countered the principles of liberty and equality on which the nation was founded and its government was based. In a later speech, Lincoln would extend the idea of equality to all Americans.

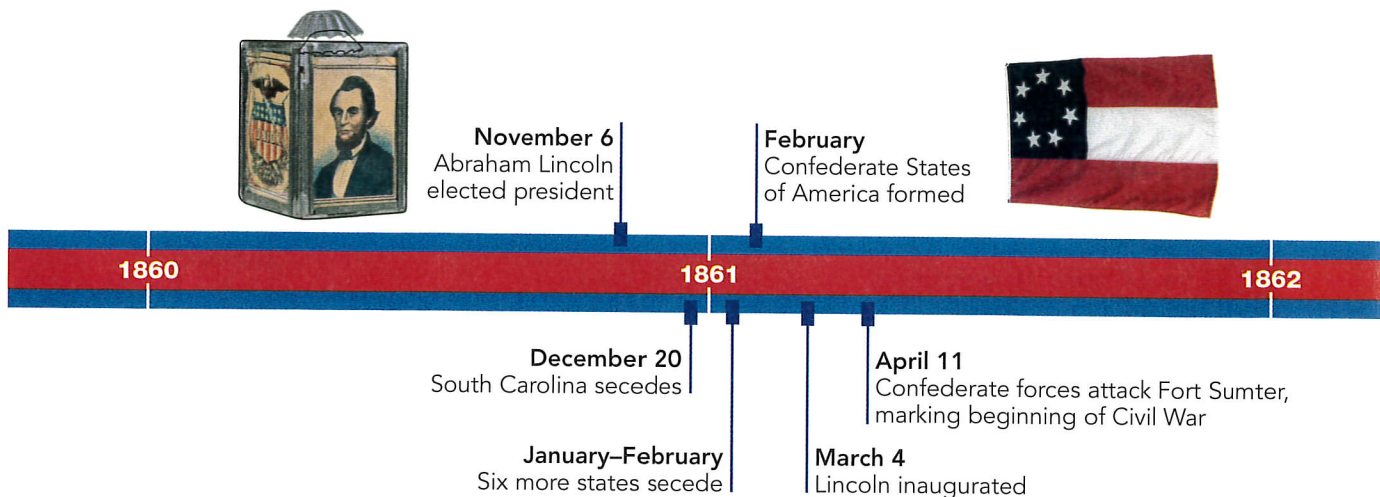
Davis emphasized that government exists only with the consent of the governed. Since southerners no longer consented to this government, they had to break away and form a government to which they could consent. This was in contrast to Lincoln’s argument that government sometimes requires citizens to acquiesce to, or obey, laws with which they disagree. He described secession as “the essence of anarchy.”

Davis also argued that each state had the right to reclaim powers that it had given to the federal government. Lincoln disagreed. He argued that the Constitution was an agreement among all the states, and that no state could leave the Union without the agreement of the others.

Lincoln Faces War Lincoln said in his inaugural address that he did not want war, but Jefferson Davis had already ordered Confederate forces to begin seizing federal forts in the South. Lincoln faced a difficult decision. Should he let the Confederates take over federal property? If he did, he would seem to be admitting that states had the right to secede. Yet if he sent troops to hold the forts, he might start a civil war and lose the support of the eight slave states that had not yet seceded.

Analyze Timelines The timeline shows some important events that led up to the outbreak of the Civil War. **Identify Cause and Effect** How did the election of Lincoln as president contribute to the attack on Fort Sumter?

Events Leading Up to the Civil War



In April, the Confederacy forced Lincoln's hand. By then, Confederate troops controlled nearly all forts, post offices, and other federal buildings in the South. The Union held only three forts off the Florida coast and Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Fort Sumter was important to the Confederacy because it guarded Charleston Harbor.

Confederate Troops Attack Fort Sumter President Lincoln learned that food supplies at Fort Sumter were running low. He notified the governor of South Carolina that he was going to ship food to the fort. Lincoln promised not to send troops or weapons.

The Confederates refused to allow any shipments to the fort. On April 11, 1861, they demanded that Fort Sumter surrender. Major Robert Anderson, the Union commander, refused to give in, and Confederate guns opened fire. The Union troops quickly ran out of ammunition. On April 13, Anderson surrendered the fort.

The bombardment marked the start of the Civil War, which would last four terrible years, from 1861 to 1865.

READING CHECK Summarize Lincoln's dilemma over southern states taking control of federal property.

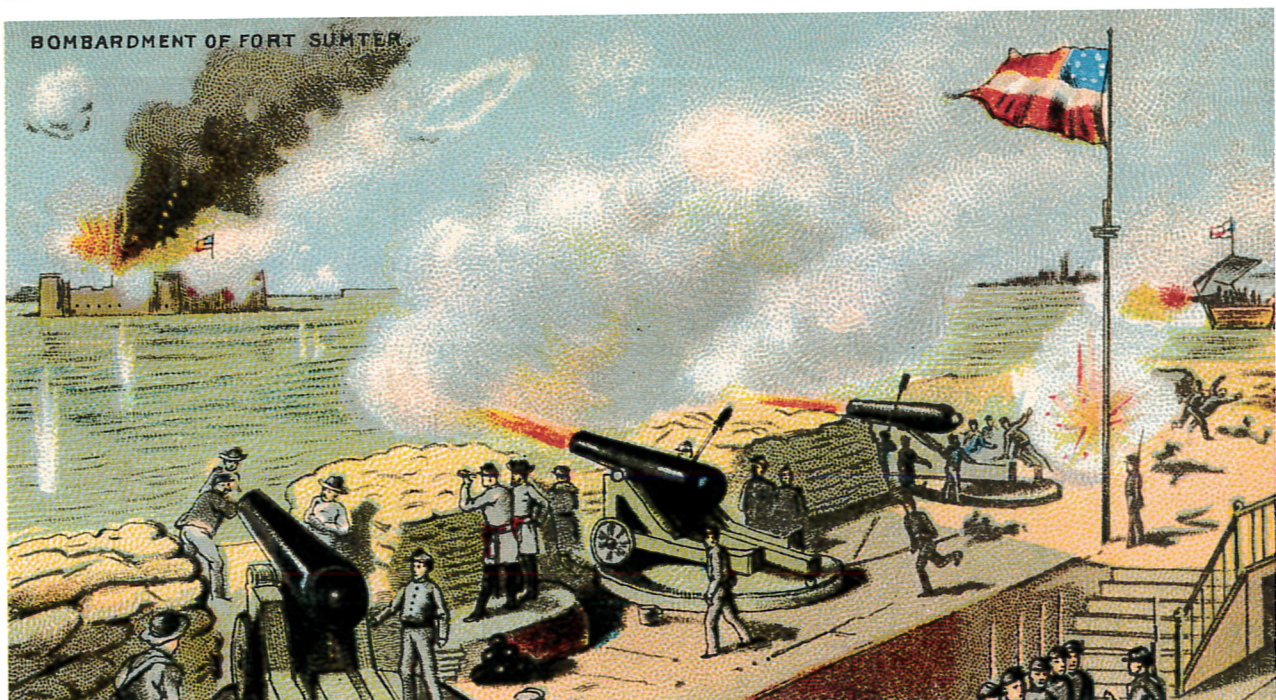
How Did Americans Take Sides?

When the war began, each side was convinced that its cause was just. Southerners believed states had the right to leave the Union. In fact, they called the conflict the War for Southern Independence. White southerners wanted independence so that they could keep their traditional way of life—including the institution of slavery. They also believed the North had caused the war. Many southerners, therefore, also called it the War of Northern Aggression.

Northerners believed that they were fighting to save the Union. Abolishing slavery was not an official goal. In fact, many northerners,

Analyze Images This photograph shows one of a set of Civil War trading cards issued in 1887.

Identify Main Ideas Why did Confederate troops attack Fort Sumter?



Choosing Sides, 1860-1861



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

- 1. Location** Based on the map, why were Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware called border states?
- 2. Analyze Maps** Based on the information in the map, approximately what percentage of Union states were slave states during the Civil War?

guided by feelings of racism, approved of slavery. Racism is the belief that one race is by nature superior to another.

In April 1861, eight slave states had not yet decided whether to remain in the Union. These states had more than half of the South's population and food crops and many of the South's factories. They would be important assets to whichever side they joined.

Four of these states—Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas—quickly joined the Confederacy. After some indecision, each of the four **border states**—Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland, and Delaware—decided to remain in the Union.

READING CHECK Understand Effects Why were both the North and South trying to attract slave states outside the Confederacy to join their cause?

Strengths and Weaknesses of the North and South

Both sides during the Civil War had strengths and weaknesses. The South also had the advantage of fighting a defensive war. "We seek no conquest," said Confederate President Jefferson Davis. "All we ask is to be let alone." If the North did not move its forces into the South, the Confederacy would remain a separate country.

The South White southerners believed that they were fighting a war for independence, similar to the American Revolution. Defending their homeland and their way of life gave them a strong reason to fight. "Our men must prevail in combat," one Confederate said, "or they will lose their property, country, freedom—in short, everything."

Confederate soldiers also knew the southern countryside better. Friendly civilians aided them, often guiding soldiers along obscure roads that did not appear on maps.

The South, however, had serious weaknesses. These were the effects of economic and geographic differences between the North and the South.

The South had an agrarian, or farming, economy. Its fertile land, ample rainfall, and long growing season were **conducive** to growing cash crops, such as cotton and tobacco, rather than food crops.

Likewise, the South had few factories to produce weapons and other vital supplies, and few railroads to move troops and supplies. The railroads that it did have often did not connect to one another. Tracks simply ran between two points and then stopped.

The South had political problems as well. The Confederate constitution favored states' rights and limited the authority of the central government. As a result, the Confederate government often found it difficult to get things done. On one occasion, for example, the governor of Georgia insisted that only Georgian officers should command Georgian troops.

Finally, the South had a small population of only 9 million people. Of these, one-third were enslaved African Americans. In comparison, the Union had 22 million people, including 3.8 million men of military age. In the South, just 1.1 million people were free men of military age, and it had to recruit 80 percent of them for the war. As a result, the South did not have enough people to serve as soldiers or to support the war effort.

Academic Vocabulary

conducive • *adj.*, making it easy for something to happen

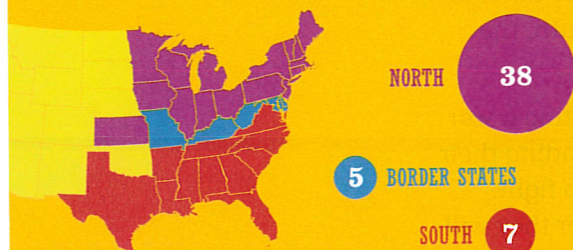
Analyze Graphs The graphic provides economic data comparing the North and the South at the start of the Civil War. **Compare and Contrast** Based on the information in the graphs, what advantages did the North have over the South?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH & SOUTH

POPULATION IN 1860



50 U.S. CITIES WITH LARGEST POPULATIONS 1860



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

TOTAL VALUE OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS 1860

TOP 5 NORTHERN & SOUTHERN STATES



Source: Historical Census Browser, University of Virginia

UNION & CONFEDERATE RESOURCES 1861



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Analyze Images As these Union troops marched through Baltimore, Maryland, on their way to defend Washington, D.C., a pro-Confederate mob attacked them.

Identify Main Ideas What was the significance of the border states?

The North The North had many people to grow food and to work in factories. But the war was unpopular among northerners, and extremely high war casualties continued to make it unpopular.

The North's biggest advantage was its strong industrial economy. Before the war, the North had ten times the industrial capacity of the South. Once the war began, these factories began making guns, bullets, cannons, boots, uniforms, and other supplies for the Union army. In addition, the North had more than double the miles of railroad line, which it used to transport both troops and supplies.

The geography of the North gave it another advantage. The prairie that rolled from Ohio in the east to Iowa and beyond in the west produced enormous food supplies. The South had nothing compared to it.

The North also benefited from a strong navy and a large fleet of trading ships. With few warships and only a small merchant fleet, the South was unable to compete with the North at sea.

The North had one other major advantage. West Point, the best military academy in the country, was located in New York. While the South had many West Point-trained officers, the Union could continue to train officers throughout the war.

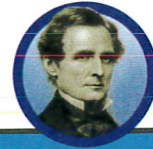
Despite these advantages, the North faced a difficult military challenge. To force the South to rejoin the Union, northern soldiers had to conquer a huge area. Instead of defending their homes, they were invading unfamiliar land where their lines of supply would be long and open to attack.

READING CHECK **Summarize** how a weak economy and weak industry can be problematic during wartime.

INTERACTIVE

Resources in the North and South, 1860

Comparing Lincoln and Davis



Lincoln's Experience

- Self-taught lawyer
- Eight years in Illinois state legislature
- One term in U.S. Congress
- Generally regarded as winner of Lincoln-Douglas debates

Davis's Experience

- Attended West Point Military Academy
- Officer in the Mexican War
- Secretary of War under President Pierce

Analyze Charts This chart compares the experience of Lincoln and Davis as they took office as presidents of the Union and Confederacy.

Cite Evidence Why might people think Davis was better prepared than Lincoln to be president?

How Did Lincoln and Davis Lead Their People?

Leadership was a crucial factor in the Civil War. President Davis, President Lincoln, and military leaders on both sides played key roles in determining the war's outcome.

Jefferson Davis Leads the South Many people had expected Davis to be a stronger leader than Lincoln. However, Davis did not want the presidency. As one observer stated:

Primary Source

"Mr. Davis's military instincts still predominate, and his eager wish was to have joined the army instead of being elected president."

—Arthur James Freemantle, from *The Freemantle Diary*

Davis's experience had prepared him for the position. He had attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and served as an officer in the Mexican-American War. Later, he was Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce.

Davis was regarded as honest and courageous and was widely respected. However, he did not like to turn over to others the details of military planning. As a result, he spent much time worrying about small matters and arguing with advisers.

The Leadership Qualities of Abraham Lincoln At first, some northerners had doubts about Lincoln's ability to lead as President of the United States and commander-in-chief of the U.S. military. He had little experience in national politics or military matters. However, Lincoln proved to be a patient but strong leader and a fine war planner.

Day by day, Lincoln gained the respect of those around him. Many liked his sense of humor. They noted that Lincoln even accepted

INTERACTIVE

Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis

criticism with a smile. When Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, called him a fool, Lincoln commented, "Did Stanton say I was a fool? Then I must be one, for Stanton is generally right, and he always says what he means."

The Role of Robert E. Lee, Military Leader As the war began, army officers in the South had to decide whether to stay in the Union army and fight against their home states, or join the Confederate forces.

Robert E. Lee of Virginia faced this dilemma when Lincoln asked him to command the Union army. He explained in a letter to a friend:

Primary Source

"If Virginia stands by the old Union, so will I. But if she secedes . . . , then I will still follow my native State with my sword and, if need be, with my life."

—Robert E. Lee, quoted in Carl Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln*

Virginia did secede, and Lee refused Lincoln's offer. Later, Lee became commander of the Confederate army.

Many of the prewar United States Army's best officers served the Confederacy. As a result, President Lincoln had trouble finding generals to match those of the South.

READING CHECK **Check Understanding** What advantages in leadership did the South have over the North?




Analyze Images This illustration shows how one artist imagined General Robert E. Lee of Virginia. **Infer** What impression of Lee do you think the artist was trying to convey?

Lesson Check

Practice Vocabulary

1. Why did Senator Crittenden say his proposed amendment on extending the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific should be **unamendable**?
2. How were the **border states** different from the other states that stayed in the Union?
3. Why did Lincoln think government required **acquiescence**?

Critical Thinking and Writing

4. **Identify Main Ideas** What motivated the South to fight in the Civil War?
5. **Summarize** the principal disadvantages the North faced in fighting the Civil War.
6. **Writing Workshop: Develop Your Thesis** Begin to draft a thesis on the differences between the North and South before, during, and after the Civil War. Write your thesis in your  Active Journal. You can revise your thesis statement as your essay develops.

Assess Credibility of a Source

Follow these steps to assess the credibility of a source.



INTERACTIVE

Analyze Primary and Secondary Sources

1 Identify who created the source and when it was created

- a. Who wrote and delivered the speech excerpted below?
- b. When was it delivered?

2 Identify the topic What is the main idea presented in this excerpt from the speech?

3 Identify the facts, opinions, and possible inaccuracies or biases

- a. What facts does Lincoln present in this speech?
- b. What opinions does he express?
- c. What inaccuracies or biases can you detect?

4 Assess the credibility of the source

When a source has credibility, it means it is believable and trustworthy. Are the ideas expressed by President Lincoln credible? Why do you think so?

Primary Source

On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln delivered this speech at his first inauguration as President of the United States. Six weeks later, on April 12, the Civil War began.

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican Administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from

one of those speeches when I declare that—

I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. . . .

[T]o the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States. . . . I trust this will not be regarded as a menace, but only as the declared purpose of the Union that it will constitutionally defend and maintain itself.

— President Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1861