

The American civil war : 1862 - 1865 causes, sequence, consequences

“The American Civil War was a struggle for the soul of America, a confrontation between two diametrically opposed visions of what the future of the nation should be.” - Doris Kearns Goodwin, in *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*

I - The beginning of the American civil war

A - Causes

- **Cultural, political and economic issues** between North and South such as slavery.
- On the one hand, the Southern economy is based on **cotton's monoculture**. On the other hand, the North is more industrialized. **80% of the factories were in the North.**
- **November 6, 1860**, Abraham Lincoln from the Republican Party, was elected with **40% of the vote without promoting the abolition of slavery.**
- This election led to the secession of South Carolina on **December 20, 1860**, followed by other states.
- on **February 4, 1862**, some states met in **convention in Montgomery, Alabama**, to form the Confederate States of America.

B - The first act of the American civil war

- Abraham Lincoln **refused** to accept the **independence of the Confederate States of America**. He refused the request of Jefferson Davis, then Confederate President, for the **departure of the Federal garrisons occupying the South.**
- On **April 12, 1861**, Confederate troops opened fire around Fort Sumter. **The American civil war was launched.**
- **Bull Run on July 21, 1861**, first organized battle. the Union troops saw as the final battle of the Civil War.
- The battle was a **resounding defeat for the Northern troops**. The South, even though outnumbered, showed **unshakeable determination** for the rest of the war.

II - Northern victory and the consequences of the war

A - 1862-1863, pivotal years

- **Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862** between General Robert E. Lee and Unionist General George McClellan.
- **27, 000 deaths**, moral victory for the North leading to the **Emancipation Proclamation.**
- **Battle of Gettysburg from July 1 to July 3, 1863.** Union victory.
- Sherman's March to the Sea, **November 1863.**

B - Southern capitulation and outcome

- The progressive Southern defeat with the **overland campaign, Sherman's march to the sea** and the **fall of the Confederate capital of Richmond** in 1865.
- On **April 9, 1865**, General Lee surrender at **Appomattox Court House.**

“The Civil War has left a complex and controversial legacy, marked by the reconstruction of the South, struggles for civil rights and persistent questions about thememory and interpretation of this historic event”

- The toll was heavy, with more than **610,000 men killed on both sides**. Deadliest war ever fought by and in the United States.
- The federal government took advantage of this return to normality to **strengthen federal sovereignty.**



EMILE GUERN
GABRIEL DE LUSSY

Grant and His Generals – Ole Peter Hansen Balling, 1865

At the Front - George Cochran Lambdin, 1866