**Ambre & Alexandre** **29/02/24**

**Presentation : *The American Civil War***

**Question :**

***"To what extent did the American Civil War (1861-1865) shape the country's history and influence the creation of federalism by subtly redefining the relationship between central government and the states*?”**

**Context**

**→ Origin:** many economic and political differences between the Northern and Southern States

**→ Triggers:**

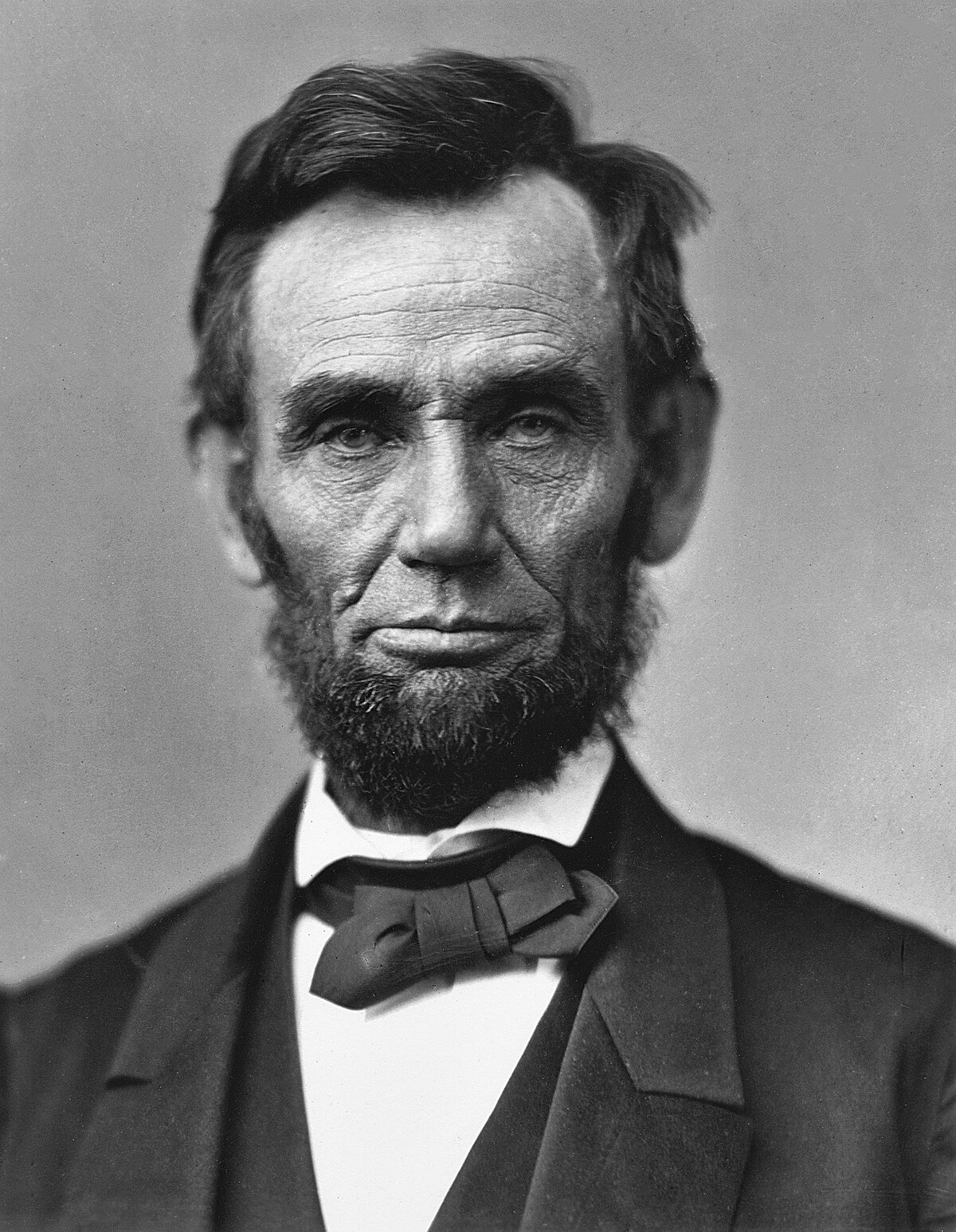
* the election **of President Abraham Lincoln**
* the desire to abolish slavery in the Northern States

**→ Proceedings:** Opposed the Union (North) and the Confederation (South)

**I/ History of the American Civil war**

**→ From 1861 to 1865**

**→ Considered the first modern war: new weapons and strategies**

**→ Historical Landmarks :**

* **Series of majors battles:** Battle of Bull of Run (Confederation won) or Battle of Gettysburg (one of the deadliest in the American history)
* **On January, 1st 1863:** Emancipation Proclamation signed **by President Abraham Lincoln**
* **April 1865:** General Robert E. Lee's surrenders at Appomattox (defeat of Confederation)

**II/ Effect of the war on the development of federalism**

**→ Bloody conflict:** more than 600 000 died on the battlefield

**→ Federal power:** considerably strengthened + perception of the Union as an indissoluble entity => **Union victory:** no more doubts about federalism capacity, development of human rights, protected by the federal government

**III/ Legacy and memory of the American civil war, with the example of the myth of the “Lost Cause”**

→ Complexity and diversity memory of the conflict

→ Development of a patriotic feeling in order to preserve dignity of the South during the war

**→ Nowadays:**

* a part of the Southern Americans refuse to believe the will of the Northern Americans to abolish slavery as the real origin of the war
* some of the American people, mostly Republicans, desire the comeback of a “white supremacy”

→ Southern states continue to have doubts about federalism, through political speeches against this type of organisation + they also want to preserve the honour and dignity of the South during the war

**→ “Lost cause” = denialist theory :** denial of the role of slavery **→** idea that the goals of the confederation were noble