

# A Divided Nation



## Part 1: Slavery in the Territories

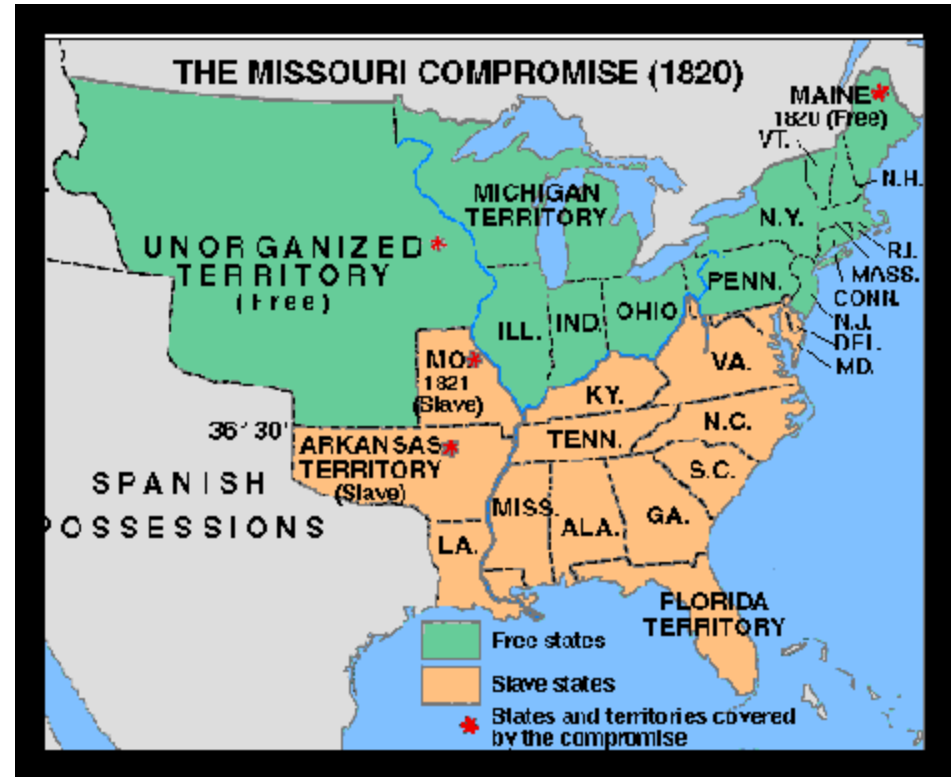


Hooray for  
the free  
Soil Party!

In 1848 the **Free Soil Party** formed. The free soil party was a group of antislavery supporters that formed a new political party.

## New States carved out of the Louisiana Purchase

Louisiana was the first state to join the Union (or United States) as a slave state. Missouri then asked to join the Union as a slave state. At this time there was a balance of eleven free and eleven slave states in the Union. Missouri became a slave state. This upset the balance in the senate giving the slave states the majority. Henry Clay, a Senator came up with a compromise called the **Missouri Compromise**. In his plan Missouri would remain a slave state and Maine would be admitted to join the Union as a free state.



**Americans now begin to take sides in supporting the North or the South over the issue of slavery. This was called sectionalism.**



In 1850, California was asked to join the Union as a free state. Tempers in the Senate flared up worse! Senator Henry Foote of Mississippi tried to block California's admission into the Union by drawing his pistol to shoot Hart Benon, a Senator from Missouri. Hart Benon was in support of having **California** joining the Union. Luckily no one was shot, but angers over the issue of slavery were rising.





**Between 1821-1848 Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin entered as a free states. Arkansas, Florida and Texas came in as slave states.**



**Senator Henry Clay, now 30 years later since the Missouri Compromise, pleaded that if the North and South could not reach an agreement over slavery, the country will break apart. Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, who was dying of tuberculosis, replied saying the South refuses to compromise.**

**You must agree with the compromise!**



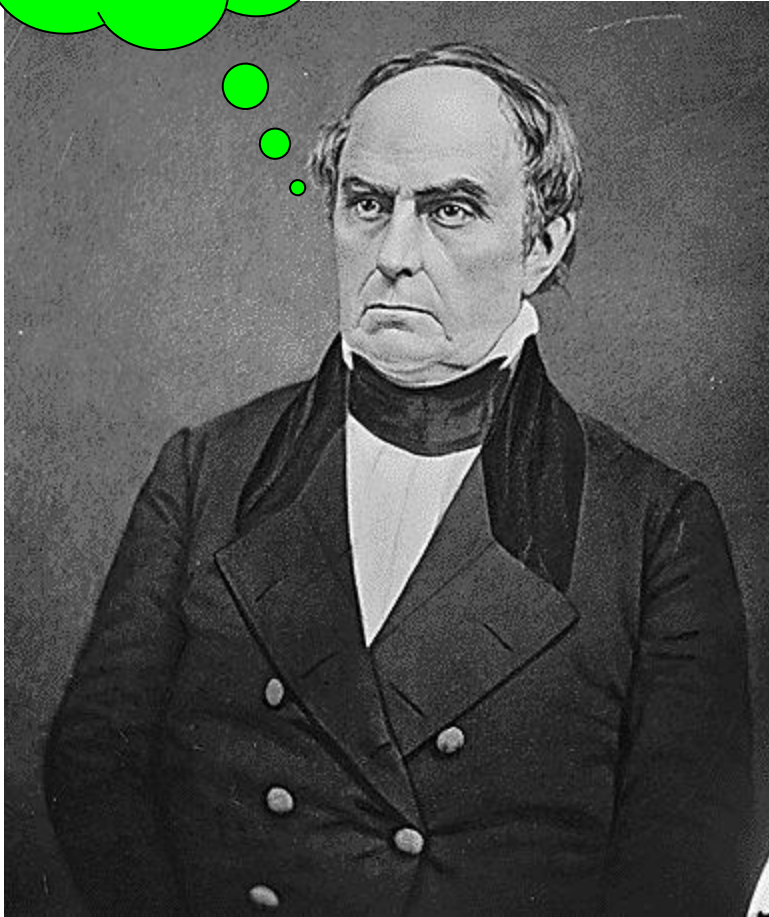
Henry Clay

**I will never compromise!**



John C. Calhoun

We must  
preserve  
the Union!



Daniel Webster

Senator Daniel Webster of Massachusetts spoke next saying:  
***“I speak today not as a Massachusetts man, nor a northern man, but as an American...I speak for the preservation of the Union...There can be no such thing as a peaceable succession. Peaceable succession is an utter impossibility!”***

What did Daniel Webster mean in his plea in the Senate?

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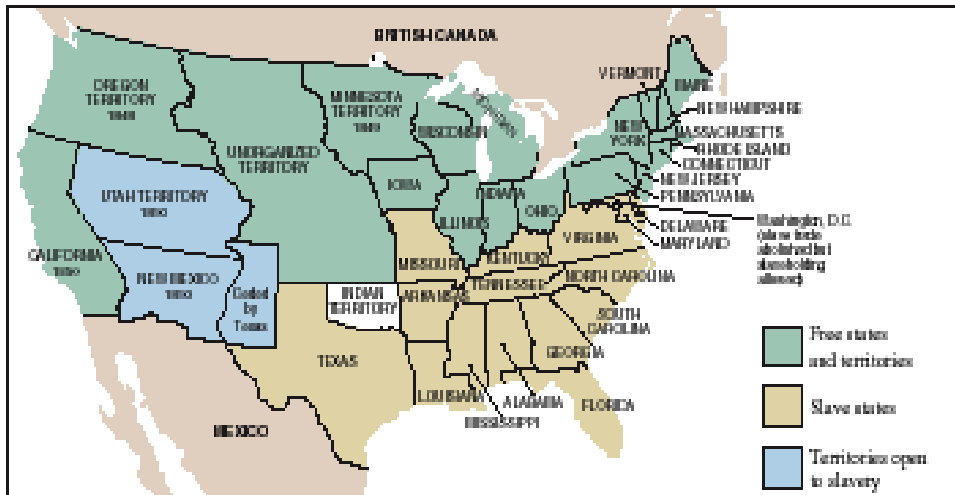
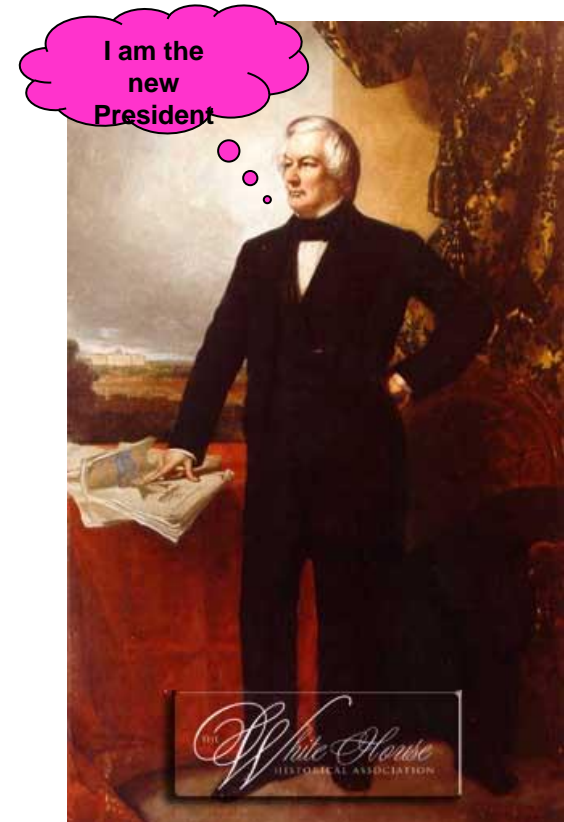
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## Part 2: The Compromise of 1850

In 1850 President Taylor and Calhoun died. Millard Filmore becomes the new President. The Senate came to an agreement over the issues in the Compromise of 1850. The Compromise of 1850 stated:

1. **California could enter the Union as a free state.**
2. **The rest of the land from the Mexican succession will be divided into the states of New Mexico and Utah.**
3. **The slave trade would be ended in Washington, D.C.**
4. **A stricter *Fugitive Slave Law* was passed.**



**THE COMPROMISE OF 1850** "I have seen many periods of great anxiety, of peril, and of danger in this country," Henry Clay told the Congress in February of 1850, "and I have never before risen to address any assemblage so oppressed, so appalled, and so anxious." What followed were the debates that led eventually to the passage of his great compromise. Can you find three of the four major parts of the bill on the map?

The Fugitive Slave law of 1850 stated that all citizens must help catch runaway slaves. People who let runaway slaves escape could be fined \$1000.00 and jailed for 6 months. The Southerners hoped that the slave law would force Northerners to capture runaway slaves and force Northerners to admit that slave owners had rights. It only convinced the Northerners that slavery was evil.



Enforcing the Fugitive Slave Law

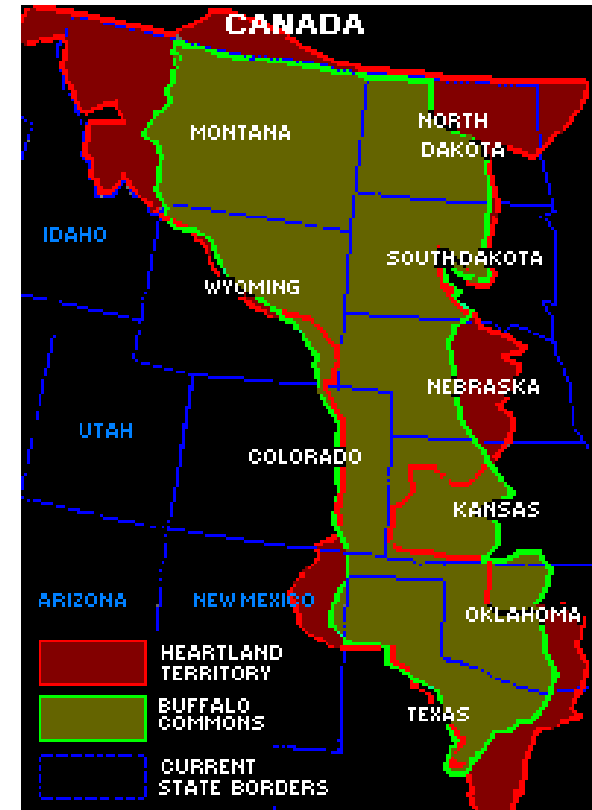


In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published a novel, **Uncle Tom's Cabin**.

Stowe wrote the novel to show the evils of slavery and the injustice of the Fugitive Slavery Act. The book had wide appeal and sold 300,000 copies. Southerners claimed that Uncle Tom's cabin did not portray the correct picture of slave life.

## **Part 3: The Crisis Deepens** **The Kansas- Nebraska Act**

**In January of 1854, The Senator Stephen Douglas introduced a bill to set up a government in the Nebraska Territory. The Nebraska Territory stretched from Texas north to Canada and from Missouri west to the Rocky Mountains.**



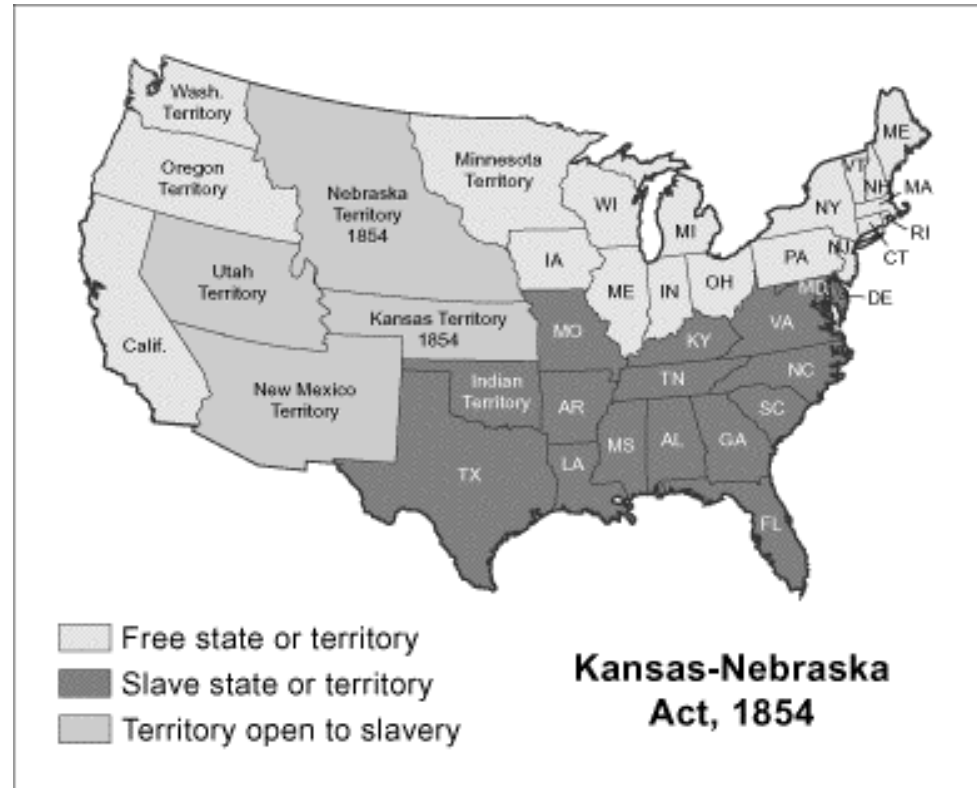
Douglas proposed to divide the territory into 2 separate territories, Kansas and Nebraska. In each territory the settlers would decide on the issue of slavery. This was called the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**. Many people moved into Kansas because land was cheap to purchase. Slavery and antislavery settlers moved into Kansas causing many massive disturbances and violence.

# RALLY SPIRITS OF '76!

ALL CITIZENS OF  
**LEOMINSTER,**  
without distinction of party, who disapprove of the  
"Nebraska Iniquity,"

are requested to meet at the  
**TOWN HALL,**  
Monday Evening, July 10th,  
AT 7 O'CLOCK,

to choose delegates to meet in a  
**Mass Convention,**  
at Worcester, the 20th inst., to teach the "South"  
we have a "North," and will maintain our CON-  
STITUTIONAL RIGHTS.  
CALEB C. FIELD, LEONARD BURRAGE,  
HENRITT WOOD.  
Leominster, July 9, 1854.

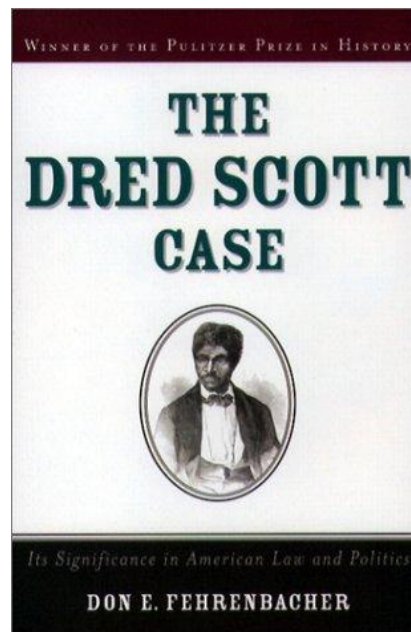




## The Dred Scott Decision

Many people in the United States looked at the Supreme Court of the United States to settle the issue of slavery. **Dred Scott** was a slave that moved with his owner to Wisconsin, a free state. Later Dred Scott moved back to his home state of Missouri and his owner died. Antislavery lawyers helped Dred Scott argue that since he lived in a free territory, he was a free man. *The Supreme Court ruled that Scott could not file a lawsuit because Dred Scott was black, he was not a citizen. Justices also agreed that slaves were property.* Southerners rejoiced at the decision while Northerners argued over the Supreme Court decision.

I am a  
free  
man!



## Part 4: The Republican Party Emerges

In 1854 a group of antislavery Whigs and the free soil party formed a new political party called the **Republican Party**. The main goal of the Republican Party was to keep slavery out of the western territories.



You can  
call me,  
"Honest  
Abe!"

## Abraham Lincoln

**Abraham Lincoln** was born in the backlands of Kentucky. As a child he taught himself to read. After Lincoln left home he opened a store in Illinois. There, he studied law on his own and launched his career in politics. After spending 8 years in the state legislature, Lincoln served one term in Congress. In 1858 Lincoln decided to run against Stephen Douglas for the Senate. Lincoln was very honest in his campaign against slavery for this reason he became known as "**Honest Abe**".

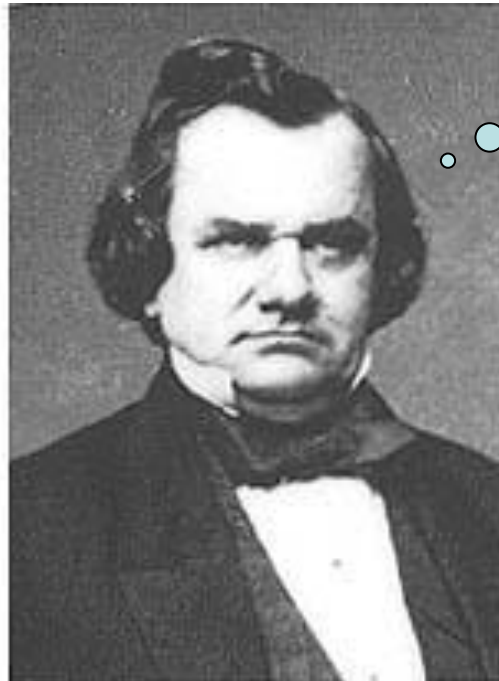


Lincoln challenged Douglas to a series of debates. A political debate was held between the two candidates to get more attention on the issues. In his debates, Lincoln called to end slavery. Douglas argued that if we ended slavery it would lead us into war. Douglas won the election by a slim margin. Abraham Lincoln won the nations attention and he made a name for himself around the country. Douglas and Lincoln would meet again in 2 years in the presidential election.

I will win  
the  
election  
for  
President!



Abraham Lincoln



Stephen Douglas

I will not  
let you  
win!





On June 16, 1858 presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln referred to the separation of the North and South by saying:

*"A house divided against itself cannot stand... I believe the government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free..."*

What did President Lincoln mean by this statement?

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## John Brown's Raid

In 1859 more bloodshed pushed the North and South apart. John Brown carried antislavery campaign against slavery to the East. He led a group of African Americans to Harpers Ferry, Virginia. There, they raided a federal arsenal or gun warehouse. Brown and his followers seized the arsenal. No actual rising took place because troops led by Robert E. Lee killed 10 of the raiders and captured Brown. Brown was sent to trial and sentenced to death. Soon afterwards Brown was hanged until his death. This event led to another clash between the Southerners and the Northerners.

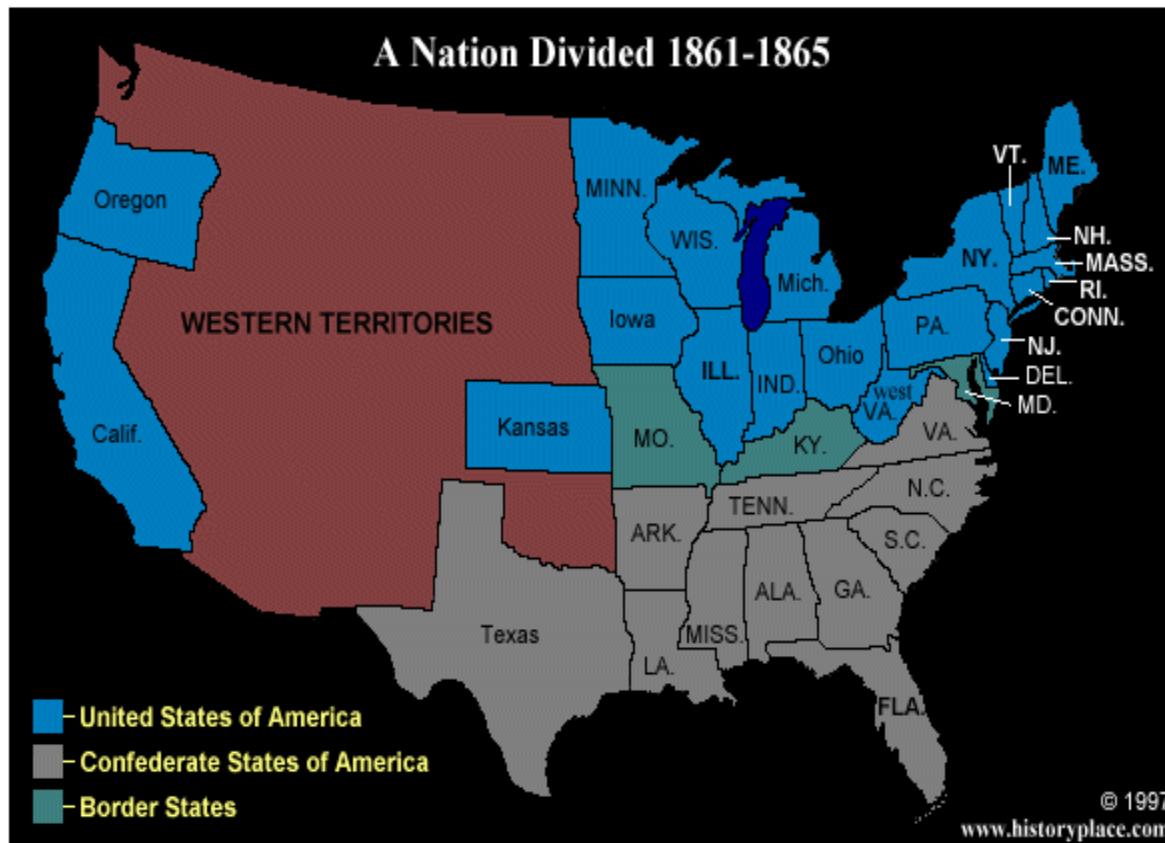


## Part 5: A Nation Divides

In 1860, Lincoln was chosen to run as the Republican candidate for President of the United States against Stephen Douglas. By 1861 Abraham Lincoln won the election and became President. Thomas Jefferson, now in his late seventies felt the issue of slavery would tear our country apart.



Lincoln's election as the President brought strong reactions in the South. Southerners felt they no longer had a voice in government so they **succeeded**, or withdrew their state from the United States and formed The Confederate States of America. The Confederate States of America was a new nation led by **Jefferson Davis**. Jefferson Davis became the President of the Confederate States.



Jefferson Davis

## The Civil War Breaks Out

**At the start of his presidency Lincoln said that there would be no war unless the South started it. The Confederates started to seize federal forts in the South. By April the Confederates controlled most of the forts. The Union, up North, only held 3 forts off in Florida and South Carolina. On April 12, 1861 the Confederates attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The Union surrendered on April 13th. This forced Abraham Lincoln to call upon 75, 000 volunteers as soldiers for 90 days in a campaign against the South. The American Civil War has now begun.**



The End