

## 2.6 Civil War and Reconstruction

**Main Idea** Differences between Northern and Southern states led to the Civil War.

As the United States grew in the early 1800s, a powerful division arose within the country. Southerners wanted slavery to be allowed in new territories in the West. However, **abolition**, or the movement for ending slavery, was growing in the North.

### Causes of the Civil War

Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860. Southerners, who depended on slave labor to run their plantations, feared the new president would try to end slavery in the South. As a result, 11 Southern states **seceded**, or formally withdrew, from the Union in 1860 and 1861. These states formed the Confederate States of America. Richmond, Virginia, became the capital and Jefferson Davis was president.

Lincoln declared the states in rebellion and vowed to reunite the Union. Soon after, Confederate troops fired upon Fort Sumter, a federal fort located in South Carolina. This event was the beginning of the Civil War in the United States. A **civil war** is war between opposing groups of citizens in the same country.

### Conduct of the War

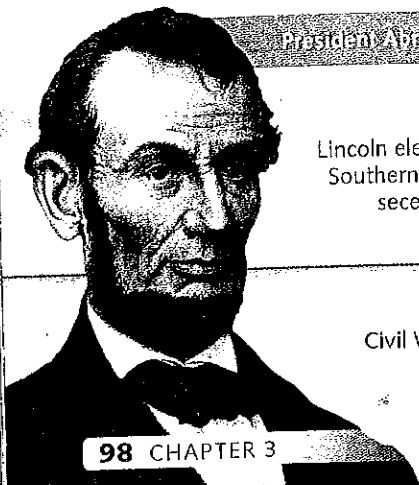
The war lasted four years, from 1861 to 1865. The Confederates, led by General Robert E. Lee, won many early battles. However, the Union had a larger military, a stronger economy, and more resources.

In the midst of the war, on January 1, 1863, the **Emancipation Proclamation**, which freed all slaves in Confederate territory, became effective. The same year, Lincoln delivered the **Gettysburg Address** to honor those who died there in a key battle. These two events helped to highlight a moral purpose to the war—freedom and equality. Eventually, the resources and economy of the North proved too strong, and the Confederacy surrendered in 1865.

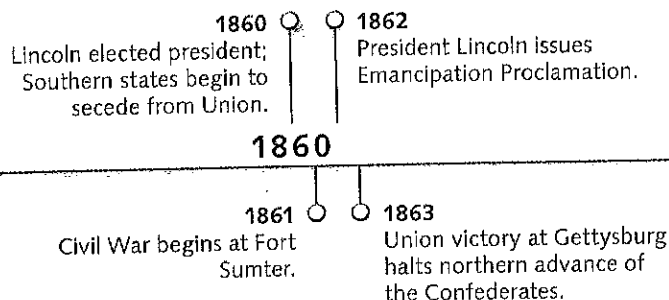
### Reconstruction After the War

Racial tensions, desperate poverty, and hostility toward the U.S. government lingered in the South after the war. These problems presented challenges to **Reconstruction**, the effort to rebuild and reunite the states as one nation.

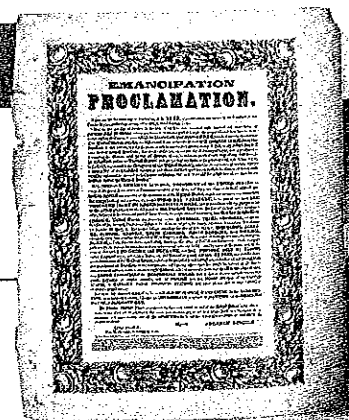
Although former slaves had been granted new rights, many white Southerners did not allow them new freedoms.



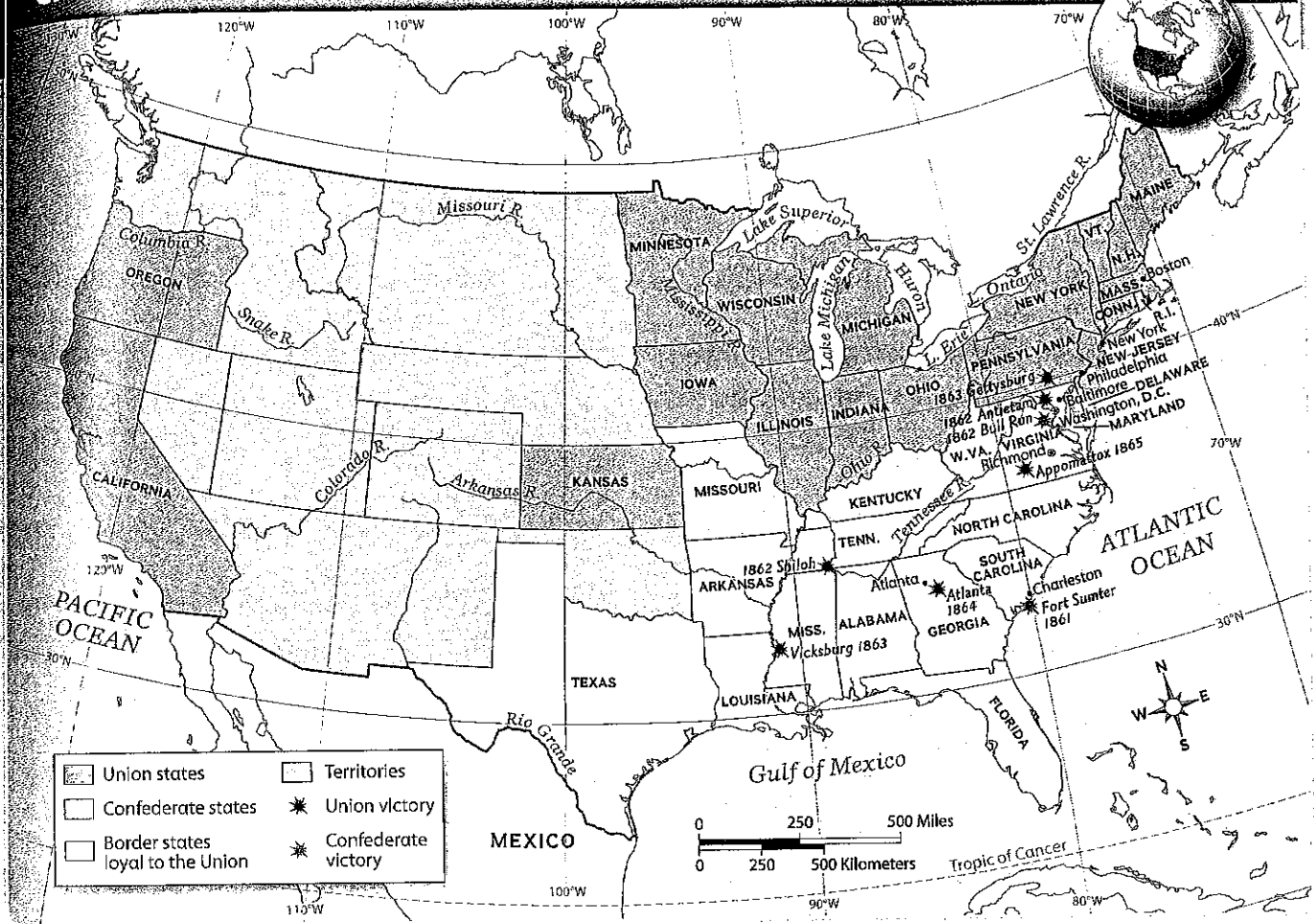
President Abraham Lincoln



Emancipation Proclamation



# CIVIL WAR IN THE UNITED STATES



The government had to send federal troops to protect former slaves. By 1877, Reconstruction had abruptly ended. Almost a century passed before the federal government would again protect the civil rights of African Americans.

## Before You Move On

**Summarize** What differences between Northern and Southern states led to the Civil War?

## ONGOING ASSESSMENT

### MAP LAB

- 1. Interpret Maps** How did the number of Union and Confederate states compare?
- 2. Location** Based on the map, where were most battles fought?
- 3. Make Inferences** Which side was most likely to suffer damage from the war? Why?

1864  
Union captures Atlanta;  
Lincoln is re-elected president.

1865

April 11, 1865  
Confederacy surrenders.  
April 14, 1865  
President Lincoln is shot.



1877  
Reconstruction ends.

1870

A schoolroom where  
freed black slaves  
learned to read