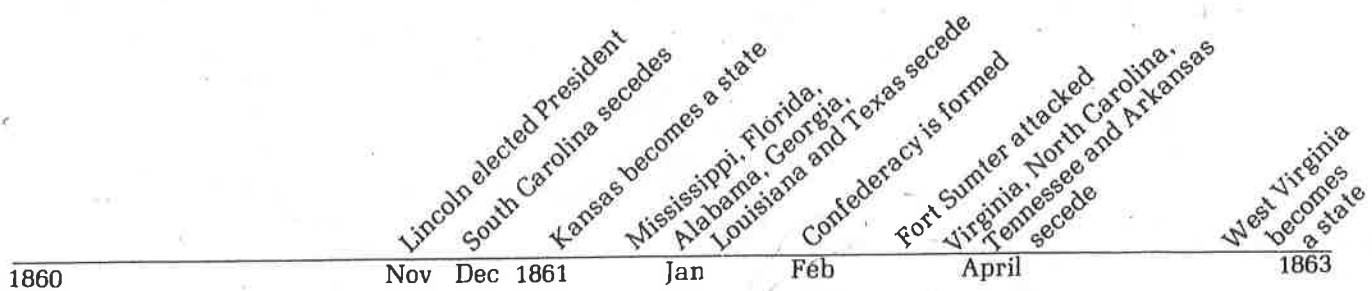


Chapter 38

The War Begins



1. With Lincoln's election in 1860, the Civil War became almost a certainty. Spokesmen for the south made that clear soon after the election returns were final.

2. One southern Congressman told the people of the southern states:

3. "The argument is over. All hope of settling the slavery question peacefully is gone. The Republicans are not going to give anything to the south but trouble.

4. "We are sure that the only way the southern people can now live in peace is to form a separate nation—a Confederacy. The aim of each slaveholding state should now be to get out of the Union as soon as possible."

5. A spokesman for one of the slave states, South Carolina, said:

6. "Written constitutions are worthless if they are not also written in the heart. They must be founded on the interests of the people. There is no longer a common bond between the north and the south. All efforts to keep the Union together will now do no good."

7. South Carolina was the first to **secede** (withdraw, leave) from the Union. (See map on pg. 212.) The legislature of that state voted to secede on December 20, 1860.

8. The legislature of South Carolina asked the other slave states to join in forming a new nation. By February of 1861, six other states from the lower south followed South

Carolina's lead. Those states were Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas.

The Confederacy Is Formed

9. Those seven states formed a new union they called the **Confederate States of America** in February of 1861. They said they could no longer be a part of the United States.

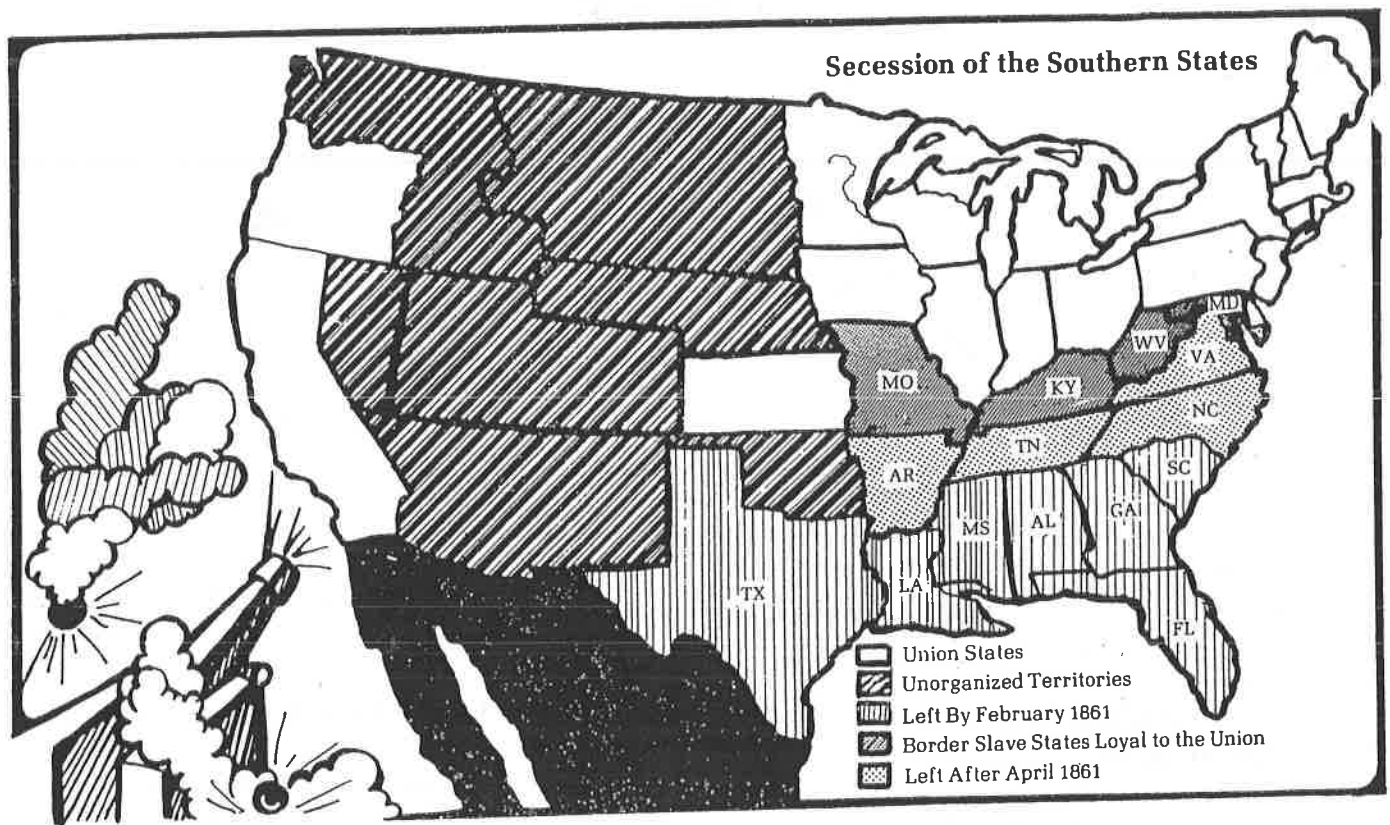
10. The United States, they said, had broken the contract set up in the Constitution between the states and the federal government. That contract gave states certain rights. These rights were now being taken away, according to the southern states.

11. The Confederacy argued that the United States had failed to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law. The government also would not allow slavery in the new territories.

12. Because of those reasons, they said, the slave states had the right to "become free and equal", and form their own union.

13. Many people in the upper (northern part) of the south wanted to remain with the Union. Virginia was one of those states which remained with the Union for the time being.

14. One Virginia newspaper said, "So important do we regard the Union that pulling it down would be like tearing down our own homes. We know that we shall never find any



other such country.

15. "However, it does not matter what we feel about the Union. If the north decides to fight those states which left it with the sword, every southerner will fight to the death against them."

16. Lincoln reached Washington to become President at the end of February 1861. By then seven slave states had left the Union. Eight slave states remained in the Union.

17. Lincoln told of his feelings in his first speech as President. He said that it was wrong for the states to leave the Union. Lincoln told the southern states that they should accept the will of the majority of the people. They did not want the territories to have slavery.

18. He said that he would not use force to get

the states back into the Union. He only wished that they would do so on their own.

19. He said that he would be in favor of an **amendment** (change) to the Constitution saying that slavery could be used in the south. "The north and south are not enemies, but friends," he said. "We should stay together."

20. The Confederacy did not listen to Lincoln. The north and south were not to be together much longer.

Fort Sumter

21. Those states which had left the Union began taking over forts on their land from the federal soldiers. There was no fighting.

22. Soon, the only federal forts left to the Union in the deep south were Fort Pickens in

Florida and Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina.

3. Both forts were surrounded by Confederate troops.

24. In April, 1861, Lincoln sent word to Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy. He was sending needed supplies to the troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina.

25. Jefferson Davis knew that he had two choices. He could let the supplies in and seem to be weak, or he could order his troops to fire on the fort and begin a war.

26. Jefferson Davis ordered his troops to fire on Fort Sumter. The fort returned the fire. The Civil War had begun.

27. When word of the attack on Fort Sumter reached the north, mobs of people crowded the streets. They called for war against the south. Many people in the south also called for war.

28. Within a few days Virginia voted to leave the Union and join the Confederacy of southern states. North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas followed shortly after Virginia.

29. The slave states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware remained loyal to the Union. During the war people in western Virginia who were loyal to the Union formed a new free state, West Virginia.

30. The Confederacy had its own flag. The flag was blue and had a single star. Many southern soldiers sang a song about that flag as they marched into battle during the Civil War. It was the *Bonnie Blue Flag*.

31. *We are a band of brothers and native
to the soil.*

*Fighting for the property we gained by
honest toil.*

*And when our rights were threatened,
the cry rose near and far*

*Hurrah for the bonnie blue flag that bears
the single star.*

*Hurrah, hurrah, for southern rights,
hurrah.*

*Hurrah for the bonnie blue flag that bears
the single star.*

32. The North had a song of its own. The Union soldiers sang *The Battle Cry of Freedom*.

33. *Oh, we'll rally round the flag, boys.*

*We'll rally once again, shouting the battle-
cry of freedom.*

*We will rally from the hillside, we'll
gather from the plains, shouting the
battle cry of freedom.*

*The Union forever, hurrah, boys, hurrah,
Down with the traitor and up with the
star.*

34. The songs were brave. The men were brave. Thousands of young American men died with the two songs on their lips.

Spotlight On The North And South

35. There were brave men on both sides, men who thought that their side would easily win the war. Both sides greatly **underestimated** (thought less than they should have of) each other.

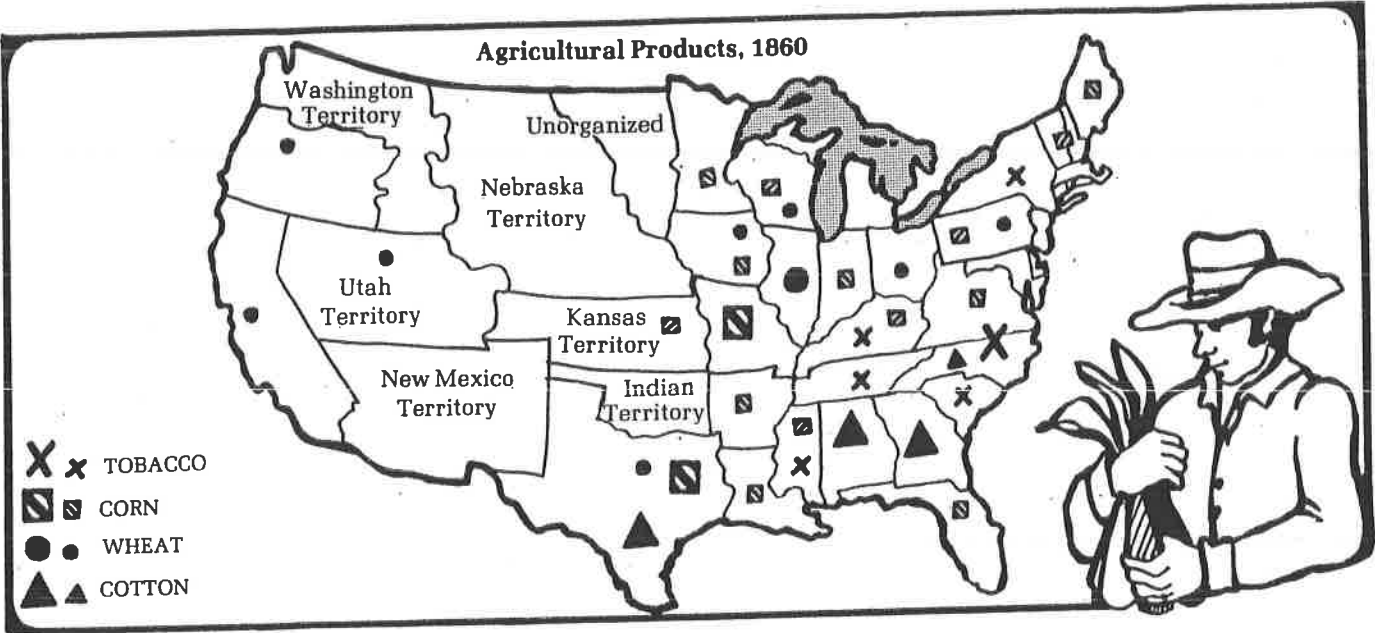
36. The first Confederate Secretary of War said, "I'll be able to wipe up with my pocket handkerchief all the blood that will be spilled."

37. Lincoln called for volunteers for the Union army. At first, he asked men to volunteer for only three months. He was sure the war would be over in three months' time.

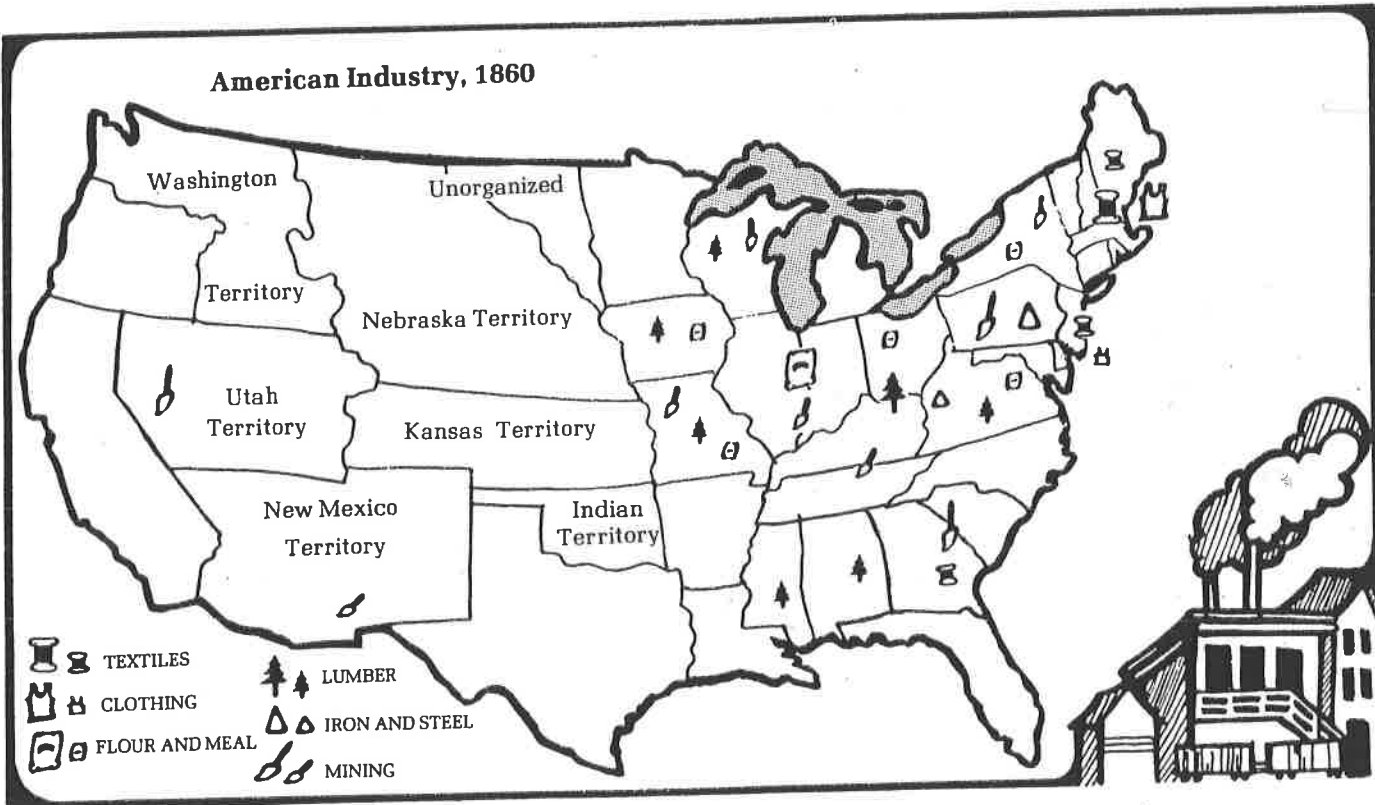
38. Both were wrong. It would be a long, hard war for both sides. At the beginning, however, both sides were very sure of themselves.

39. The southerners thought that they had better soldiers. Their soldiers were fighting for a cause they believed in. "Southerners are fighting for a way of life," people said.

Agricultural Products, 1860



American Industry, 1860



The south lost cotton trade with England during the Civil War.



40. The southerners also believed that cotton would be a big help for their side. They thought that England, a nation that used much cotton, would help the south in its war against the north.

41. The north also expected an easy victory. They had more men, more factories, and more weapons.

42. Both sides were right about some things. However, both were wrong about the length of the war and the number of people who would be killed.

43. The following chart shows the strengths and weaknesses for each side in 1860, at the start of the Civil War. A star (*) shows which side is stronger.

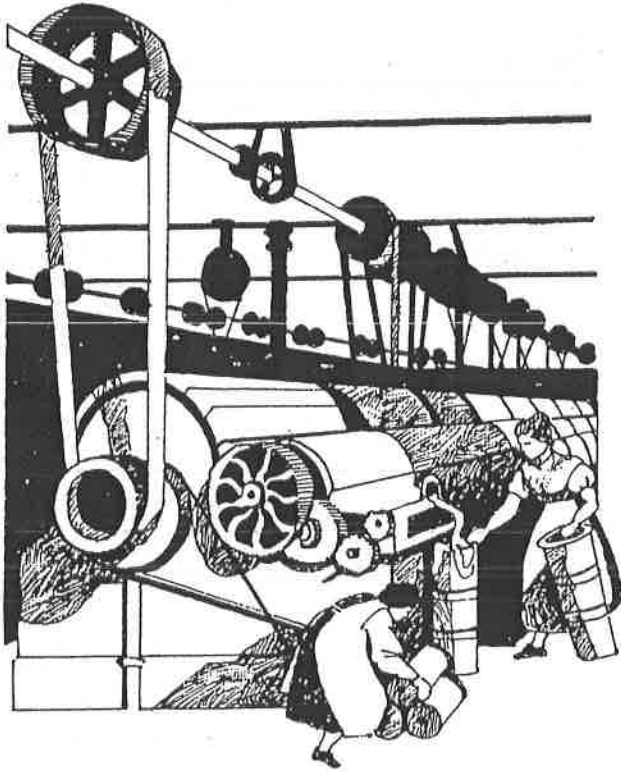
	North	South
Population	*22 million	9 million (3 ½ were slaves)
Military Leaders	Few good trained leaders	*Many trained military leaders
National Leaders	*Lincoln was a good leader	Jefferson Davis had little experience
Economy	*Many factories to make war material; few farms	Few factories to make war material; many farms with cotton to sell
Ships	*Many war ships	Few war ships
Land	Fighting on "foreign soil"	*Fighting for own homes
Money	*Most banks and money were in the north	Few banks, little money

44. Even though the north was stronger in most ways, the south had some strengths in the beginning, as well.

45. As the war went on, the north grew stronger. They had more factories to make weapons, uniforms and all the other things necessary to fight a war. The southern army often found itself short on supplies for their fighting men. Many southerners **deserted** (left the army) because they didn't have the things they needed for fighting.

46. After many early mistakes, northern

Many textile mills and factories grew in the north.



military leaders became as good as those in the south.

47. Cotton was not as important to other countries as the south had expected it to be. The English found other places, such as Egypt and India, where they could get the cotton needed for their mills.

48. England did not help the south in the war. In fact, England sold many war goods to the north, because the north had cash with which to pay for the goods.

49. As more and more southerners fell in battle, the number of men available to fight for the south grew even smaller. There were still many able-bodied slaves on the plantations, but most of them stayed to help the families of the men who went to war. The north also lost many, but had more men from which to draw an army.

50. The little strength the south had soon slipped away. Most experts now agree that the southerners were fighting a lost cause from the first shot at Fort Sumter.