

## Summary : the American Civil war

### The American Civil War: The Background

The American Civil War is also known as the War Between the States. It was one of the worst wars in American history and was fought between the northern and southern states of the US. The Civil War started in 1861 when the group of slaves of the south founded the Confederate States of America whose president was Jefferson Davis. The northern states, under, President Abraham Lincoln, were totally against slavery. Although the Confederates won some early battles but later the Union became stronger and defeated the southern states in 1865.

### Causes of the American Civil War

In early times there was a difference in the attitude towards slaves which was the root cause of the American Civil War. This had its effects in the economic and political sphere too. The factors which led to the outbreak of the Civil War in America are mentioned below.

1. The disparity between Northern and Southern States on

## Economy

The states in the north were industrialized while southern states were primarily agricultural. Northern states wanted a tax on imports from Britain while southern states wanted tax-free trade with Britain.

### 2. Attitude towards slaves

The northern states which were industrialized preferred paid laborers while agricultural southern states which had large plantations were dependent on slave labor.

Slavery was abolished in northern states in 1804 and then they became 'free states'.

### 3. Abolition of slavery

A strong movement for the abolition of slavery began in the northern states. It called for the correction of the controversial Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

### 4. The fear of reforms by Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Party

An immediate cause of the civil war was the American

Presidential election in which the Republican Party candidate, Abraham Lincoln, won.

### Course of the American Civil War

After the elections that were organized at that time Abraham Lincoln became president. In his rule people saw a strong opponent of slavery. The Confederate State of America was formed in 1861. War broke out when Lincoln ordered soldiers to conquer one of the North's forts in South Carolina.

The Confederacy was fought by 11 states among them some states were considered as the Border States. Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee believed in slavery and fought for the south while Delaware, Maryland, and Kentucky took sides for the north.

Most of the war was commanded by two great generals one was Ulysses Grant who was the commander of the Unionist army while the other was Robert Lee: the military head of the Confederates.

2 million men fought for the Union while the Confederate Army had about 800,000 soldiers. Abraham Lincoln freed slaves in 1863 and they were allowed to fight side by side with white soldiers.

The war was fought on two battlefronts: In the eastern

states, mostly Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania while the other front was along the Mississippi River in the west. The Union won some battles at the beginning of the Civil war in the west and captured New Orleans. On the other side, Confederate forces got important victories on the eastern front.

In the war many soldiers died, mostly because they were inexperienced young men, who had not fought before. More than a quarter of the forces were killed in a single battle. Many soldiers died because they lacked proper medical care. Many wounded soldiers were helped by private organizations.

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