Causes of the Civil War

Issues that lead to **sectional tensions**

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| **Event or Issue** | **Description** | **Significance/Impact** | **Specific Example** |
| **High Tariffs** | **North**: The industrial North favored high protective **tariffs**  **South:** The agricultural South opposed high tariffs | High tariffs protected Northern manufactured goods from foreign competition.  High tariffs made the price of imports more expensive |  |
| **Missouri Compromise of 1820**  Map | The Missouri Compromise (1820) drew an east-west line with slavery **prohibited** above the line and allowed below | As new states entered the Union, compromises were reached that maintained the balance of power in Congress between free and slave states. | The Missouri Compromise (1820) drew an east-west line through the Louisiana Purchase, with slavery prohibited above the line and allowed below, except that slavery was allowed in Missouri, north of the line. |
| **Compromise of 1850**  Map | In the Compromise of 1850 reconsidered the east-west line as new states entered the Union | Still concerned about maintaining the balance of power in Congress between free and slave states. | In the Compromise of 1850, California entered as a free state, while the new Southwestern territories acquired from Mexico would decide on their own. |
| **States' Rights** | South Carolinians argued that **sovereign** states could **nullify** tariffs it did not like (like the Tariff of 1832) or other acts of Congress (by federal government)  Since states voluntarily joined the Union, they could also secede from the Union if they wanted to | A union that allowed state governments to invalidate acts of the national legislature could, in effect, be dissolved (no longer exist, at least eventually) by state actions  AND  President Jackson threatened to send federal troops to collect the tariff revenues.  States threatened to secede from the Union as sectional differences grew | **Tariff of 1832**  States seceding from the Union in defense of slavery  AND  **Nullification Crisis** |
| **The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854**  Map | The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 **repealed** the Missouri Compromise line, giving people in Kansas and Nebraska the choice whether to allow slavery in their states or not (**popular sovereignty**) | This law produced bloody fighting in Kansas as pro- and anti-slavery forces battled each other.  It also led to the **birth of the Republican Party** that same year to oppose the spread of slavery. |  |
| **Slave Revolts**  Handout on Nat Turner revolt | Revolts fed white Southerners’ fears about slave rebellions | Revolts led to harsh laws in the South in general and against **fugitive** slaves, specifically  AND  Southerners who favored **abolition** were intimidated into silence | Slave revolts led by Nat Turner and **Gabriel Prosser** |
| **Abolitionists**  Handout: Northern & Southern perspectives on slavery | Increasingly viewed the institution of slavery as a violation of Christian principles and argued for its abolition | Southerners grew alarmed by the growing force of the Northern response to the abolitionists  Violence erupts | William Lloyd Garrison, publisher of *The Liberator*  Elijah Lovejoy, newspaper editor  Frederick Douglass |
| **Fugitive Slave Act** | Forced Northerners to help return escaped slaves | Pitted Southern slave owners against outraged Northerners who opposed returning escaped slaves to bondage  AND  Increased animosity between North and South |  |
| **United States Supreme Court decision in the Dred Scott case** | Dred Scott was a slave taken to the North  He sued for his freedom based on where he lived  S.C. denies Scott his freedom | S. C. ruling is that as a slave, Dred Scott is *not* a citizen and, therefore, he has no standing to sue in the court system  Infuriates the North,  South feels **vindicated** |  |
| **Publication of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe** | Story of slavery told by a northerner  Sells millions | South argues unfair representation of slavery  North further disgusted and angry by practice of slavery |  |

**Impending Crisis**

Ineffective Presidential Leadership in the 1850s

Does not give direction to issues

Allows Southern states to secede after Lincoln's election

Lincoln is Elected (1860)

South Carolina secedes from the Union

Other southern states begin to secede from the Union

Lincoln does not believe states have a right to secede from the Union

**Major Events of the Civil War**

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| **Event** | **Description** | **Significance/Impact** |
| **Election of Lincoln (1860)** | Southern states feared that Lincoln would:  🗖Abolish Slavery  🗖Support High Protective Tariffs  🗖Support Trans-Continental RR in  North, not South  🗖Oppose states' rights | South Carolina secedes  Secession of several other Southern states |
| **Firing on Fort Sumter** | Opening confrontation of the Civil War | Historic start of Civil War |
| **Battle of Antietam** | Bloodiest day of fighting in war | Technically a win for the North  Results in the **Emancipation Proclamation** |
| **Emancipation Proclamation** | Freed ONLY those slaves located in the rebelling (or Confederate) states (Southern states that had seceded) | Discouraged any interference of foreign governments (especially Britain)  AND  Made the abolition of slavery a Northern war aim  AND  Allowed for the enlistment of African American soldiers in the Union Army |
| **Gettysburg**  Film Clip | 3-day battle in Gettysburg, PA | Turning point of the Civil War  AND  **Gettysburg Address** |
| **Gettysburg Address**  handout | Lincoln described the Civil War as a struggle to preserve a nation that was dedicated to the proposition that **"all men are created equal"** and that was ruled by a government **"of the people, by the people, and for the people"** | Lincoln believed America was one nation, not a collection of sovereign states.  (Southerners believed that states had freely joined the Union and could freely leave.) |
| **Lee’s Surrenders to Grant** | At Appomattox | End of Civil War |
| Other Events:  Merrimack & Monitor  (film clip)  Battle of Vicksburg  March to the Sea & **Total War**  (film clip) | First ever ironclad ships battle  Fought for Mississippi River | Makes all navies (wooden ships) around the world obsolete)  Grant wins control of Mississippi River for North  AND  Lincoln pulls Grant East to head army |

**Other War Information:**

**African Americans**

The Emancipation Proclamation allowed for the enlistment of African American soldiers

(Massachusetts Regiment)

**Common soldiers**

Warfare often involved hand-to-hand combat

Wartime diaries and letters home record this harsh reality

After the war, especially in the South, soldiers returned home to find destroyed homes and poverty.

Soldiers on both sides lived with permanent disabilities.

**Women**

Managed homes and families with scarce resources

Often faced poverty and hunger

Assumed new roles in agriculture, nursing, and war industries

**Major Leaders of the Civil War**

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| **Leader** | **Role** | **Viewpoint or Accomplishments** |
| **Abraham Lincoln** | President of the United States during the Civil War | Insisted that the Union be held together, by force if necessary  Keeping Union together primary goal of Civil War |
| **Ulysses S. Grant** | Union military commander  (Eventually of the Army of the Potomac) | Won victories over the South after several other Union commanders had failed |
| **Frederick Douglass** | Former enslaved African American  Became a prominent abolitionist | Urged Lincoln to recruit former enslaved African Americans to fight in the Union army |
| **Jefferson Davis** | U.S. senator who became president of the Confederate States of America |  |
| **Robert E. Lee** | Confederate General of the Army of Northern Virginia | Lee opposed secession, but did not believe the Union should be held together by force (could not fight against Virginia)  Urged Southerners to accept defeat and unite as Americans again after surrender at Appomatox (**reconcile**) |

**After the Civil War:**

**Lincoln:**

Is assassinated (film clip, time permitting)

**Ulysses S. Grant**

Urged radical Republicans not to be harsh with former Confederates

Was elected president and served during most of Reconstruction

Advocated rights for the freedman

Opposed retribution directed at the defeated South

**Frederick Douglass:**

Supported full equality for African Americans

Advocated for the passage of the 14th and 15th Amendments

Encouraged federal government actions to protect the rights of freedmen in the South

Served as ambassador to Haiti and served in the civil service

**Robert E. Lee**

Served as president of Washington College (Washington & Lee University today)

Emphasized the importance of education to the nation’s future

**Economies of the North and South After the Civil War**

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| **North** | **South** |
| The North was just happy the war was over | The Southern states were left embittered and devastated by the war |
| The North and Midwest emerged with strong and growing industrial economies | Farms, railroads, and factories had been destroyed throughout the South. |
| Currency still valued | Confederate money was worthless. |
| Not as much war devastation as most of Civil War fought in the South | Many towns and cities such as Richmond and Atlanta lay in ruins (total war, burning of both cities) |
| Wage labor is maintained | The source of labor was greatly changed due to the loss of life during the war and the end of slavery |
| The North and Midwest emerged with strong and growing industrial economies, laying the foundation for the sweeping industrialization of the nation (other than the South) in the next half-century and the emergence of the United States as a global economic power by the beginning of the twentieth century. | The South would remain an agriculture-based economy and the poorest section of the nation for many decades afterward  **Map** |
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