

Confederate Invasions – The Union In Peril
Part 1 – The Maryland Campaign: Antietam and Emancipation
Class Notes

Lecture 1 – Civil War: How Did We Come to This?

A. Prelude to War – What was America Like

- 31 million people; 34 states (19 free, 15 slave)
- Common language, religion, history
- Still largely rural, small farms; small towns
- Impact of advances in transportation, technology
- North and South developing differently – North 40% farms; commerce & industry, free labor vs. South 80% agricultural (many large plantations); cotton & tobacco are cash crops; slave labor
- Slavery – the South’s “peculiar institution” intertwined in U.S. economy
- Slave trade continued unabated
- White attitudes – North and South

B. Sectional Conflict Threatens the Union

- Federalism vs. States Rights
- Slavery protected in the Constitution
- Westward expansion causes tensions to maintain balance between free & slave states (regions)
- Louisiana Purchase (1803)
- Compromise of 1820
- Mexican War (1846-48)
- Compromise of 1850
- Kansas/Nebraska Act
- Dred Scott decision (1857)
- John Brown’s raid on Harpers Ferry (1859)

C. Election of 1860

- Lincoln’s Cooper Union speech
- Four candidates – Democrats (2); Republicans (1); Constitutional Union (1)
- Republican Party opposed expansion of slavery into territories
- Democrats split between northern moderates and southern radicals
- Lincoln wins 39% of popular vote but carries Electoral College (180-123)

D. Secession & War (Nov. 1860 – Apr. 1861)

- “Myths” about why the slave states seceded

- Seven southern slave states secede between December 1860 – February 1861
- Several “Declaration of Causes” for secession cite protection of slavery as main issue
- To Southerners, it is a “second” Revolution to protect slave property, political parity
- Montgomery Convention adopts Constitution, selects Jefferson Davis as president and Alexander Stephens as Vice President
- “Lames Duck” U.S. President Buchanan’s efforts ineffective
- Secession – triumph of the radicals
- March 1861 - Lincoln inaugurated; promises not to attack slavery where it exists
- April 12 – Confederates shell Ft. Sumter. Sumter surrenders on 14 April.
- April 15 - Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers to put down “rebellion.”
- April-June - Four “Upper South” slave states secede