

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

November 1860

Lincoln elected President with no southern support [USA]

December 1860 – June, 1861

South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas, and Tennessee attempt to secede from the United States [CSA]

March 1861

Lincoln inaugurated President [USA]

April 1861

Confederates bombard, force surrender of Ft. Sumter, Charleston, SC [CSA]

July 1861

Confederates defeat ill-prepared US troops at Battle of Bull Run, VA [CSA]

December 1861

Trent affair threatens to escalate into war between United States and Great Britain

March 1862

Dramatic naval battle between Ironclads C.S.S. Virginia and U.S.S. Monitor demonstrates that wooden warships will soon be obsolete

April 1862

Grant's army in Tennessee is surprised but perseveres to victory in the bloody Battle of Shiloh [USA]

June 1862

Lee assumes command of Confederate army defending Richmond, VA [CSA]

June – July 1862

Lee defeats McClellan in Seven Days Battles [CSA]

August 1862

Lee defeats Pope at the Second Battle of Bull Run [CSA]

September 1862

Lee's Maryland invasion is repulsed by a reinstated McClellan at the Battle of Antietam [USA]

December 1862

Burnside's blundering attack on Lee at Fredericksburg, VA is a demoralizing Union defeat [CSA]

January 1863

Lincoln issues final Emancipation Proclamation [USA]

March 1863

Congress passes the Conscription Act, the first wartime military draft [USA]

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May 1863

Lee defeats Hooker at Chancellorsville, VA [CSA]

June 1863

West Virginia is permitted to secede from Virginia and becomes the 35th state [USA]

July 1863

Victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg turn the military tide [USA]

July 1863

Opposition to conscription results in the New York City Draft Riots

March 1864

Abraham Lincoln appoints Grant general in chief of all Union armies [USA]

May-June 1864

Grant conducts bloody Overland Campaign, which stalls outside Petersburg, VA

August 1864

Victories at Atlanta, Cedar Creek, and Mobile Bay raise US morale [USA]

November 1864

Lincoln is reelected in an overwhelming victory over McClellan [USA]

November-December 1864

Sherman's March to the Sea begins in Chattanooga, TN and ends at port of Savannah, GA [USA]

January 1865

Congress passes the Thirteenth Amendment [USA]

February 1865

Last Confederate port of Wilmington, NC falls to US forces [USA]

March 1865

Lincoln is inaugurated as President for a second term [USA]

April 1865

Breakthrough at Petersburg forces Confederates to evacuate capitol in Richmond, VA [USA]

April 1865

Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to Grant at Appomattox [USA]

April 1865

Lincoln assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

April – June 1865

Remaining Confederate armies surrender [USA]