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Secession and War

Secession

- In the 1860 presidential election, Democrats were split over the slavery issue.
- Those in the North who supported popular sovereignty, chose Stephen Douglas as their candidate.
- Democrats in the South favored slavery and chose John Breckinridge.

- Republicans chose Abraham Lincoln, the Republicans position was that slavery should remain where it existed but not spread.
- Lincoln won the election, Lincoln's name was not on the ballot in most Southern states.
- Republicans promised not to disturb slavery where it existed, but many Southerners did not trust them.

- On December 20, 1860, South Carolina left the Union, Senator John Crittenden called for amendments to the Constitution that would protect slavery.
- Republicans and Southern leaders did not accept this offer.
- By February 1861, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia had also seceded.

The Confederacy

- Those states met with South Carolina leaders to form the Confederate States of America.
- Chose Jefferson Davis president.
- Believed the Constitution was contract among independent states.
- Lincoln asked the seceding states to rejoin the Union when he took office in March 1861, he pleaded for peace but told them that he would enforce federal law in the South.

Fort Sumter

- The day after Lincoln took office, the commander of Fort Sumter in South Carolina sent a message, the fort was low on supplies.
- The Confederacy demanded the fort's surrender, Davis ordered his troops to fire on the fort before the Union supplies arrived.
- On April 12, 1861, shots were fired on Fort Sumter, and the fort surrendered two days later.

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