

# U.S. History Timeline

1600

1607  
1620



**Colonial Era**



1700

1776



**Revolutionary Era**

1787

**U.S. Constitution**

**Early Republic**

1800

1803

**Westward Expansion**



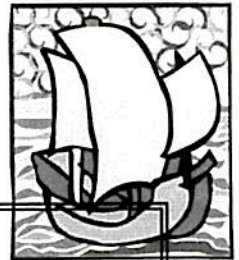
1861-65

**Civil War & Reconstruction**



# Colonial Era

1607-1755



## Motives for Colonization:

Colonialism: European nations established colonial empires for "gold, God, and glory" (economic, religious (social), and political reasons)

**Economic & Social:** increased economic opportunity due to abundant natural resources for both settlers and Britain (mercantilism); Social hierarchy, land ownership

**Political:** desire for an increase in political participation (self government to representative government)

**Religious:** Religious freedom (Quakers, Puritans, Catholics, Pilgrims)

**JAMESTOWN, VA (1607):** First permanent British colony founded for economic reasons

**MAYFLOWER COMPACT (1620):** Pilgrims signed Mayflower Compact and arrived in Plymouth Colony

**Thomas Hooker:** Founded Connecticut and helped establish the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

**William Penn:** A Quaker who founded Pennsylvania as a free and open colony

**By 1733, there were 13 British colonies.**



## New England Colonies:

Land: thin rocky soil, forested

Climate: harsh

Farming: mostly subsistence, small farms

Other economic activity: fur trade, timber, shipping, fishing  
Heavy Puritan (came for religious freedom) influence

## Middle Colonies:

Land: rich soil

Climate: regular rainfall, not as harsh as New England

Farming: small to medium sized farms, cultivated native plants (corn, squash, tomatoes, pumpkin) and introduced European plants like wheat and barley  
Became known as the "breadbasket"

## Southern Colonies:

Land: tidewater (flat and marshy), piedmont (rich soil and dense forests) and highlands (mountainous)

Climate: mild

Farming: varied from subsistence to cash crops such as tobacco which required lots of labor

Labor force: initially indentured servants were used, but later African slavery became the norm

Strong ties to Europe as a result of trade

## Foundations of Representative Government

Magna Carta	(1215) guaranteed right of trial by jury; king could not impose new taxes without consent
English Bill of Rights	(1689) guaranteed Englishmen had certain rights
Mayflower Compact	Established the concept of self-government in the colonies, majority rule
Virginia House of Burgesses	First representative legislature in the 13 colonies
Fundamental Orders of Connecticut	Provided the first written constitution in the 13 colonies



# Revolutionary Era

1755-1783

**French and Indian War**  
War between Britain and France. Britain defeated France. Britain was left with a large debt.

**Proclamation of 1763**  
To prevent Indian attacks, Britain declared that colonists could not settle west of the Appalachian Mts.

**Stamp Act**  
Placed new duties on legal documents such as wills, diplomas, and marriage papers. Colonists upset.  
"No Taxation without representation"

**Boston Massacre**  
Protest against British economic policies where 5 colonists were killed.

**Boston Tea Party**  
Sons of Liberty protested Tea Act by dumping chests of tea into the Boston Harbor

**Intolerable Acts**  
Port of Boston was closed, town hall meetings forbidden, custom officers were tried in Britain and Parliament passed a new Quartering Act

**American Revolution**



## THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

**First Continental Congress** meets and decides to continue protesting taxes.

**Lexington & Concord**  
"Shot Heard 'Round the World"  
Start of the American Revolutionary War

**Second Continental Congress** meets where delegates vote to join in the fight. Patrick Henry in support of the war—"Give me liberty, give me death" George Washington appointed Commander

**Declaration of Independence:**  
Issued on July 4, 1776. List of grievances and its pursuit to protect citizens "unalienable rights"

**1776—Declaration of Independence**  
Written by Thomas Jefferson

**Common Sense** written by Thomas Paine  
Patriots begin to demand independence

**Battle of Saratoga**  
Continental Army victory; turning point in the war convincing the French to support Patriots

**Winter of Valley Forge**  
Time to regroup; Marquis de Lafayette helped train Washington's troops

**Battle of Yorktown**  
With the help of the French, General Cornwallis and British Army forced to surrender ending the war.

**Treaty of Paris of 1783**  
Official end of the war; British recognized independence and defined U.S. borders (all land between the Mississippi River and Atlantic Ocean, Great Lakes to Florida)

# People of the Revolutionary Era

<b>John Adams</b>	Massachusetts patriot leader who defended the British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre and attended both Continental Congresses; part of the Committee who drafted the Declaration of Independence
<b>Samuel Adams</b>	Leader of the Sons of Liberty and attended both Continental Congresses
<b>Mercy Otis Warren</b>	Revolutionary play write who wrote plays that made fun of British officials
<b>Benjamin Franklin</b>	Pennsylvania inventor who authored the Albany Plan of Union during the French and Indian War, and attended both Continental Congresses; part of the Committee who drafted the Declaration of Independence
<b>Crispus Attucks</b>	African-American killed during the Boston Massacre
<b>King George III</b>	Responsible for the acts and laws passed prior to the American Revolution
<b>Patrick Henry</b>	Virginia orator who gave a speech in the House of Burgesses stating "Give me liberty, give me death"
<b>Thomas Paine</b>	Author of patriot propaganda— <i>Common Sense</i> and <i>The Crisis</i>
<b>George Washington</b>	British soldier during French & Indian War who later attended both Continental Congresses and was appointed Commander of the Continental Army
<b>Abigail Adams</b>	Wrote numerous letters to her husband in support of women's rights
<b>Thomas Jefferson</b>	Primary author of the Declaration of Independence
<b>Wentworth Cheswell</b>	Revolutionary war veteran who was the first African American elected to office
<b>James Armistead</b>	African American Revolutionary spy
<b>Bernardo de Galvez</b>	Governor of Louisiana, led Spanish armies against Britain during the American Revolution and closed the port of New Orleans to British ships
<b>Haym Salomon</b>	Polish Jew who helped finance the American Revolution
<b>Marquis de Lafayette</b>	Provided French support to the American cause during the revolution
<b>John Paul Jones</b>	U.S. Navy commander who won several important naval victories against the British Navy during the American Revolution.



# U.S. Constitution

1787

**Articles of Confederation**

Constitution drafted during the Revolutionary War. First written constitution of the United States. Fearing a strong central government, much power was left to the states.

Weaknesses: lacked power to regulate trade, no national court system, lacked power to tax, lacked national unity.

Strengths: Passed **Northwest Ordinance**, creating procedures to admit new states to the Union.

**Constitutional Convention 1787**

Held in Philadelphia, PA delegates of the Convention abolished the Articles of Confederation and wrote the U.S. Constitution

**James Madison** became known as "Father of the Constitution" for his contributions.

Delegates agreed on three government branches: **Legislative, Executive, Judicial**



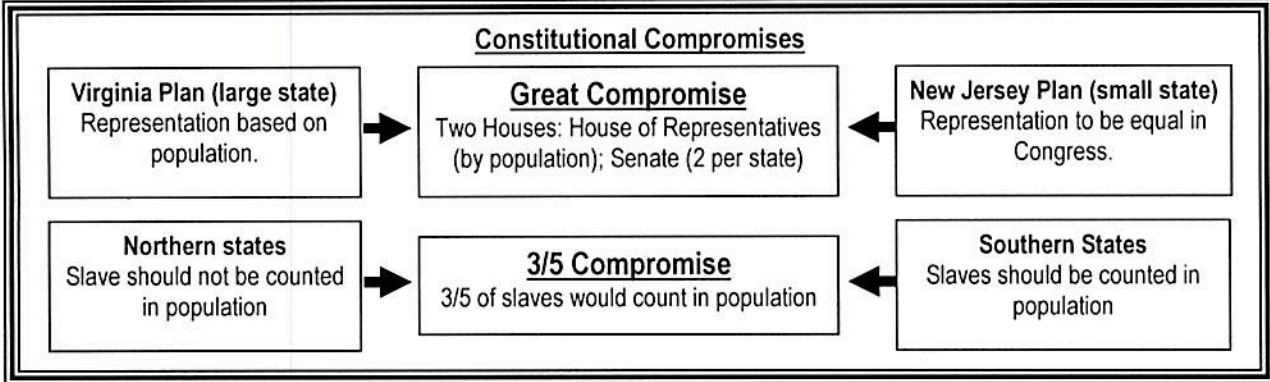
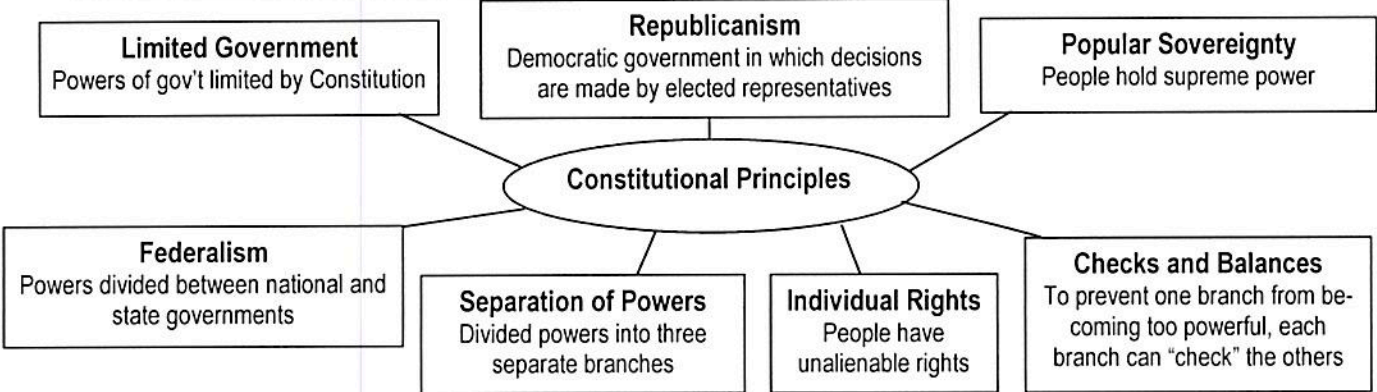
**Executive Branch**  
President, chosen by Electoral College



**Legislative Branch**  
two house Congress (Senate and House of Representatives)



**Judicial Branch**  
Supreme Court



**Ratification (approval by states) of U.S. Constitution**

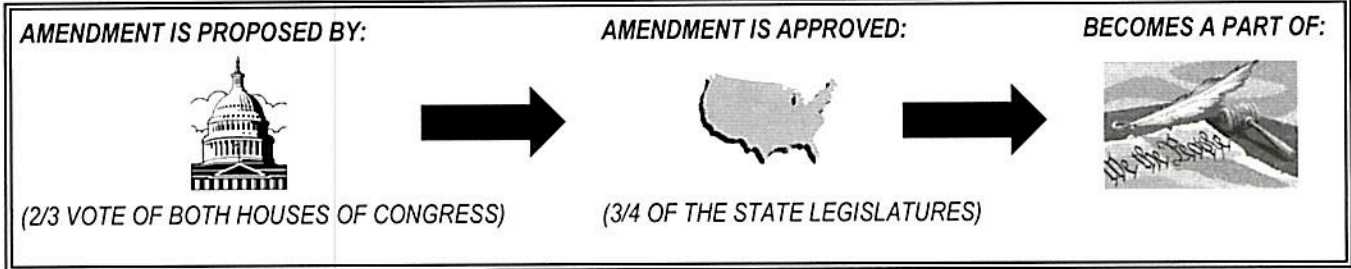
Federalists	Anti-Federalists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported approval of Constitution</li> <li>Favored strong central government</li> <li>James Madison, John Jay, Alexander Hamilton wrote <i>Federalists Papers</i></li> <li>Argued the Constitution had protections preventing tyranny</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opposed the approval of Constitution</li> <li>George Mason and Patrick Henry leaders</li> <li>Feared central government would become too powerful</li> <li>Lacked a bill of rights to protect the people</li> </ul>

Federalist succeeded in obtaining ratification, but Anti-Federalist arguments impacted the U.S. government.  
Bill of Rights was added in 1791

# Bill of Rights

1791

**Amendment Process:**  
allows changes and additions to the text of the Constitution



**1st Amendment:** Guarantees freedom of religion, speech, press, right to assemble, right to petition



**2nd Amendment:** Well regulated militia and right to "bear arms"



**3rd Amendment:** Prohibits government from quartering troops in your homes without consent



**4th Amendment:** Prevents "unreasonable searches and seizures"

**5th Amendment:** Individuals cannot be tried twice for the same crime (double jeopardy) and cannot be forced to incriminate themselves (Miranda Laws—Right to remain silent...)



**6th Amendment:** Guarantees those accused of a crime to a fair and public trial and assistance of a lawyer



**7th Amendment:** Guarantees trial by jury in a civil dispute



**8th Amendment:** Prevents excessive bail and "cruel and unusual" punishment

**9th Amendment:** People hold other rights, not just the individual rights listed

**10th Amendment:** Powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved for the states





# Early Republic

1789-1828



**George Washington:** First President of the U.S. Set many precedents (two term, Cabinet) Faced many domestic challenges (maintain national security, building a military, creating a stable economic system (paying debts and Hamilton's creation of the Bank of the U.S.), setting up a court system, and defining central government's authority (Whiskey Rebellion)  
 Foreign policy: Neutrality Proclamation (U.S. would not take part in British and French conflicts), **Farewell Address** (warned against political parties, foreign alliances, national debt)

## Rise of Political Parties

	Federalists	Democratic-Republicans
Main Party Leader	Alexander Hamilton	Thomas Jefferson
Constitutional Views	Loose interpretation of Constitution	Strict interpretation of Constitution
Views on Government	Favored strong central government	Favored states' rights
Views on Foreign Policy	Favored Britain (trading partner)	Favored France (revolutionary ally)
Main Supporters	Merchants and manufacturers	Farmers and skilled craftsmen
Who should vote	Only those who own property	Open to all adult males

**John Adams:** (Federalist) 2nd President of the U.S. Maintained peace with European nations despite the XYZ Affair (French attempt to extort payment from the U.S. before beginning diplomatic negotiations). Strengthened U.S. Navy. Passed the Alien & Sedition Acts. Midnight Judges.



**Thomas Jefferson:** (Democratic-Republican) 3rd President of the U.S.  
 Louisiana Purchase 1803—gained port of New Orleans and doubled the size of U.S.  
**Marbury v. Madison**—established judicial review  
 Embargo Act—banned trade with all of Europe, devastated the U.S. economy



**James Madison:** (Democratic-Republican) 4th President of the U.S.  
 Preserved the nation's Independence: War of 1812—Madison asked Congress to declare war on Britain

## WAR OF 1812

<b>Causes</b>	British seizures of U.S. sailors (impressments), British restrictions on U.S. trade with France, aid to Indians on the U.S. frontier; U.S. nationalism, War Hawks
<b>Events</b>	British trade blockade, burning of Washington D.C., failed U.S. invasions of Canada, Treaty of Ghent, British defeat at Battle of New Orleans (led by Andrew Jackson)
<b>Effects</b>	Confirmation of U.S. independence, growth in U.S. manufacturing capabilities; Andrew Jackson becomes a hero, Star-Spangled Banner

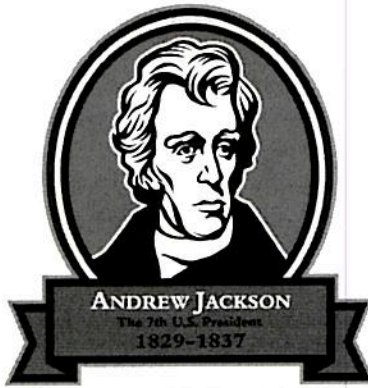


**James Monroe:** 5th President of the U.S. "Era of Good Feelings"  
 Purchase of Florida—Adams-Ones Treaty  
**McCulloch v. Maryland**—bank case (strengthened the powers of the federal government)  
**Gibbons v. Ogden**—Interstate commerce (strengthened the powers of the federal government)  
 Missouri Compromise of 1820—slavery prohibited in Louisiana Territory north of the Missouri Compromise Line—balance of free and slave states  
**Monroe Doctrine**—No European recolonization or new colonization in Western Hemisphere



# Jacksonian Era

1829-1837



## Election of Andrew Jackson

**Election of 1824:** Jackson won the popular vote, yet no one won the electoral majority. Congress chose John Quincy Adams as President which angered Jackson supporters

**Election of 1828:** Jackson easily defeated Adams with his supporters from the South and West. Voted for the "common man" (opposing the rich and national bank); created Democratic Party

After 1828, political parties strengthened and began to use nominating conventions to select presidential candidate and party platform

Expanded suffrage (right to vote) to all men, not just property owners

**The Nullification Crisis**—does a state have the power to nullify (cancel) a federal law within its borders?

**Tariff of Abominations** VP Calhoun against the tariff, secretly published *The Exposition and Protest* (essay pronouncing the tariff unconstitutional.) South Carolina threatens secession.

**War on Bank**—Jackson disliked moneyed interests and declared "war" on national bank

**Free Enterprise System**—Individuals free to produce and sell what they want, people go into business to make a profit, prices set by supply and demand

**Industrial Revolution**—Hand made to machine made, mass production in factories, use of steam engines in factories, cotton gin increased need for slaves in South

## Native American (Indian) Policies and Events

Conflict between large tribes in the South (Cherokee, Creek, Seminole) and white settlers. Whites settled on Indian lands and Indians would raid U.S. farms. Jackson led U.S. wars against Creek and Seminole and negotiated treaties that took Indians' eastern lands in exchange for lands west of the Mississippi River.

**Indian Removal Act (1830)** required tribes to move west of the Mississippi River. Those that resisted were forced by Jackson so whites could settle and farm their land.

**Worcester v. Georgia (1832)** Supreme Court ruled that Cherokee nation was "distinct community" and only federal government could deal with Indians

**Trail of Tears** Jackson sent U.S. troops to force Cherokees to leave their territory and head west. Many died of hunger, cold and disease.



## Era of Reform

**Religious Revival**—Second Great Awakening

**Abolitionist Movement**—set out to abolish slavery

**Prison Reform and treatment of mentally ill**

**Temperance Movement**

**Education Reform**—Horace Mann

**Women's Rights Movement**

Seneca Falls Convention

Issued the *Declaration of Sentiments*

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott

## American Cultural Developments

**Hudson River School**—landscape painters of America's natural beauty

**John James Audubon**—painted, studied and wrote about America's birds

**Transcendentalism**—philosophy based upon the principles of reality are to be discovered by the study of the processes of thought; answers can be found in nature and within (self)



# Westward Expansion

**1800-1860**

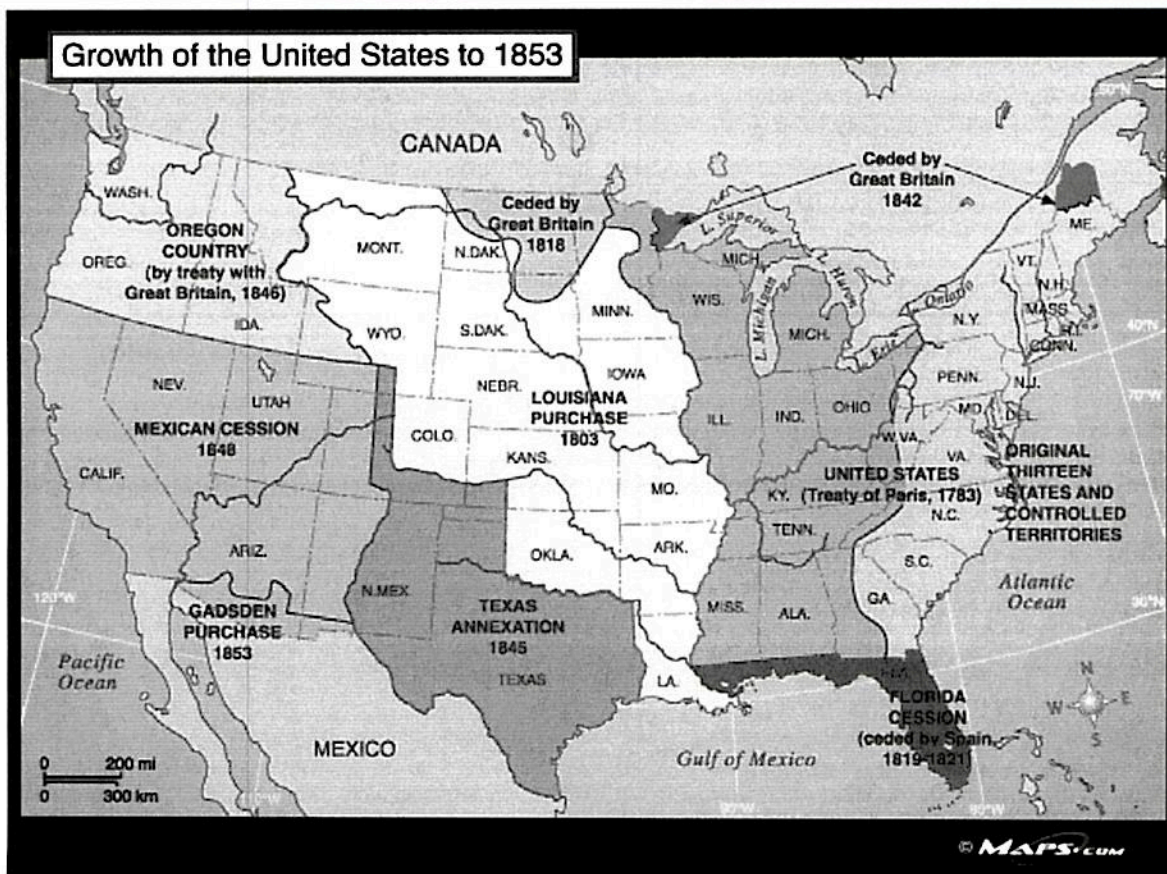


## MANIFEST DESTINY

The belief that the United States is destined to spread from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The desire to stretch from coast to coast.

## TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS

Louisiana Purchase 1803	Thomas Jefferson negotiated purchase from France. Doubled the size of the U.S. Gave U.S. control of Mississippi River and port of New Orleans
Florida 1819	Spain sold to U.S. Adams-Oneis Treaty
Texas Annexation 1845	Annexed by U.S. at Republic of Texas (country) request; Texas won independence from Mexico in 1836
Oregon Territory 1846	Many American settlers were in this territory. Britain abandoned it's claim to this territory not wanting another war
Mexican Cession 1848	Part of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo; Mexico ceded land after the U.S.-Mexican War Purchased for \$15 million
Gadsden Purchase 1853	Mexico sold to U.S. for \$10 million settling land dispute between borders, secured land for a transcontinental railroad



# Civil War

1861-1865

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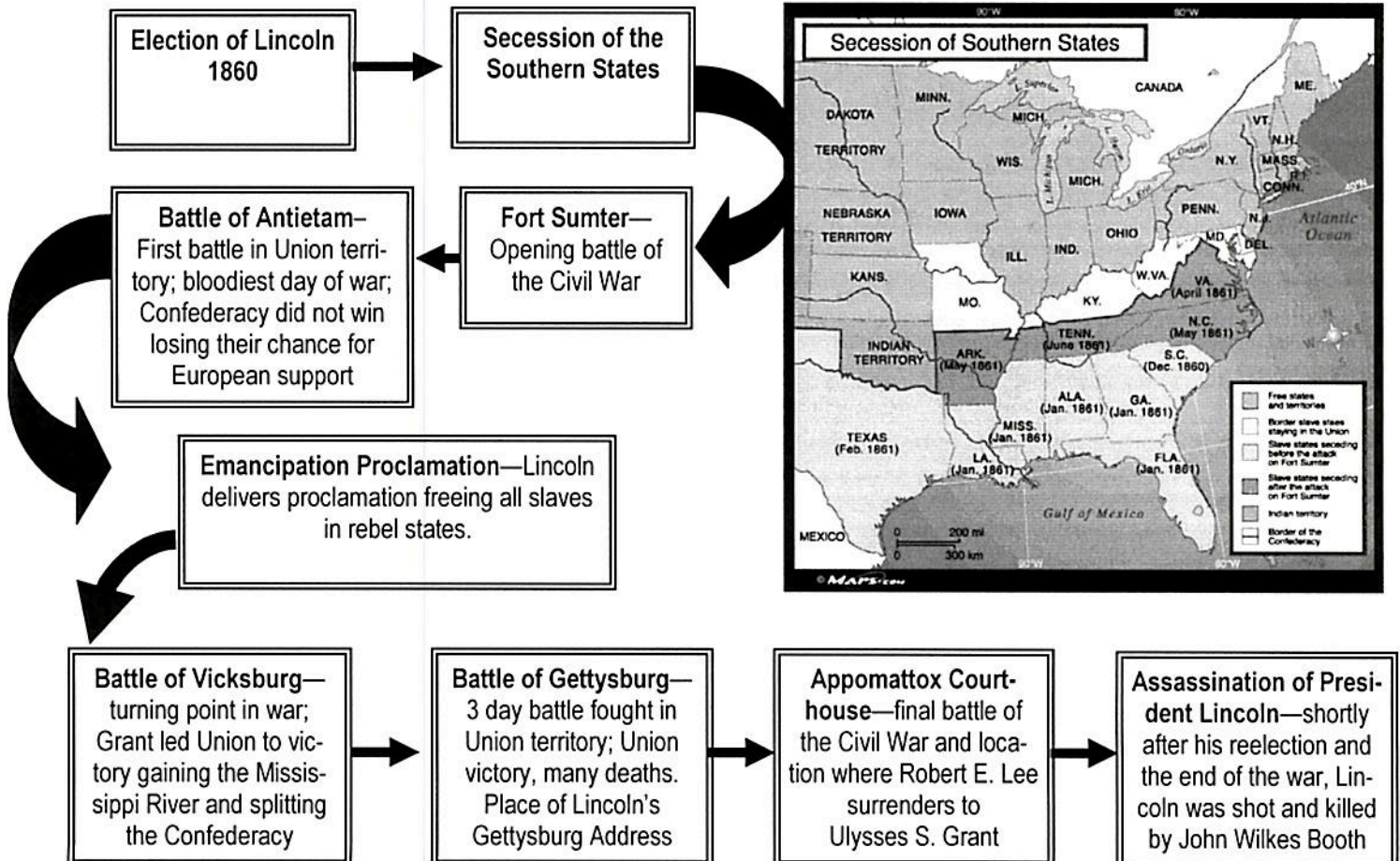
The Big

<b>John Quincy Adams</b>	Sparked conflict of abolition by being outspoken about the topic
<b>Henry Clay</b>	Known as the "Great Compromiser", he sponsored several compromises in Congress to help diffuse conflicts between the Northern and Southern states
<b>John C. Calhoun</b>	Politician from South Carolina who supported the issue of states' rights. Big player in the Nullification Crisis
<b>Daniel Webster</b>	Directly involved in the Compromise of 1850 which temporarily diffused the conflict over expansion of slavery in new territories and saved the Union

## Congressional Acts before the Civil War

<b>Missouri Compromise</b>	Admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state, maintaining the balance of power in the Senate. It also banned slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of the 36° 30' parallel.
<b>Compromise of 1850</b>	California admitted as a free state and the slave trade would be abolished in Washington D.C. Congress would not pass laws regarding slavery in the rest of the territories gained during the Mexican War, and a stronger fugitive slave law was passed.
<b>Kansas-Nebraska Act</b>	Louisiana Territory divided into the Kansas and Nebraska territories and slavery was decided by popular sovereignty.

## Events of the Civil War 1861-1865





# Reconstruction

**1865-1877**

## Legislative Acts by Radical Reconstruction Congress

<b>Freedmen's Bureau</b>	Helped freed slaves by providing food, clothing, medical care, sett up black schools and helped reunite families
<b>13th Amendment</b>	Abolished slavery in every state in the U.S.
<b>14th Amendment</b>	Defined U.S. citizen as any person born in the U.S. or naturalized ; guaranteed equal protection to all citizens
<b>15th Amendment</b>	Guaranteed right to vote to all citizens, regardless of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude"

## Problems during Reconstruction

Political	Social	Economic
<p>Reunification of the Union, determining who would control the southern states, passage of Reconstruction Amendments, and whether or not to treat the south as brothers or as a conquered territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radical Republicans—Congressman who resisted Lincoln's plan to help the South</li> <li>• Scalawags—Southerners who worked with the Republicans (created more tension in the South as these men were viewed as turning their backs on the South)</li> <li>• Black Codes—passed by southern states to limit the rights of African Americans (deepened discrimination against African Americans in the South)</li> </ul>	<p>Racism and inclusion of the freemen in society—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freedmen's Bureau—Lincoln established this bureau for the task of feeding and clothing war refugees in the South using army supplies, also helped former slaves (helped freemen adjust and enter into society with a better chance of success)</li> <li>• Ku Klux Klan—Secret society to undermine Republican rule and terrorize African Americans, white Republicans, carpetbaggers, teachers in African American schools and others who supported the Republican rule (spread terror throughout the South)</li> </ul>	<p>Need for paid labor in the South, lack of jobs for the freemen, and destruction of the Southern economy—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharecroppers—Farmers who paid for the rent of their crops (many southern plantation owners continued to be financially stable)</li> <li>• Carpetbaggers—Northerners who went south and became involved in the new states politics. They were called this because of the luggage they carried (generated more animosity toward the North)</li> </ul>

### Homestead Act

1862 – gave land to anyone who would farm it for five years which increased the number of people moving west.

### Dawes Act

Originally gave land to Native Americans in Oklahoma; amended in 1891 to allow for individual ownership o land. This opened up for more white settlement and further marginalized the influence of the Native Americans

### Morrill Act

1862 (Land Grant College Act) - established institutions in each state that would focus on agricultures, home economics, mechanical arts and other professions that were practical the time. More Americans received a higher education. Ex: Texas A&M University