Demonstrated that a President could be elected without any support from South
Created fear in South due to Lincoln's anti-slavery views
By February 1861, 7 Lower South states had seceded, and Jefferson Davis had been appointed provisional President
Attempts to save Union through compromise (Crittenden Compromise and Virginia Peace Convention) failed
After Lincoln was inaugurated (March 1861), war broke out when Southern troops used force to capture Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor (April 1861)
Soon after Fort Sumter, four more Southern states seceded, including the largest, Virginia (Richmond became capital of Confederacy)
West Virginia seceded from Virginia and remained in the Union, and four other slave states also remained: Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky

Initial Advantages
- Union
  - Greater population
  - Four slave states
  - Larger pool of military experience
  - Navel supremacy
  - More economic resources
    - 10 times more industrial capacity
    - Twice as many miles of railroad tracks
    - Produced 80% of the country's wheat and oats
- Confederacy
  - Size made it difficult to blockade and conquer
  - Could fight defensively
  - Geography around Richmond made it difficult to capture
  - Slave labor allowed nearly the entire white male population to fight
  - Country's best general: Robert E. Lee
  - Potential support more foreign powers

Political Leadership
- Davis had more military and administrative experience
- Davis's best generals (Lee, Jackson) were elevated to top leadership positions earlier than Lincoln's (Grant, Sherman)
- Davis had more difficulty financing war because of limited gold reserves, lack of creditor
- Lincoln had better working relationship with cabinet, congress, and state leaders
- Lincoln was better at making decisions, delegating tasks, and communicating ideas
- Both supported tough measures when necessary: conscription, martial law in threatened areas, higher taxes fund war

Major Battles: Antietam
- Who: General Lee and 37000 Confederate troops; General McClellan and 75000 Union troops
- What: Confederate offensive aimed at:
  - Shifting war north to protect Virginia's harvest and recruit pro-fed volunteers in ML