

# American Civil War 1861-1865



**American Civil War**, also called **War Between the States** is four-year war (1861–65) between the **United States** and **11 Southern states** that seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America.

# WHAT LED TO THE CONFLICT

**NORTH STATES**

*industry and the bourgeoisie*



**SOUTH STATES**

*agrarian regions and slave-owning*

*tensions over slavery, states' rights and westward expansion*

- In the mid-19th century, while the United States was experiencing an era of tremendous growth, a **fundamental economic difference** existed between the country's northern and southern regions



- 1) ***The northern and southern territories*** had different levels of import taxes, which **complicated trade**. In the capitalist north, tax was much higher, as people sought to maintain their own industry, but the south did not think so.
- 2) The new Republican president, ***Abraham Lincoln***, promoted the adoption of the so-called ***Homestead Act***, a law according to which all migrants from the east receive Western lands as property for free. This **prevented the southerners from freely expanding their wealth**. There was simply no other way for them to develop.

- 1) The northerners were ***against the slave system*** (it was officially banned by state laws) and insisted on the development of the country at the expense of technology, while the **southerners produced a sufficient amount of raw materials only at the expense of slaves.**
- 2) Each new ***state of the United States*** was between two fires - the southerners needed territory, but **the government was more willing to include the states in the social and economic policy of the north.**

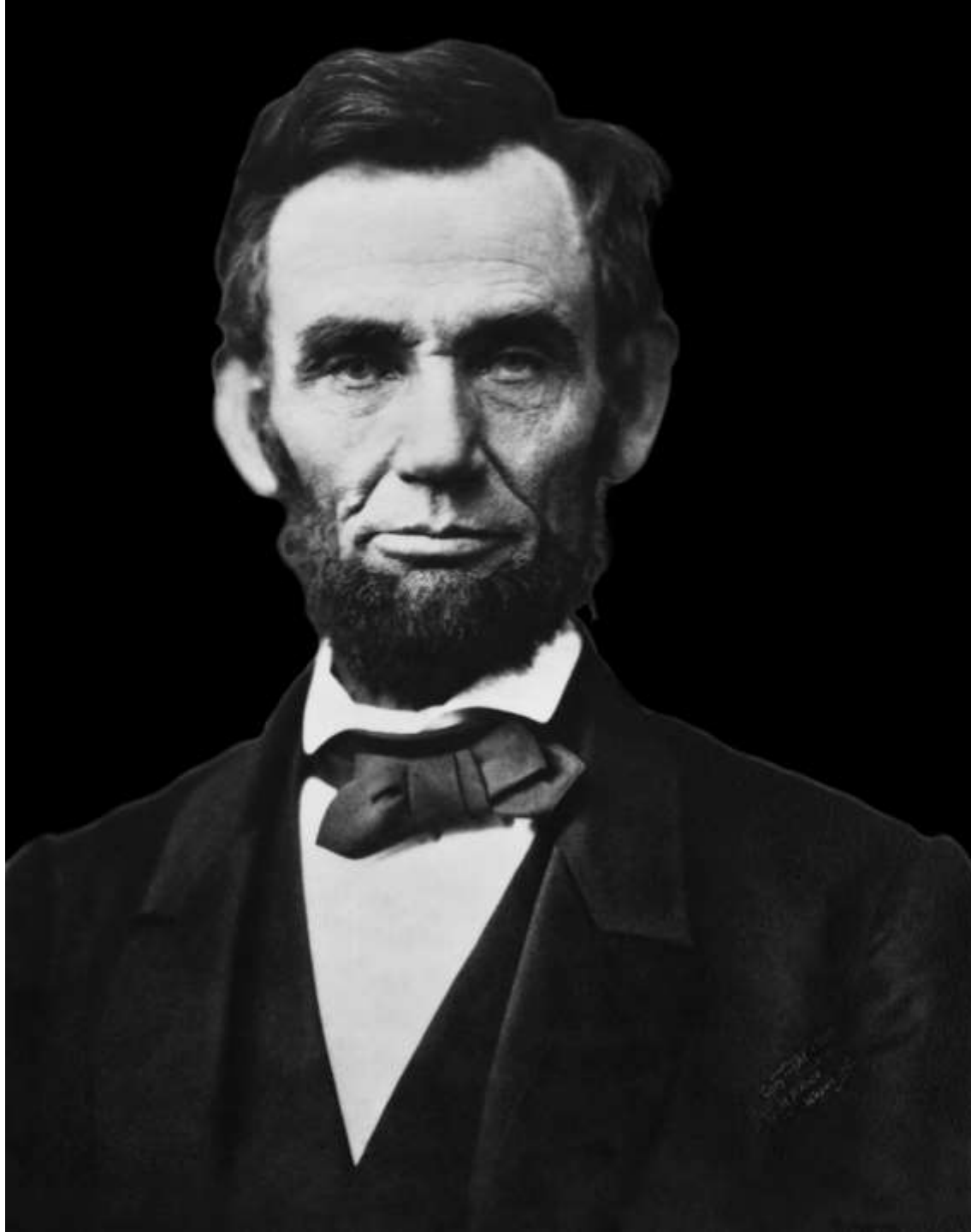
# America in the Civil War 1861



# Significant events

- In **1861**, 11 agrarian southern states, one after another, left the country and ***formed a confederation***. They established their own constitution and even elected a leader - ***Jefferson Davis***, senator from Mississippi. The **sovereignty** of the **CSA** (Confederate States of America) **was not recognized by the US authorities**.

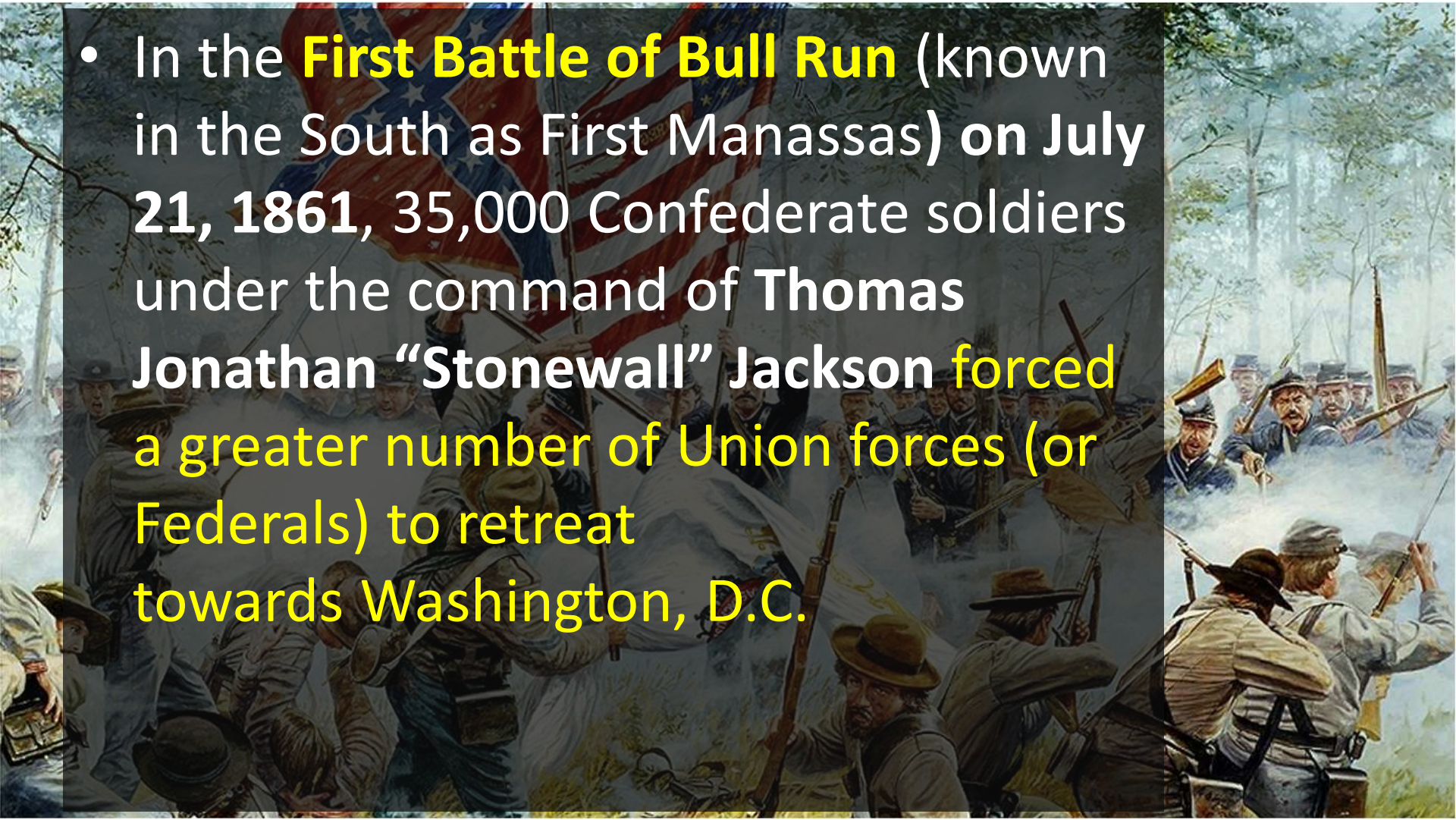
- **On April 12, 1861,** Southerners attacked **Charleston Bay** and shelled it for more than a day.
- ***Lincoln*** declared the blockade of the southern states rebellion, gathered a volunteer (and later regular) army and launched large-scale hostilities. The main goal, he meant the ***preservation of the integrity of the United States*** and the abolition of slavery.

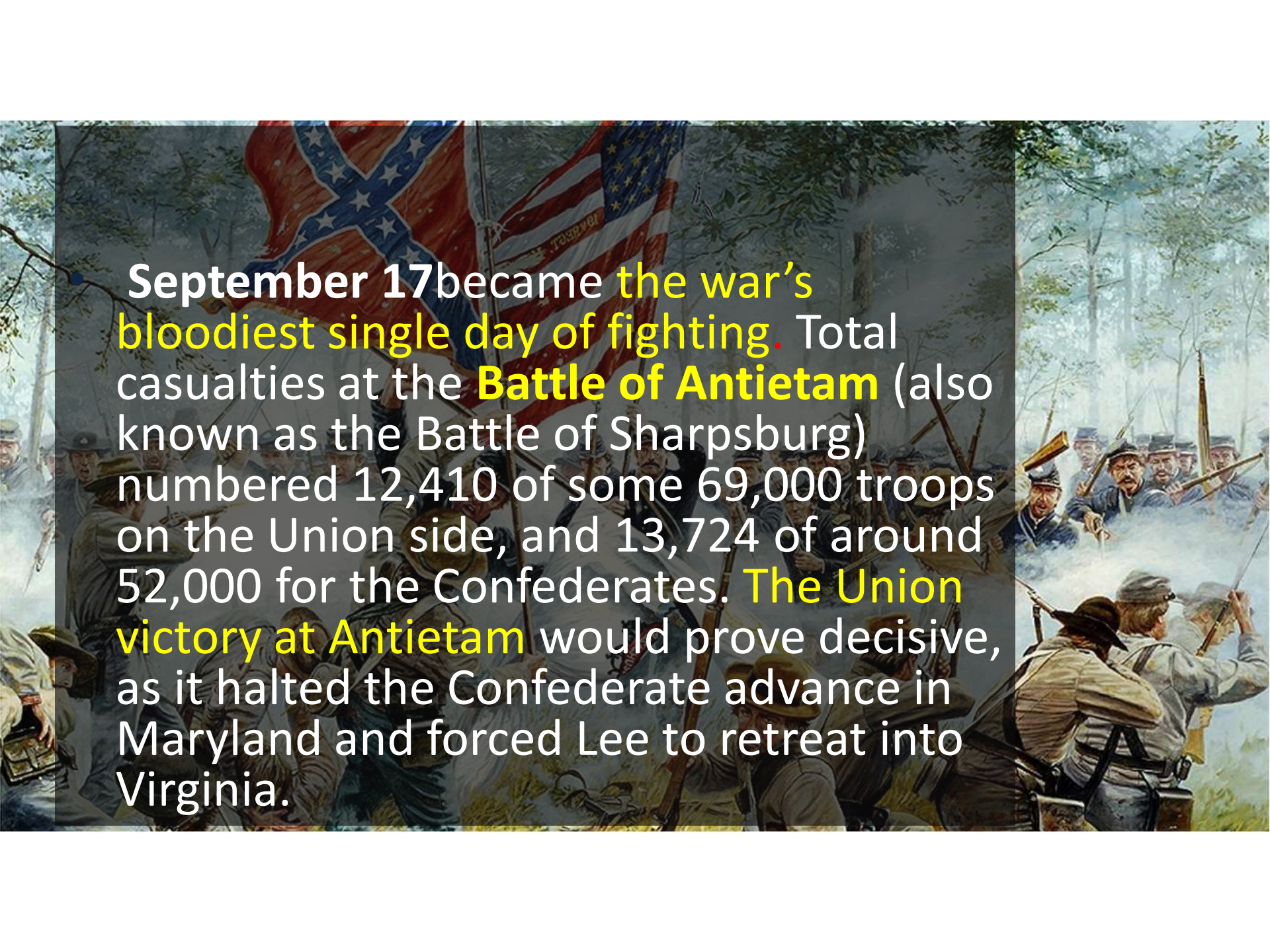




- Though on the surface the Civil War may have seemed a lopsided conflict, with the 23 states of the Union enjoying an enormous advantage in population, manufacturing (including arms production) and railroad construction, the Confederates had a strong military tradition, along with some of the best soldiers and commanders in the nation. They also had a cause they believed in: preserving their long-held traditions and institutions, chief among these being slavery.

- In the **First Battle of Bull Run** (known in the South as First Manassas) on **July 21, 1861**, 35,000 Confederate soldiers under the command of Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson **forced a greater number of Union forces (or Federals) to retreat towards Washington, D.C.**

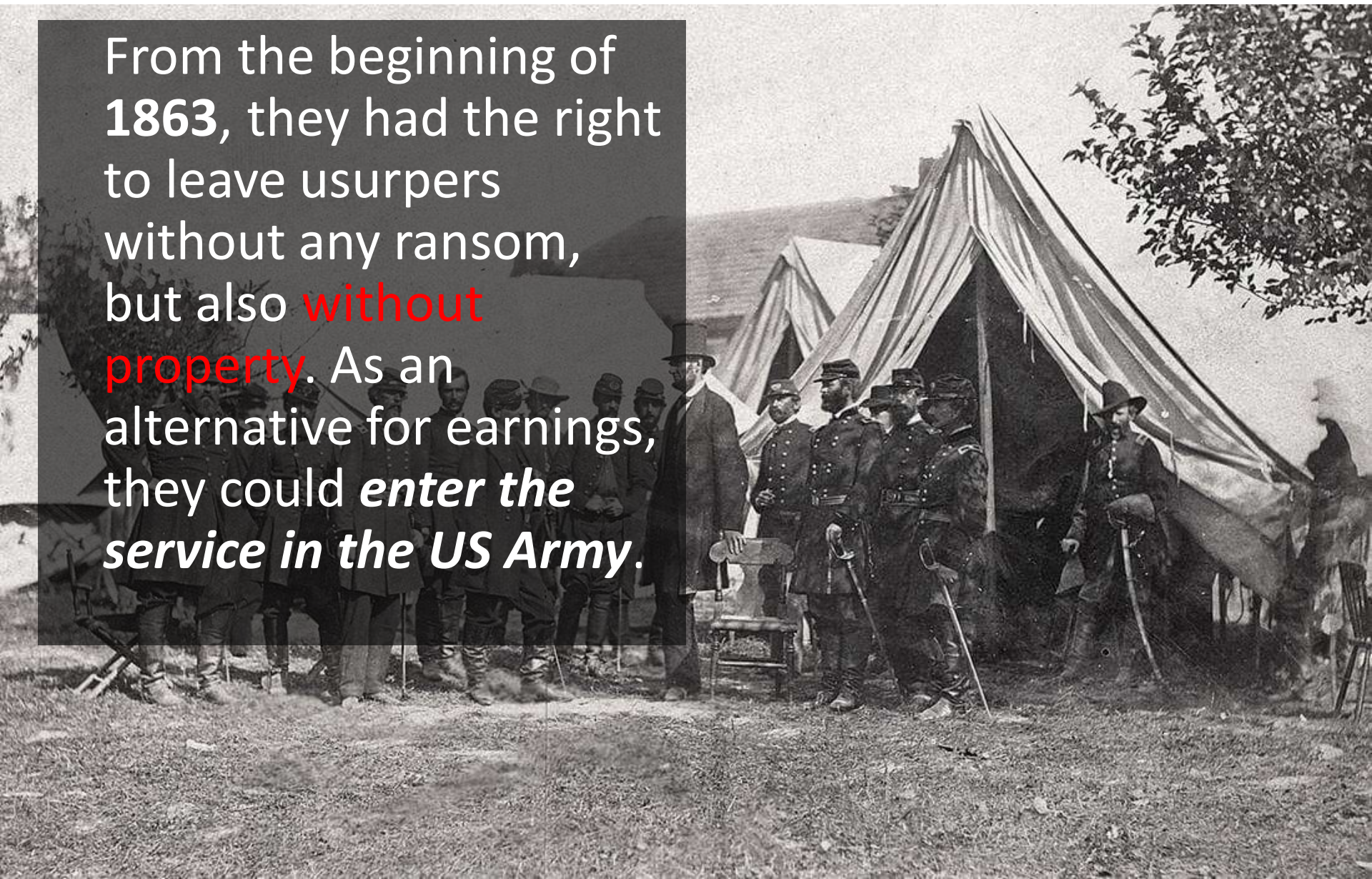




September 17 became the war's bloodiest single day of fighting. Total casualties at the **Battle of Antietam** (also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg) numbered 12,410 of some 69,000 troops on the Union side, and 13,724 of around 52,000 for the Confederates. **The Union victory at Antietam** would prove decisive, as it halted the Confederate advance in Maryland and forced Lee to retreat into Virginia.

- Lincoln had used the occasion of the Union victory at Antietam to issue a preliminary **Emancipation Proclamation**, which freed all enslaved people in the rebellious states after January 1, 1863. He justified his decision as a wartime measure, and did not go so far as to free the enslaved people in the border states loyal to the Union.

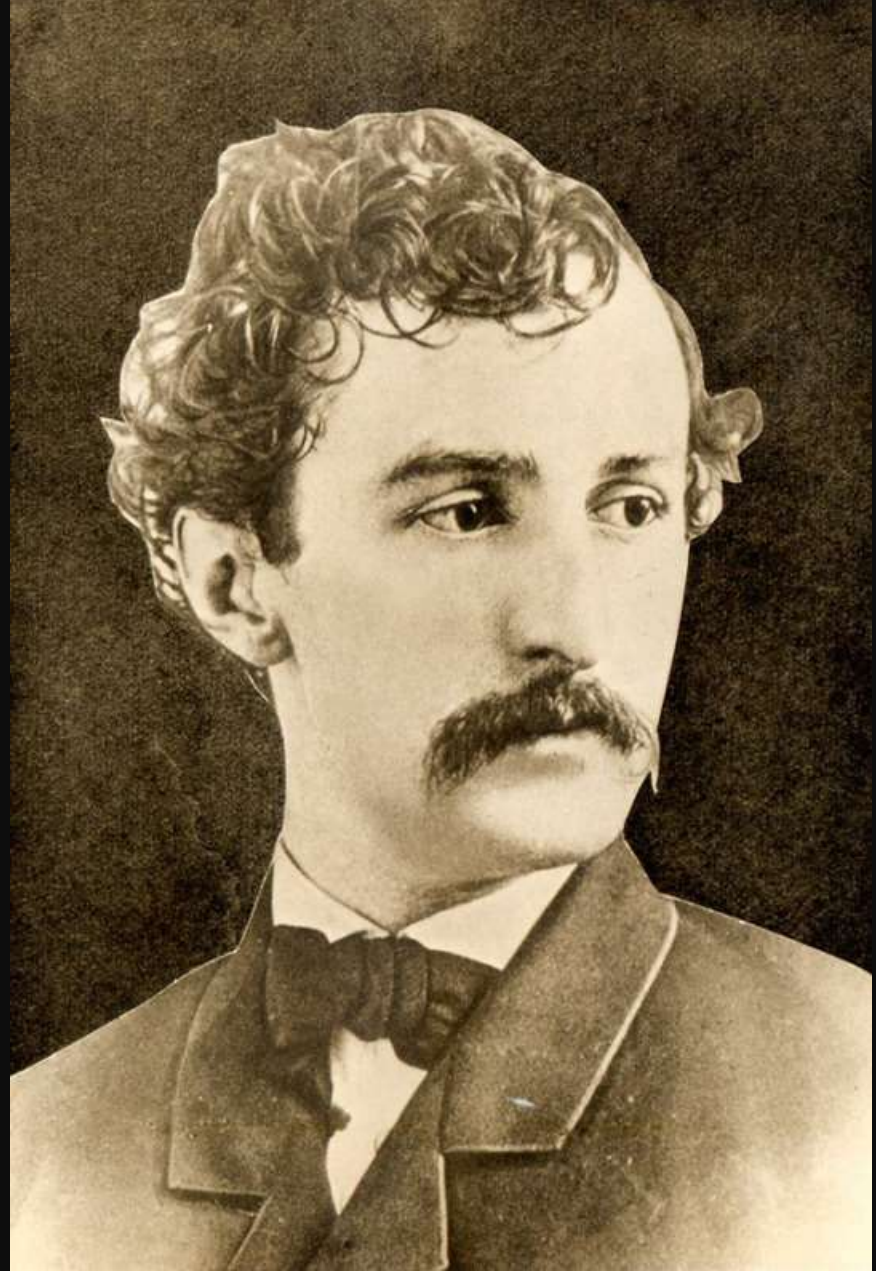
From the beginning of **1863**, they had the right to leave usurpers without any ransom, but also **without property**. As an alternative for earnings, they could ***enter the service in the US Army.***



*The main event of the Civil War* is the liberation of oppressed people. In 1865, the famous **13th Amendment to the US Constitution** was adopted, completely prohibiting slavery and any forced labor.



April 9, 1865, **President Abraham Lincoln** was **assassinated**. A headshot was made by a supporter of Southerner politics, actor **John Wilkes Booth**. The funeral train with the body of Lincoln walked around America for 2.5 weeks. **Abraham Lincoln** remained in **history as the national hero, liberator and unifier of America.**



# Abraham Lincoln and slavery

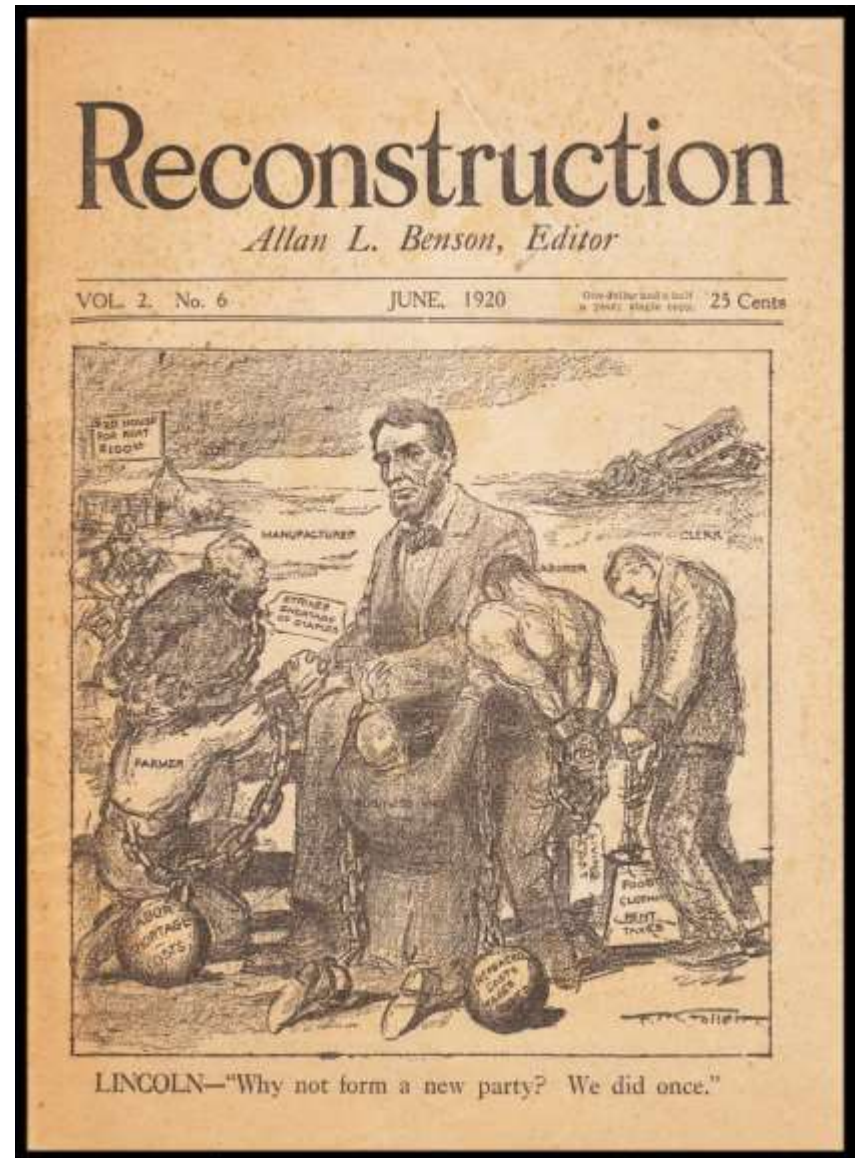
As early as the 1850s, Lincoln was attacked as an **abolitionist**. But while **many abolitionists emphasized the sinfulness of individual owners, Lincoln did not**, although he did publicly condemn the institution of slavery.

Lincoln was married to Mary Todd Lincoln, the daughter of a slave owner from Kentucky. While Wm. Lloyd Garrison, in *The Liberator* newspaper, and a small but growing group of other abolitionists, called for total, immediate abolition of slavery ("immediatism"), **Lincoln focused on the more practical goal of preventing the creation of new slave states and specifically blocking the expansion of slavery into the new Western territories**



# Reconstruction

**Reconstruction**, in U.S. history, the period (1865–77) that followed the **American Civil War** and during which attempts were made to redress the **inequities of slavery** and its political, social, and economic legacy and to solve the problems arising from the readmission to the Union of the 11 states that had seceded at or before the outbreak of war.



# Origins Of Reconstruction

The national debate over Reconstruction **began during the Civil War.**

**In December 1863**, less than a year after he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Pres. **Abraham Lincoln** announced the first comprehensive program for Reconstruction, the Ten Percent Plan.



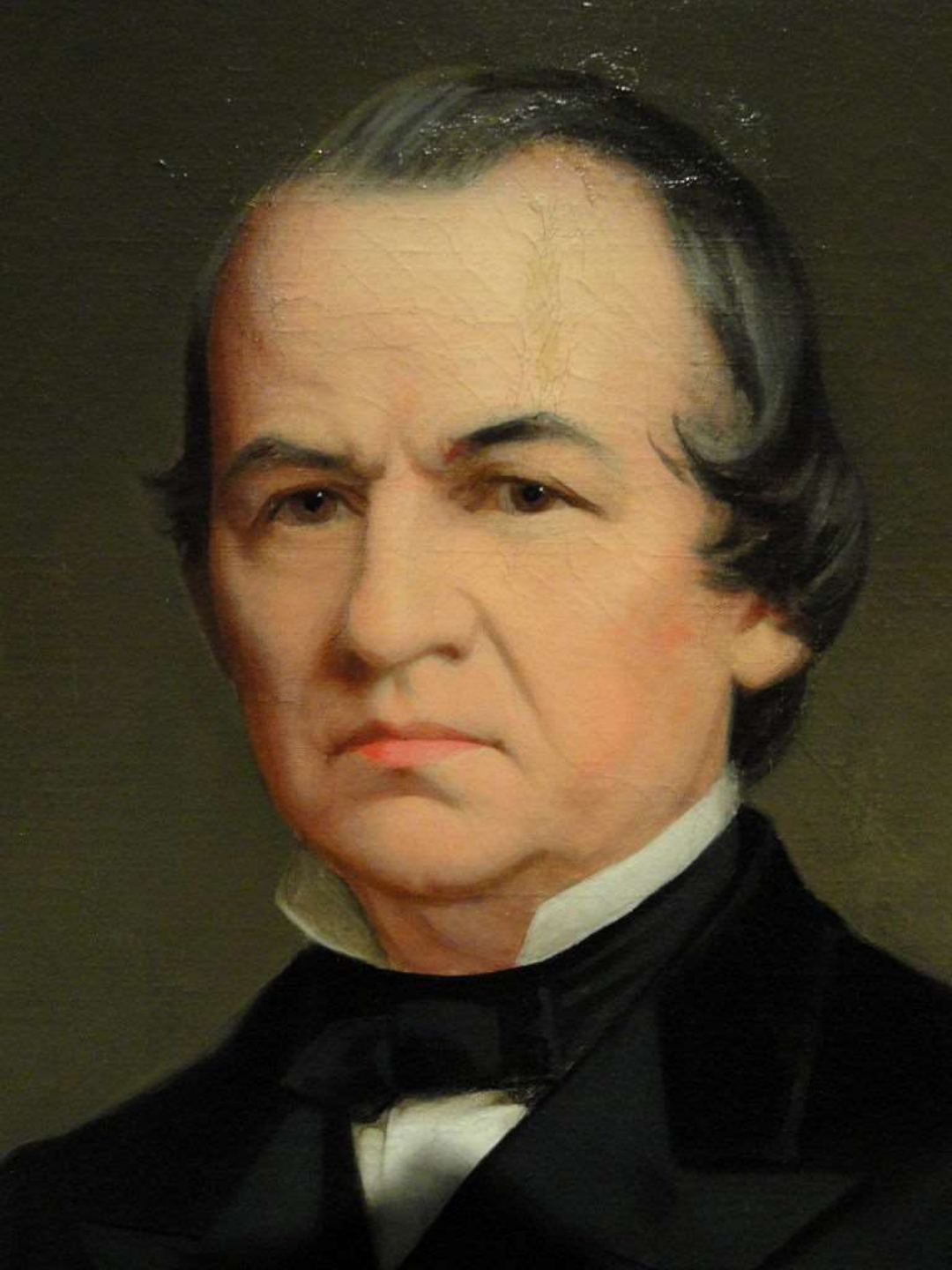
Under it, when one-tenth of a state's prewar voters took an oath of loyalty, they could establish a new state government.

To Lincoln, the plan was **an attempt to weaken the Confederacy** rather than a blueprint for the postwar South


In 1864 Congress enacted (and Lincoln pocket vetoed) the **Wade-Davis Bill**, which proposed to **delay the formation of new Southern governments until a majority of voters had taken a loyalty oath.**

In his last speech, **on April 11, 1865**, Lincoln, referring to Reconstruction in Louisiana, expressed the view that some Blacks—the “very intelligent” and those who had served in the Union army—**ought to enjoy the right to vote.**

**Following Lincoln’s assassination in April 1865**, Andrew Johnson became president and **inaugurated the period of Presidential Reconstruction (1865–67).**



In **1865 and 1866** the Southern states enacted restrictive and discriminatory **Black Codes**—laws intended **to control the behavior and labor of Black Americans**.

the replacement of Johnson's so-called **Presidential Reconstruction approach** with that of the more radical wing **of the Republican Party**.

The ensuing period known as **Radical Reconstruction** resulted in **the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1866**, which for the first time in American history **gave Black people a voice in government**.

By the mid-1870s, however, extremist forces—such as the Ku Klux Klan—succeeded in restoring many aspects of white supremacy in the South.

# Civil Rights Bill of 1866 and Freedmen's Bureau

Enacted by Congress on **April 9, 1866**, over President Johnson's veto, the **Civil Rights Bill of 1866** became America's first civil rights legislation.

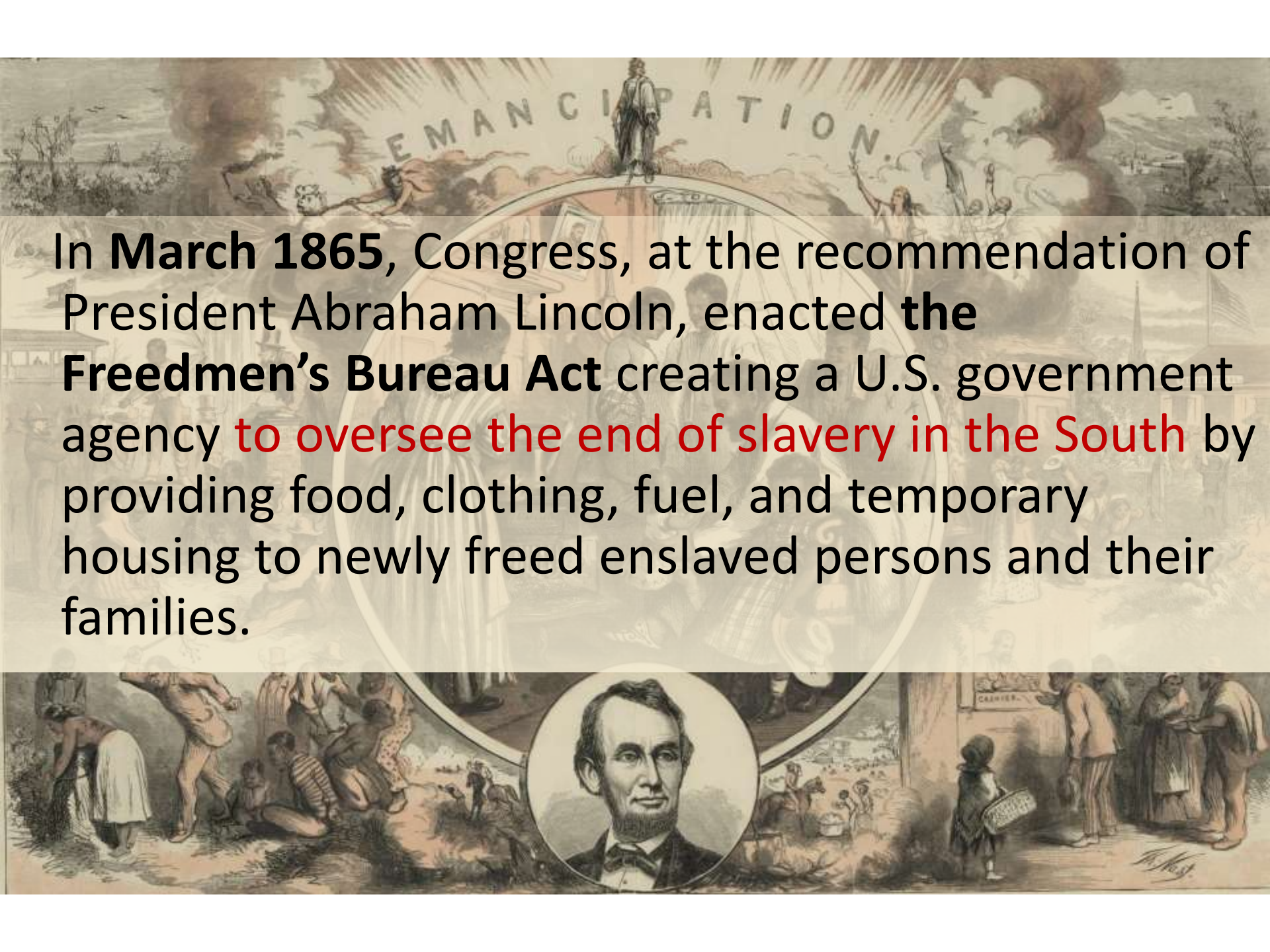
**The bill mandated:**

- all **male persons** born in the United States, **except for American Indians**;
- regardless of their "race or color, or previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude";

were "declared to be citizens of the United States" in every state and territory;

**The bill thus granted all citizens the "full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property."**

Taking a more anti-federalist stance, however, President Johnson vetoed the bill, calling it "another step, or rather a stride, toward centralization and the concentration of all legislative power in the national Government." In overriding Johnson's veto, **lawmakers set the stage for a showdown between Congress and the president** over the future of the former Confederacy and the civil rights of Black Americans.



In **March 1865**, Congress, at the recommendation of President Abraham Lincoln, enacted **the Freedmen's Bureau Act** creating a U.S. government agency **to oversee the end of slavery in the South** by providing food, clothing, fuel, and temporary housing to newly freed enslaved persons and their families.

