**American Civil War**

In February of 1861 many of the states in the southern part of the United States decided to form their own country. They called it the Confederate States of America. However, the northern states did not agree that these states had the right to leave. This started the Civil War.

The first state to leave the United States was South Carolina on December 20, 1860. It didn't want to be a part of the United States anymore. South Carolina wanted to make its own government. By February of 1861 many states had left the United States of America.

The President of the Confederation was Jefferson Davis from Mississippi. The Confederation had its laws called the Confederate Constitution. The most important military leader for the Confederation Army was Robert E. Lee. The leaders of the northern states were President Abraham Lincoln and the General Ulysses Grant.

In the beginning, the southern states won several battles. They invaded a few northern states. Abraham Lincoln then built up a solid army. He declared all slaves of the rebellious states to be free. He won their support. The northern states started to win their battles and invaded the southern states.

The two Generals Lee and Grant met on April 9, 1865 to discuss the surrender of Lee's army. Lee decided to give up and it was the end of the war. The northern states had won the war. The United States were reunited again.

The northern states significantly influenced the upcoming cultural, economical and political world dominance of the United States of America.