



American Civil War

Executive summary 1861-1865: key dates, battles, comparison

Summary sheet by France-USA-Net.Com. Verify official sources (NPS, Archives) for academic work.

Key dates

- Dec 1860 : South Carolina secedes
- Apr 1861 : Fort Sumter: war begins
- Jul 1861 : First Bull Run
- Jan 1863 : Emancipation Proclamation
- Jul 1863 : Gettysburg and Vicksburg turning point
- Apr 1865 : Lee surrenders at Appomattox
- Dec 1865 : 13th Amendment abolishes slavery

Union vs Confederacy comparison

Criterion	Union	Confederacy
Population	About 22 million	About 9 million (including enslaved)
Industry	Stronger industrial output	Export-oriented agriculture
Navy	Effective naval blockade	Limited naval capacity
Command	Grant, Sherman, Meade	Lee, Jackson (lost 1863)
Allies	No formal European alliance	No full European recognition

Major battles

Battle	Date	Outcome
Fort Sumter	Apr 1861	Confederacy
Gettysburg	Jul 1863	Union
Vicksburg	Jul 1863	Union
Atlanta	1864	Union
Appomattox	Apr 1865	Lee surrenders

Official sources

- NPS Civil War : <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/civilwar/index.htm>
- National Archives : <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war>
- Library of Congress : <https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-war-maps/>
- American Battlefield Trust : <https://www.battlefields.org/learn>