



TFS MODEL UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS



HISTORIC CRISIS COMMITTEE

— BACKGROUND GUIDE —

AGENDA: “ATTACK ON FORT SUMTER
AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR”

Table of contents

- *Letter from the executive board*
- *Overview*
- *Society of America During the Pre-War Build Up*
- *Political Powers*
- *Role of Slavery and Emancipation*
- *Role of Foreign Policy and International Stakes*
- *Causes of the Civil War*
- *The Secession of the Southern States*
- *The Attack on Fort Sumter*
- *Rules of Procedure (ROP)*
- *QARMA(Questions A Resolution Must Answer)*
- *Know Your Chairs*

Letter From the EB

Dear Delegates,

We, as the Executive Board of the Historical Crisis Committee, are thrilled to invite you to deliberate upon the Attack on Fort Sumter and the American Civil War. Not only will you plan attacks and defend your territory, but you will also deliberate upon the broader implications of one of the world's most studied events. Your actions and thoughts will reflect the worldview of the coming generation, and will provide a new perspective to analyze the War. Slavery, one of the most sensitive topics to have ever been discussed, will form the nucleus of the committee. Your insights on it may very well shape the future years to come. Remember, the committee is not about winning or losing, it's about understanding the war and its effects on American society.

Overview

- *The American Civil War, from 1861 to 1865, was one of the most demonic conflicts in United States history, reshaping the country's geopolitical, social, and economic structure. It was a struggle against the long-lasting institution of slavery in the United States. Southern States, who wanted to preserve slavery broke away from the USA and formed the Confederate States of America. The American Civil War was fought between these breakaway states and the Northern States who were looking to abolish slavery. The American Civil War is not just a historical episode; it reflected a growing desire to challenge existing exploitative norms and the quest to secure equal rights for all. Although it happened more than 150 years ago, its lasting impression on American Society and Democracy continues to inspire many.*

Society of America During the Pre-War Build Up

The period between the War of 1812 (Between US & British Empire) and the American Civil War is called the Antebellum Period. The US was partitioned into Free States (Which abolished slavery) and Slave States (Which permitted slavery). In the Southern States, plantations boomed, especially cotton. This led to more demand for slaves. However, the Parliament had banned importing slaves from Africa. So, the slaves became more expensive. Also, to increase land area, plantation owners pushed for westward expansion. In the North, an industrial revolution occurred, with manufacturing becoming the main occupation. European immigration increased. Many slave rebellions occurred before 1861. In 1859, John Brown tried to seize arms from an arsenal to provide military support for a slave rebellion. However, he failed and was executed. Northern States treated him as a martyr.

Society of America During the Pre-War Build Up

In the North, resentment against slavery increased. People who wanted to abolish slavery were called abolitionists. John O'Sullivan coined the term “Manifest Destiny” in 1845, which supported the belief that Americans are morally superior to everyone else. This was their justification for annexing Western territories of Native American tribes.

Political Powers

The political powers in America before the Civil War were mainly divided between the Northern states (Free States) and the Southern states (Slave States). Both sides wanted more control over the government, and that created a lot of arguments and non-negotiations. They also differed in the mindset of governance of the country. The North wanted the country to stay together and believed the national government should have the final say. In other words, it believed in preserving national unity. But the South wanted more power for each state, especially when it came to decision-making about slavery and their economy.

Political Powers

Southern leaders felt that the national government was starting to act against their interests, so they believed they were losing political power. On the other hand, the North felt that the country needed strong rules to stay united and constitutional. Because both sides wanted control and neither wanted to compromise, the disagreements kept growing. These political fights became so serious that they later developed into the great American Civil War.

Role of slavery and emancipation

of Slavery and Emancipation

Slavery had a huge role in the whole of the civil war as the confederates wanted slavery to continue whereas the unions wanted slavery to end resulting in mutual defiance and gridlocks. Slaves were usually used in plantations of the farmers from the Southern USA whereas the Northern USA was more industrialized and looked to trade. The sudden demand for cotton, coffee and other plantation-based plants increased the value and importance of slaves as they were the main ‘labor force’ for the farmers. This not only increased the number of slaves coming to America, it also increased the regular income of a farmer in the South.

Role of slavery and emancipation

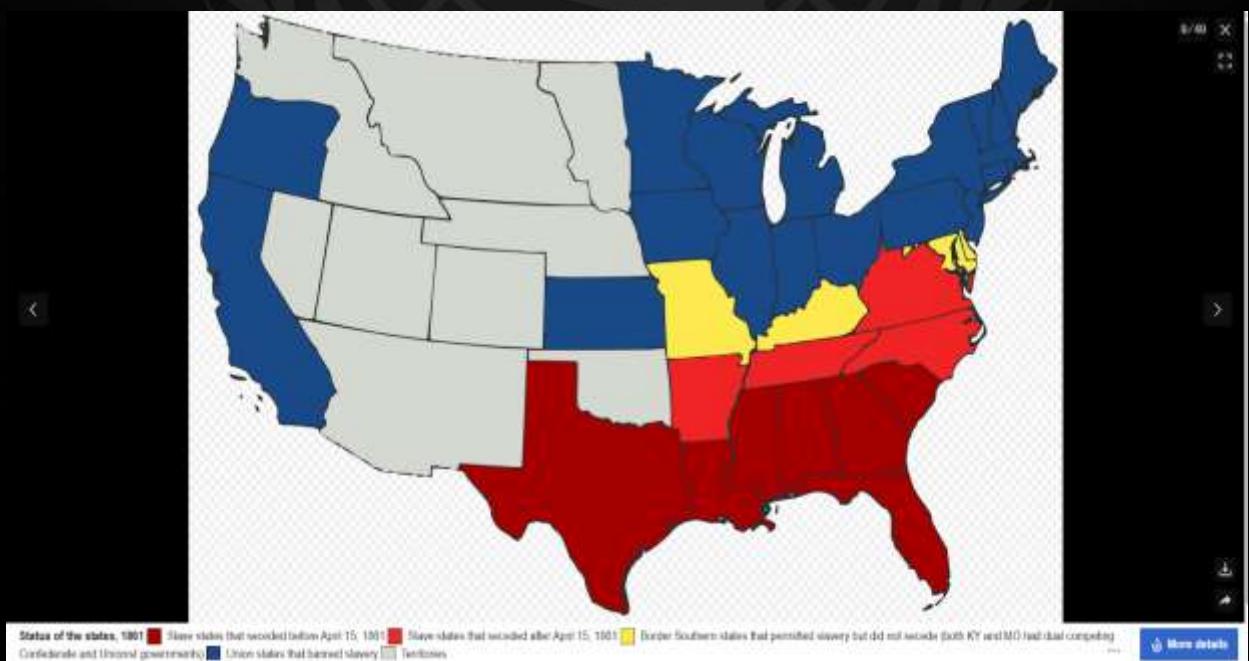
When Lincoln came to power, slavery was asked to be abolished which was not agreeable for the farmers from the Southern USA as they would face heavy losses. These events created a chain of events along with frequent policies and orders of secession from the Union. These frequent policies led to the secession of the Southern States and the formation of the Confederates and the Unions.

Role of foreign policy and international stakes

Foreign policy played a surprisingly big role in the American Civil War because both the Union and the Confederacy knew that other countries, especially in Europe, could change the whole outcome. The South hoped that dominant and powerful countries like Britain and France would support them, mainly because those nations depended on Southern cotton for their industries. If Britain or France recognized the Confederacy as a separate country, it would have given the South confidence to hold their stance and perhaps even military help. On the other hand, the Union worked very hard to stop this from happening. They tried to show Europe that the North was fighting to save one united nation from seceding. Later, when they claimed that the war was against slavery and the partitioning of the nation, European countries were convinced to avoid lending hands to the South. So, foreign support became crucial during the war, which empowered the North.

Causes of the Civil War

The growth of abolitionism in the North worried the Southern States, whose economy depended on slavery. The growth of White Southern Nationalism fueled the secession, while the growth of American Nationalism in the North made them reject the secession. The Congress(US Parliament) accepted new territories into the Union as pairs - 1 slave and 1 free to ensure equality between the two in the Senate (Council of States).



Causes of the Civil War

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln won the presidential elections. The Southern States feared he would lead slavery to extinction. In 1861, 7 states in the Deep South seceded. Another issue was that of the new Western Territories- whether slavery should spread to them too. As you can see, most of the slave states are in the South and most of the free states are in the North. The grey territories in the west were territories that the US had just occupied. Whether they would be slave or free states was undecided.

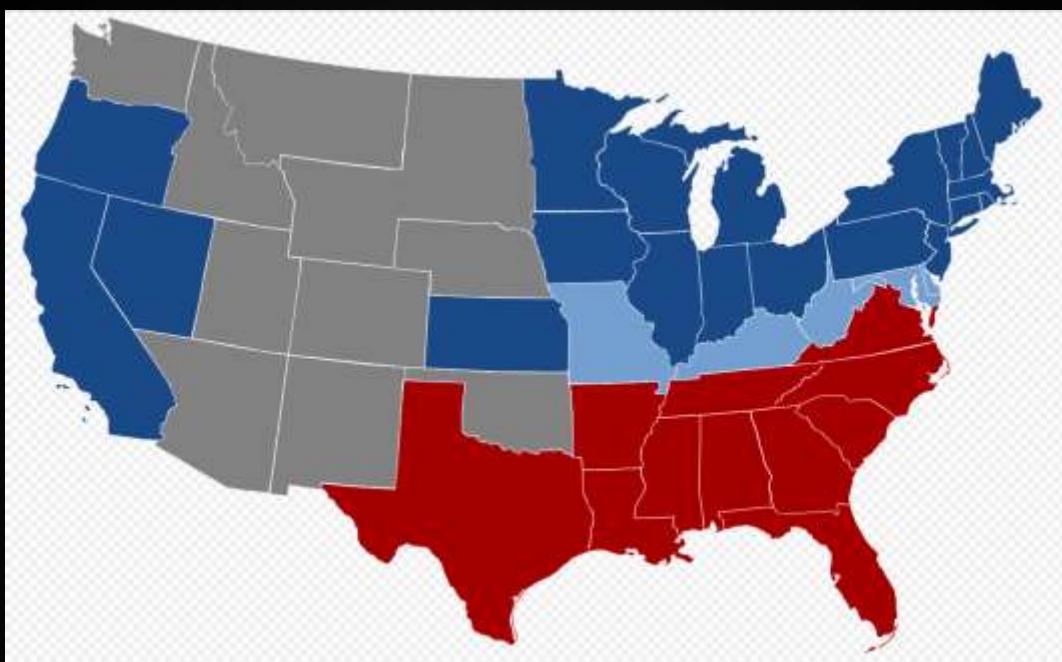
The Secession of the Southern States

At that time, all states had the right to nullify(not impose) federal laws and secede from the US. After Lincoln got elected, South Carolina voted to secede from the Union. Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas followed them. The Southern States argued that the Fugitive Slave Clause made slavery a constitutional right. They formed the Confederate States of America(CSA) on Feb 4 1861. They started taking control of forts in their territory. The outgoing president, James Buchanan, didn't provide much resistance. However, he stated that the Southerners had no reason to secede. Since the Southern States resigned from their positions in the Congress, many legislations that they had voted against got passed. One of these was the banning of slavery in the western territories.

The Secession of the Southern States

In December 1860, The Crittenden Compromise was proposed between the two parties to re-establish the Missouri Compromise Line(36.5 deg N), where slavery would be banned in states north of it and would continue in states south of it. It could've avoided secession, but Lincoln and the Republicans(his party) rejected it. The Republicans then proposed the Corwin Amendment, which said that they wouldn't interfere with slavery where it existed. However, the Southerners rejected it claiming it wasn't sufficient. The other 8 slave states, meanwhile, refused to join the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis became the president of the CSA. The Davis government tried to negotiate a peace treaty with the US in Washington, but Lincoln refused to do so, saying that he didn't want to recognize the CSA. Also, his Republican political rival, William H. Seward, complicated things by trying to conduct negotiations on his own. War became inevitable.

The Secession of the Southern States



Red-CSA, Grey-New territories

Blue-USA, Light Blue-Border States(slave states who didn't join the CSA)

The attack on Fort Sumter

The Attack on Fort Sumter is basically the moment the Civil War really began. The fort was held by Union soldiers, but the problem was that it stood right in the middle of Charleston Harbor, inside a state that had already seceded (South Carolina). Abraham Lincoln said that he was only sending supplies like food, nothing aggressive like weapons or military equipment, but the Confederates took it as a challenge. So early on April 12, 1861, they decided to fire the first shots. Due to continuous firing and usage of explosives, many American soldiers were injured. The Union troops held on their stance for a while, but after a day of heavy shelling, they had to surrender.

The attack on Fort Sumter

That single attack pushed the entire country into open war, and right after that, more Southern states chose to join the Confederate States of America. Many of these states believed that once fighting had officially begun, neutrality was pointless, and they thought their economy and political power would be safer with the Confederacy. This is why the Attack on Fort Sumter is considered to be one of the most crucial and key turning points in American history.

Rules Of Procedure(ROP)

- **Motions**-For anything to happen in the committee, a motion needs to be raised. Even to start the formal session, a motion needs to be raised to start it. Once a motion is raised, there will either be voting or the EB will exercise its discretion and pass it.
- **Role Call**-The committee starts with the role call. All the delegates' names will be called one by one, and everyone who's there simply has to say, "Present for Voting".
- **General Speakers List (GSL)**- Basically the list of all delegates. Everyone has to give a GSL Speech. Most probably, it won't be done in one go. To start a GSL session, a motion has to be passed, specifying how many speakers and for how long.

Rules Of Procedure(ROP)

- **Moderated Caucus (Mod Cauc)-** *In broad topics like the American Civil War, there'll be many subtopics like Slavery, for example. A Mod Cauc is simply a session where delegates give speeches and ask questions on a specific subtopic. Raising a motion to start one is done the same way as that of a GSL session.*
- **Unmoderated Caucus (Unmod Cauc)-** *Effectively a break from formal session, typically not exceeding 15 mins. Delegates can move around, talk to each other and try to get people on their side. DON'T USE IT AS LEISURE TIME, they're very important to strategize and decide your course of action. To raise a motion to start one, only the duration needs to be specified.*

Rules Of Procedure(ROP)

- *Points*- Points are raised individually for immediate reasons. Types (listed in order of importance):
- *Point of Personal Privilege*- To use the washroom, turn on the fan, etc.
- *Point of Order (POO)*-If a delegate said something wrong in their speech. Only 1 POO is entertained after a speech. Types:
- *Point of Factual Inaccuracy (POFI)*- To point out something completely wrong. Ex: Lincoln was the president of the Confederacy.
- *Point of Logical Fallacy (POLF)*- If there's something wrong with the delegate's logic.
- *Point of Information (POI)*-Raised by other delegates after a delegate's speech, to ask questions.
- *Point of Parliamentary Inquiry (POPI)*-To ask questions to the EB about the flow of committee. Ex: How many speakers are left in GSL?

Rules Of Procedure(ROP)

- **Yields**- *If a delegate's speech is done but there's still time left, he/she can yield their remaining time in the following ways:*
- **Yield for Questions**-*Allowing other delegates to raise POIs on their speech.*
- **Yield to the EB**-*Giving the remaining time to the EB. We can allow or disallow POIs in this time.*
- **Chits**- *If a delegate wants to raise a point on another delegate's speech but doesn't get to do so, they can send chits to the delegate and ask their questions on it. Write the question on a chit, fold it, write 'To:' and 'From:(Your delegation)', and simply hand it to the logistics. If you write 'Via EB' it'll pass through the EB first and it'll get marked, if not, it'll go directly to the delegate.*

Rules Of Procedure(ROP)

- **Directives**-*For any action to happen in the war, a directive needs to be written on it. They can be covert (where no one except the EB knows who wrote it) or overt (where it's read out to the whole committee and voting takes place for it).*
Ex: a covert directive to invade South Carolina. A directive needs to be as detailed as they can be. We will guide you on how to write directives in online ROP sessions later. For now, look at this sample: [Sample Directive](#)
- **Communiques**-*If you want to involve or ask for things from someone who isn't present in the committee, a communique needs to be written to the related person.*
Ex: A communique to the King of Great Britain asking for arms.
- **Press Release**:*If you want to reveal something to the committee, write a press release about it. Ex: Lincoln writing a press release saying that slavery will be abolished immediately after the war. Sample: [Sample Press Release](#)*

Rules Of Procedure(ROP)

- **Right to Reply(RTR):** If a delegate says something absolutely outrageous in their speech, the concerned delegates can raise an RTR against that delegate. An RTR is effectively a 1-1 debate. However, an RTR needs to be raised on proper grounds. You can't just have a baseless RTR, there needs to be a reason on it. Don't be scared to raise one-there's no negative marking.
- **Working Paper/Committee-Wide Directive(CWD)-** Basically a culmination of all directives written by a bloc. It represents the bloc's goals, ideals and plans of action. Ultimately, the CWDs will decide which bloc wins. They will be voted on, and must have a certain number of signatories. They will be assessed based on these questions(Questions A Resolution Must Answer-QARMA)

QARMA(Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

- 1. *What laws can be introduced that balance both the Confederates' and the Unions' claims on slavery, to reach a compromise?***
- 2. *How can equality between free and slave states be maintained?***
- 3. *To which kind of citizens in your country will the Fundamental Rights (Bill of Rights) apply to?***
- 4. *How does multilateralism and radicalism play a role in your resolution?***
- 5. *What is your policy on Native Americans and the Western Territories? How will they be treated in your country?***
- 6. *Who will your country's foreign allies be and what will you provide and receive from them as part of the alliance? In other words, how strong will each alliance be?***

Know Your Chairs

- **Dhruv Balakrishnan:**
- **Dhruv (9B) has been MUNing since 7th grade. In his 1st MUN (JMUN 2024) he won the Outstanding Delegate award. Since then, he's been to 3 other MUNs including GMUN (24 & 25) and JMUN (25). In GMUN 2025 he got a verbal mention.**
- **Sarrvad Rao:**
- **Sarrvad (9C) has been MUNing since 7th grade. Since then, he has gone for 7 MUN's including GMUN(24 & 25) and TCIS MUN, GEAR MUN and TFS MUN in the past two years. He has also won Honorable Mention and Verbal Mention.**

Know Your Chairs

- *Priyanshi Raj:*
- *Priyanshi (8C) began her MUN journey with TFS MUN, an experience that really helped her grow as a speaker and a leader. She carries a proficient academic background and is quite well-known for her refined writing skills and prudent intellect.*