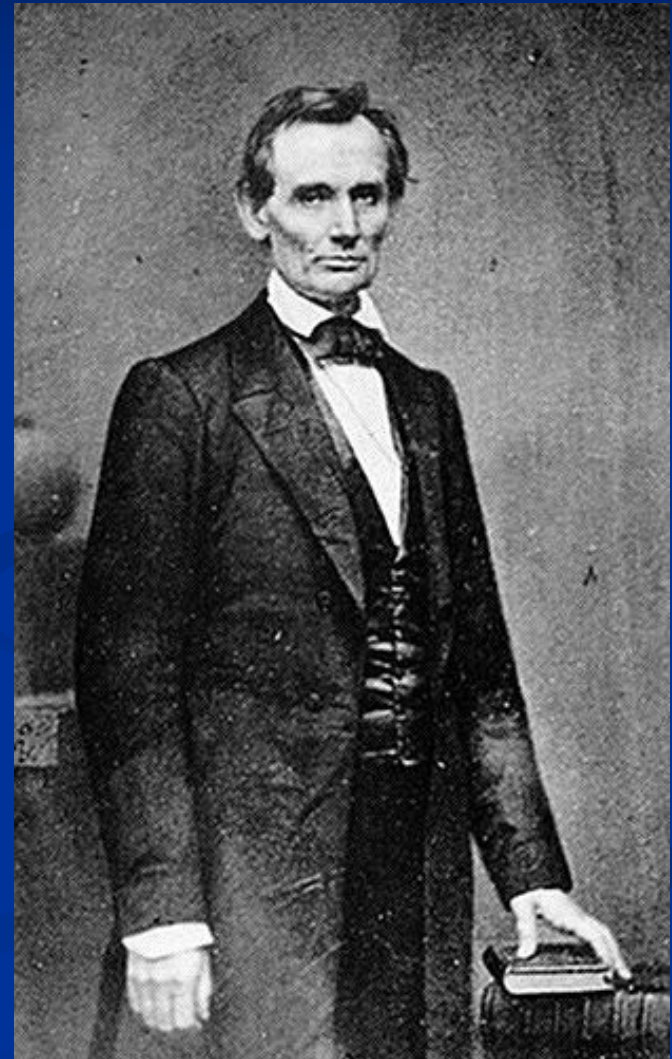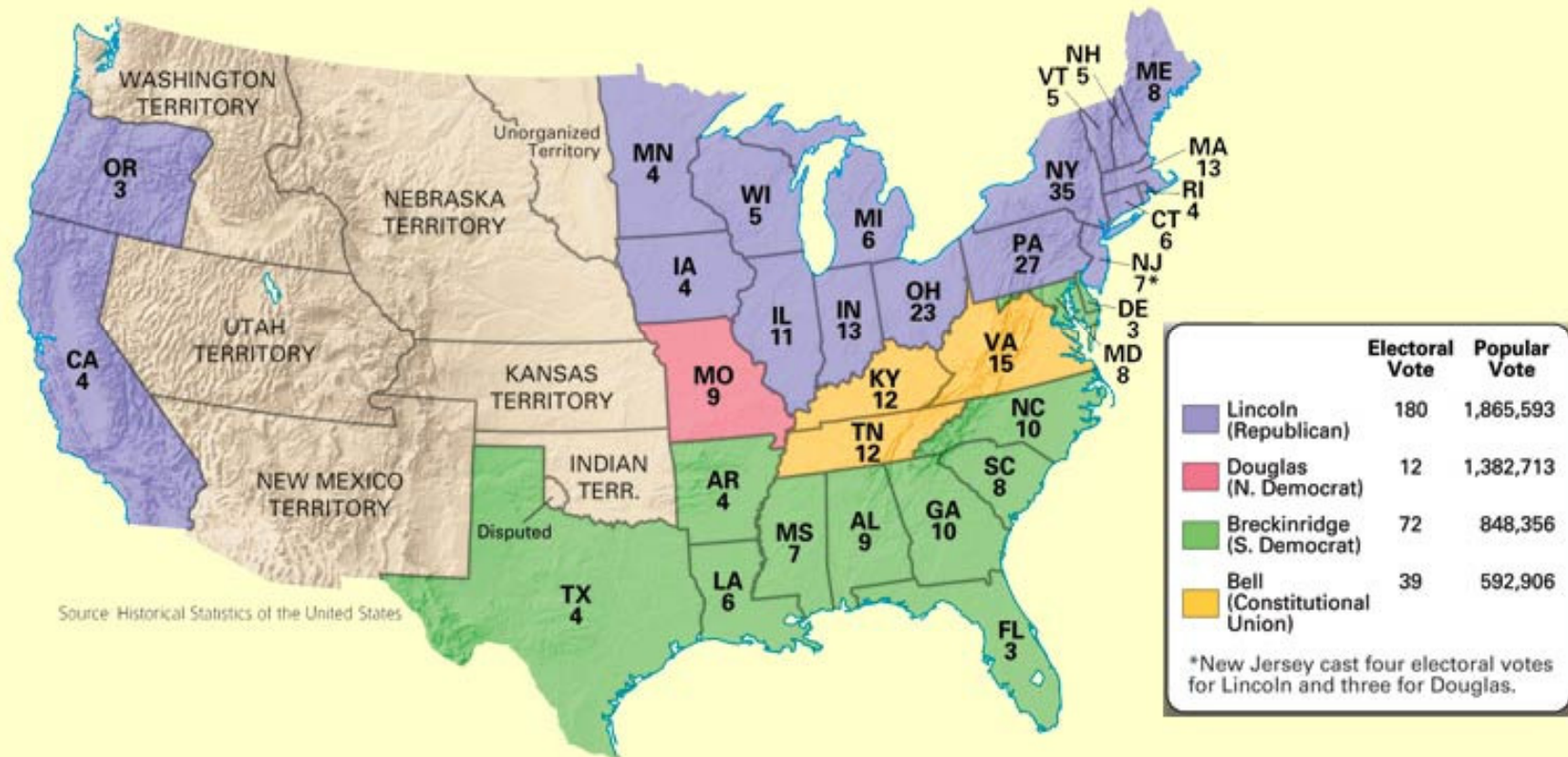# The Civil War Begins - 1861

Election of 1860

- Republicans nominate Abraham Lincoln
  - He runs to stop the *expansion* of slavery
- Lincoln wins with NO Southern electoral votes
- South Carolina votes to secede from the United States on Dec. 20, 1860
- By Feb, 1861, MS, FL, AL, GA, LA, and TX secede and form the Confederate States of America
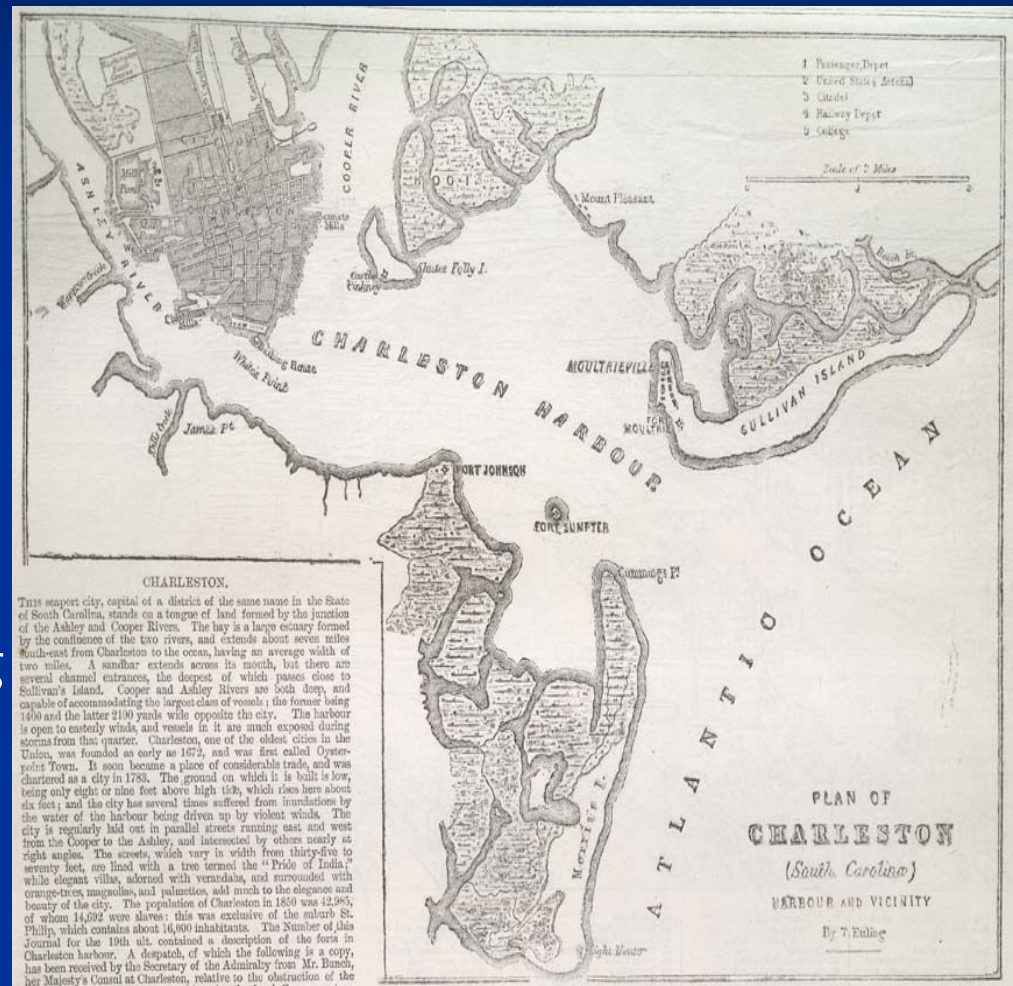 - Elect Jefferson Davis President of the Confederacy

Election of 1860

Fort Sumter, South Carolina

- When the South seceded, many union forts/custom houses remained on Confederate soil
  - Many were evacuated
  - Some were held
    - Fort Sumter, S.C.
- Fort Sumter controlled entrance to Charleston harbor
- Federal soldiers were running low on supplies
  - Instead of evacuating, Lincoln decided to re-supply fort
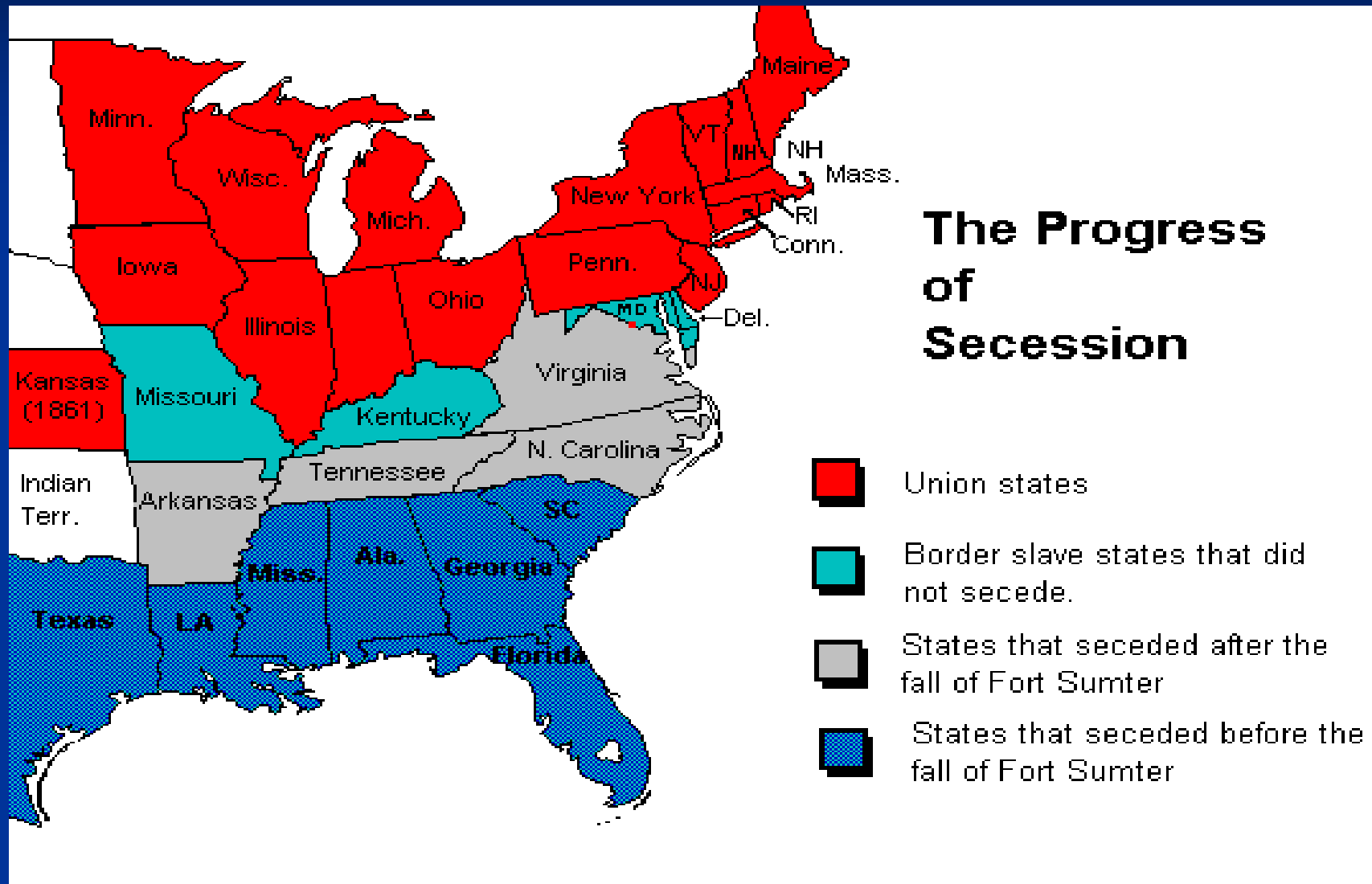 - Confederate army decided to attack before fresh supplies arrived

Attack on Fort Sumter

- Early April 12, 1861
- Confederates demanded surrender
- Union refused, and Confederates commanded by PGT Beauregard attack at 4:30 in the morning
- 36 hours of bombardment from Fort Moultrie, Fort Johnson, and Cummings Point
- Robert Anderson finally surrenders Fort Sumter on April 14
- The Civil War had begun
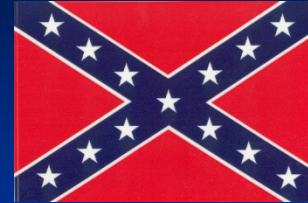
The Progress of Secession

North vs. South

- Northern Advantages
  - Better Transportation
  - More developed industry
  - Larger population
    - Larger army
  - Established Government
    - Recognized by foreign governments
  - Financial resources
    - 81% of banks in North
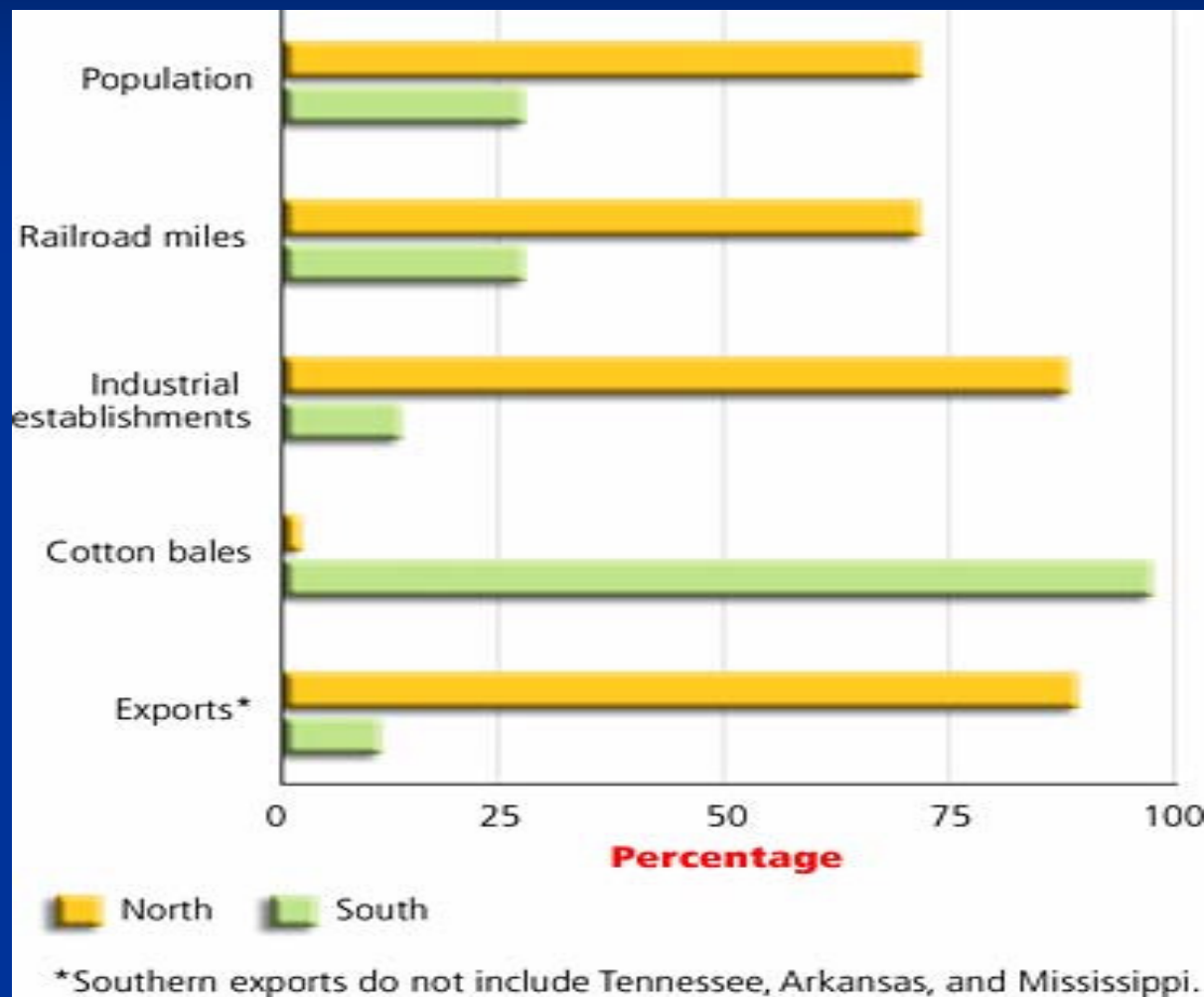 - Greater agricultural capacity for <u>food</u>

- Southern Advantages
  - Skilled officers
    - Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and P.G.T. Beauregard, to name a few
  - Only had to defend their land, not conquer the north
  - Spirit/Motivation
  - 'Home field' advantage
    - Most fighting done in the south

Comparing Resources for War

	Union	Confederacy
Population	22 million	9.5 million
Military Manpower	2,100,000 men organized standing army	800,000 men stronger military leaders
Manufacturing	110,000 companies	18,000 companies
Iron/Steel	92 % of US foundries	8% of US foundries
Transportation	23,000 miles of track	9,000 miles of track
Wealth/Banking	81% of US banks $$ available to finance war	Wealth in land & slaves $$ in short supply
Slavery	Legal/NOT accepted/ Absolutionist	Legal/protected/ accepted

Comparing Resources for War
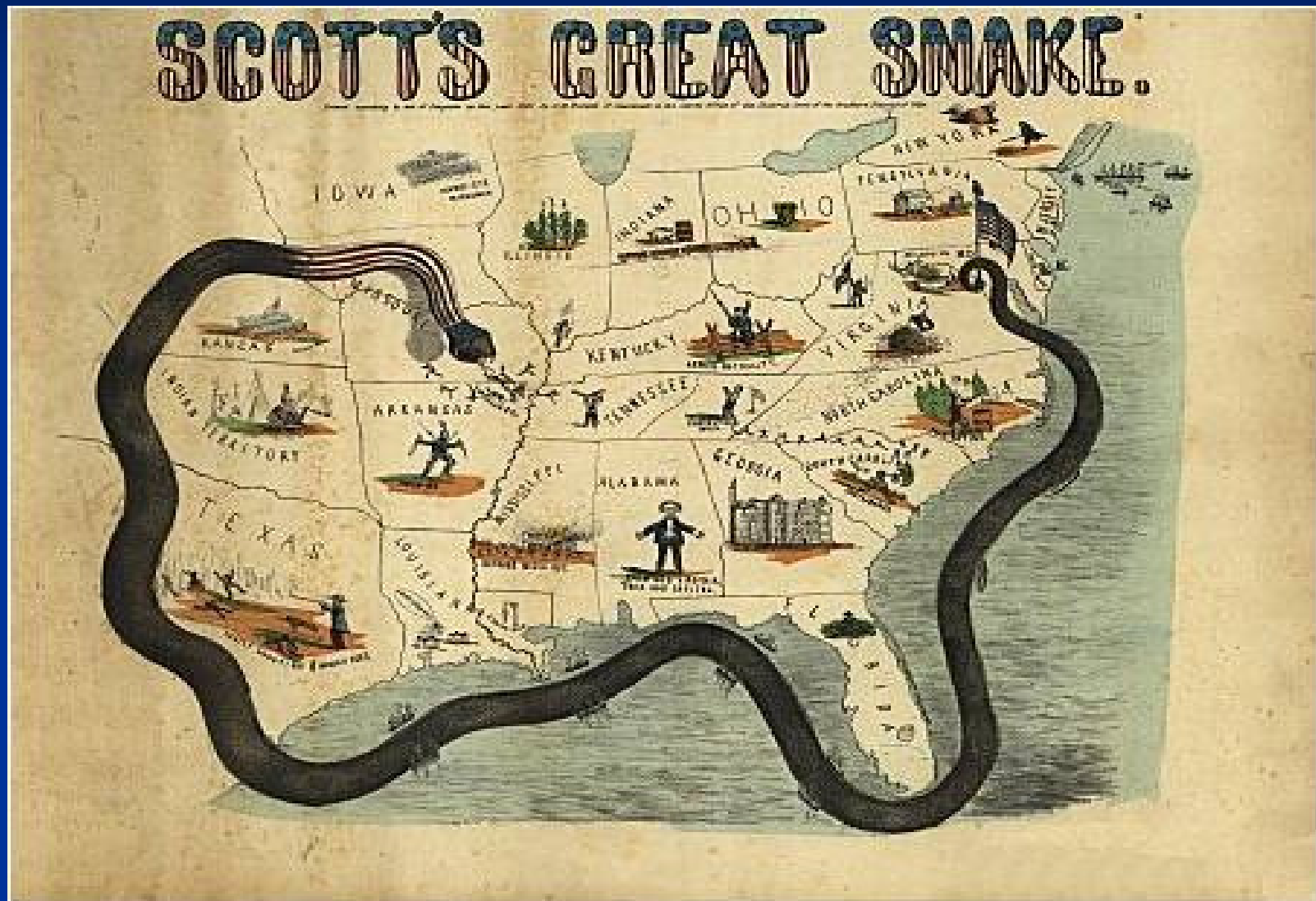
War Strategy

- **Union**
  - Surround the Confederacy with a naval blockade
    - Destroy South's economy
  - Control the Mississippi River
    - Divide the Confederacy
    - Disrupt Confederate supply lines and communications
  - Capture Richmond—Confederate Capital
  - May 1861 ~President Lincoln authorizes General Winfield Scott's Anaconda Plan

Anaconda Plan

- **Scott's Plan**
  - Union blockade of southern ports
    - Suffocates southern economy
    - Shuts down "King Cotton"
    - Causes food shortages and hyper inflation in the south
  - Would plague south for the rest of the war
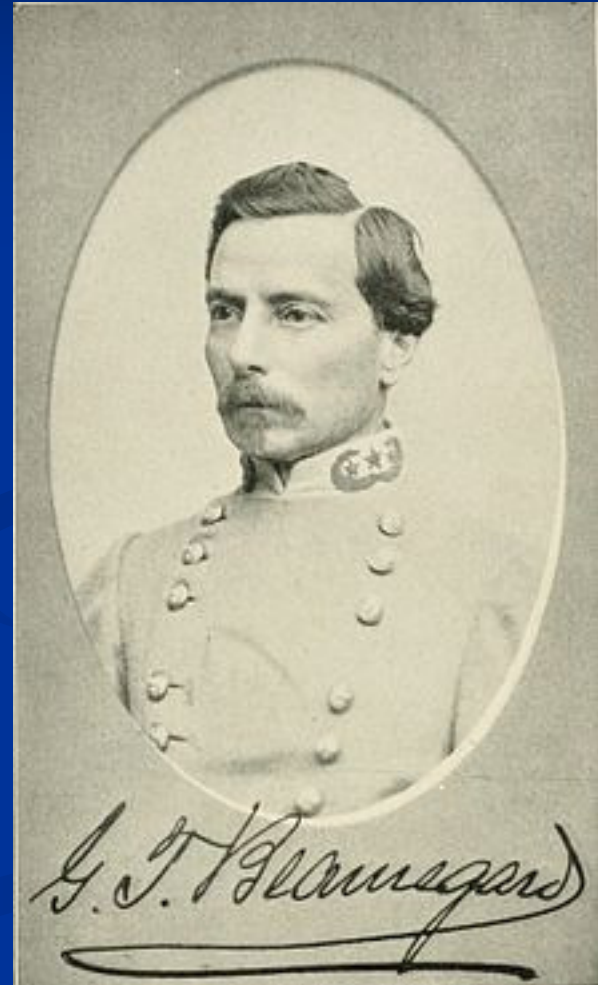
Anaconda Plan

War Strategy

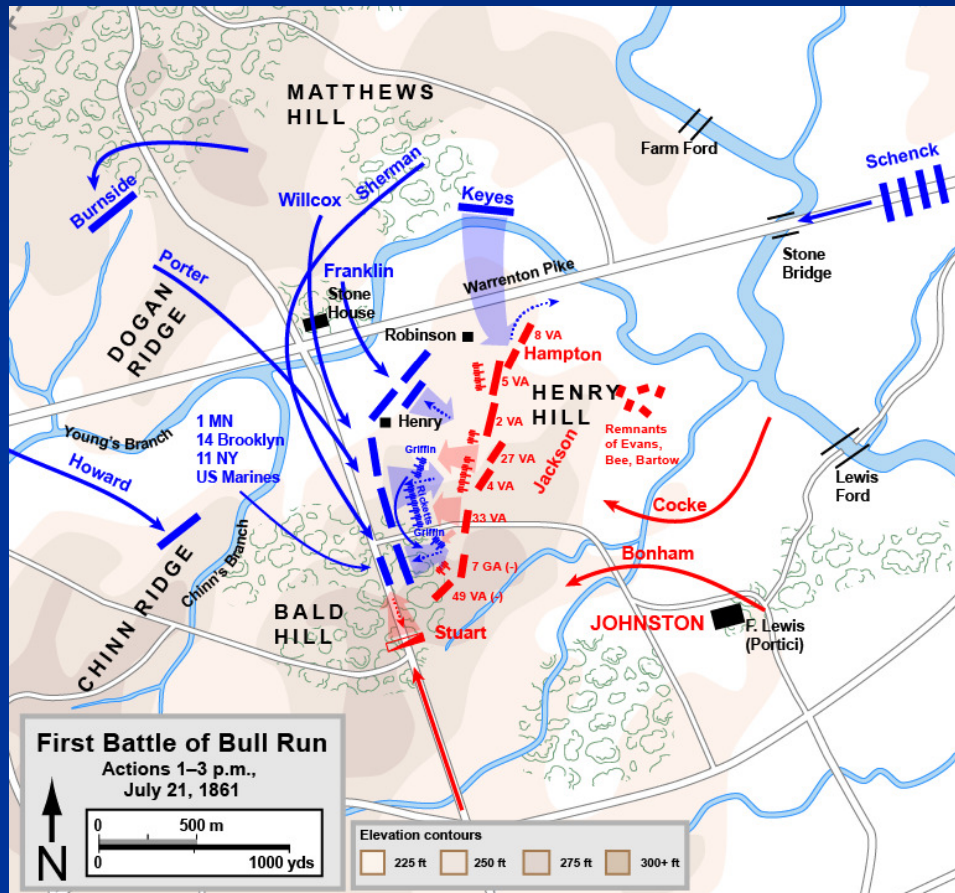- **Confederacy**
  - Defend its territory
  - Wear down the invading Union army
  - Take Washington D.C.
  - Get Britain to support the Confederacy through <u>Cotton Diplomacy</u>
    - Gain British support by supplying them with cotton
      - Cotton was important to Britain's textile industry

The Battle of Bull Run

- Union General Irvin McDowell marched down into VA with 35,000 barely trained men to engage the Confederate Army

- P.G.T. Beauregard marched his 20,000 men north to meet the advancing Union Army

- Both armies were camped near Manassas Junction, VA on July 16
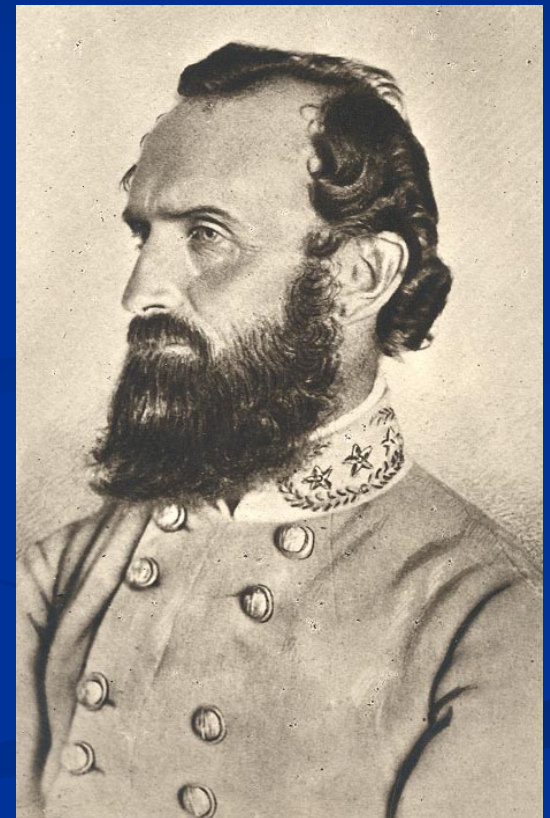   - Within days Beauregard was reinforced by an additional 12,000 men

G. T. Beauregard

The Battle of Bull Run

First Battle of Bull Run
Actions 1–3 p.m.,
July 21, 1861

- The Union and Confederate armies clashed for the first time near Bull Run Stream on July 21, 1861 as Union Forces attacked Confederate lines.

- Expecting a quick Union victory, the wealthy elite from Washington brought picnics to watch the battle

Battle of Bull Run

- Union soldiers had early success in driving back the Confederates
- Until they met the line of Thomas Jackson
- Retreating Confederate general Bernard Bee cried "There is Jackson standing like a stonewall! Let us determine to die here and we will Conquer!"
  - Earns the nickname "Stonewall Jackson"
- Advancing Union soldiers met Jackson's men and suffered devastating fire, followed by a bayonet charge and "rebel yell"
- Other Confederate brigades reinforced Jackson and they pushed the Union army into retreat
  - Panicked, frenzied retreat to Washington, civilians and soldiers alike
- Confederates did not push their advantage
- Union regrouped

Battle of <u>Bull Run</u>

Union Casualties – 2,896   **Confederate Casualties – 1,982**