

Civil War Timeline: A Comprehensive Guide to the Events of the American Civil War



A Civil War Timeline (War Timelines) by Lucia Raatma

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The American Civil War, fought between 1861 and 1865, was one of the most significant conflicts in American history. This comprehensive Civil War Timeline provides a detailed account of the key events, battles, and turning points that shaped the course of this momentous war.

Prelude to the War (1850s)

- **1850: Compromise of 1850** - A series of laws passed by Congress to resolve tensions over slavery in the territories acquired from Mexico.
- **1854: Kansas-Nebraska Act** - Repealed the Missouri Compromise and allowed settlers in these territories to decide the issue of slavery through popular sovereignty.
- **1857: Dred Scott v. Sandford** - A Supreme Court ruling that declared enslaved people were not U.S. citizens and could not sue in federal court.

Outbreak of the War (1861)

- **April 12, 1861: Attack on Fort Sumter** - Confederate forces fired on a Union fort in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, marking the beginning of the Civil War.
- **April 15, 1861: Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers** - President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for volunteers to suppress the rebellion.
- **May 20, 1861: Battle of Balls Bluff** - The first major land battle of the war, resulting in a Confederate victory.

The Eastern Theater (1861-1865)

- **July 21, 1861: First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas)** - A Confederate victory that halted the Union's advance on Richmond, Virginia.
- **September 17, 1862: Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg)** - A bloody draw that led President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.
- **July 3-4, 1863: Battle of Gettysburg** - A Union victory that turned the tide of the war in the East.

The Western Theater (1861-1865)

- **February 6-16, 1862: Battle of Fort Donelson** - A Union victory that gained control of the Mississippi River.

- **April 6-7, 1862: Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing)** - A bloody battle that resulted in a Union victory but heavy losses.
- **July 4, 1863: Siege of Vicksburg** - A Union victory that gave the Union control of the Mississippi River and split the Confederacy in two.

Turning Points of the War

- **January 1, 1863: Emancipation Proclamation** - President Lincoln's Free Download declaring enslaved people in Confederate-held territory free.
- **July 4, 1863: Gettysburg Address** - Lincoln's famous speech at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery.
- **November 19, 1863: Gettysburg and Vicksburg** - The Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg are considered turning points of the war.

End of the War (1865)

- **April 9, 1865: Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House** - The effective end of the war.
- **May 10, 1865: Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith surrenders in Galveston, Texas** - The final Confederate surrender.

Legacy of the Civil War

The Civil War had a profound impact on the United States. It resulted in the abolition of slavery, the reunification of the nation, and the strengthening of

the federal government. The war also left a lasting legacy of division and racial inequality that continues to shape American society.

Additional Resources

- HISTORY Civil War Timeline
- National Park Service Civil War Timeline
- Brown University Library Civil War Chronology



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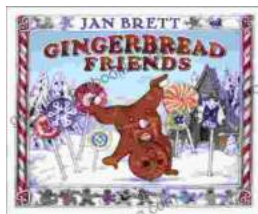
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