



# March to Secession

How 11 states made the decision to start a war.



# South Carolina: December 20, 1860

- Decision was made pre-election that if Lincoln was elected, they would secede.
- If there were those who disagreed, they do not seem to be represented anywhere.
- Very worried about the financial and economic future of the state without slavery

## Unionists

- More prevalent around 1830
- Fought against nullification doctrine initially
- When abolitionism came around a lot of the Unionists fell away
- The few voices left on the pro-Union side were drowned out.



Mississippi:  
January 9,  
1861

- Spurred by election of Lincoln.
- Held convention almost immediately.
- Passed secession vote 83-15 in favor.
- Disagreement was ignored.

### Unionists

- Were drowned out and ignored.
- Didn't make much of a stir after vote to leave the Union.



Florida:  
January 10,  
1861

- Much of the wealth in Florida was held in slaves.
- Those who were invested in slaves were afraid of losing their wealth.
- 44% of Florida's population at the time was slaves.
- Delegates at the convention voted 69-7 for secession.
- Disagreement was ignored.

Unionists

- Were too small of a minority to be heard.



Alabama:  
January 11,  
1861

- Very contentious over secession
- Three factions at the Secession Convention: Radicals, Cooperationists, Unionists.
- Northern counties were mostly Unionists.
- Considered breaking into a separate state called Nickajack.
- Immediate secession won the vote.
- Those who disagreed often went to fight for the Union.



Georgia:  
January 19,  
1861

- Initially Unionist
- Happy with Compromise of 1850.
- Lincoln changed everything.

Unionists

- Separated from each other.
- Some took refuge in the North.



Louisiana:  
January 26,  
1861

- Initially Unionist.
- Saw secession as inevitable leading up to Lincoln's election.

### Unionists

- Imbedded themselves in the state. Sabotaged Confederate stability in the state.



Texas:  
February 1,  
1861

- Initially unconcerned about secession
- Congress refused to send help with Native incursion
- Paranoia broke out in the state
- Secessionists called for a convention when the governor would not.
- Governor Houston refused offered troops to put down the secessionist rebellion.

#### Unionists

- Did not defect
- Where hunted down
- May people who were not Unionists were tried and hung for treason.



Virginia:  
April 17,  
1861

- Conditional Unionists – would stay as long as no coercion to join war.
- Unconditional Unionists- were not involved in slavery. Mostly came from north of Alleghany Mountains.
- Skirmish at Fort Sumter forced Conditional Unionist to vote for secession.

### Unconditional Unionists

- Got together and laid groundwork for new state of West Virginia
- Fought on the Union side



Arkansas:  
May 6,  
1861

- Unionist up until the attack on Fort Sumter.
- Worried about their own internal stuff.
- Appealed to the Federal government to take control of the Federal arsenal in Little Rock.

#### Unionists

- No longer existed after Fort Sumter, except one guy who was easy enough to ignore.



# North Carolina: May 20, 1861

- North Carolina greatly enjoyed the comfortable support provided by the Union.
- Waited until they could no longer wait.
- Never managed to convene a secession convention.
- Forced into acquiescence when the union army attacked Fort Sumter.



Tennessee:  
June 8,  
1861

- Very divided
- Slave holders made up a very small portion of citizenry
- Were concerned over election of Lincoln.
- Moved toward secession at the attack of Fort Sumter.
- Sentiments for and against secession were strong.
- Recruitment for both sides happening at the same time in Knoxville.

#### Unionists

- Created the separate state of Scott County.
- Protected by Fielding Hurst

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