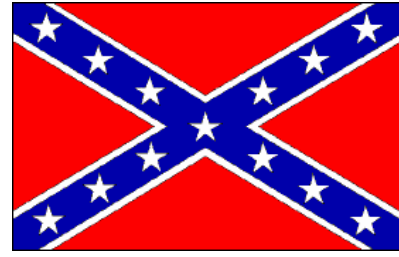


USA

## Glory (1989)



CSA

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865. The southern states, or slave states, decided to leave the United States of America (USA) and form their own nation. This is referred to as **secession**, and the people who believed in it were called **Secessionists**. (These terms are usually abbreviated in the movie as secess'.)

The southern states called their country the Confederate States of America (CSA). Americans usually refer to the USA as the Union (or the North) and the CSA as the Confederacy (or the South).

The Confederacy elected its own president. It has its own laws, its own constitution, its own money, etc. The Union stated that the Confederacy was not a country. It said that those who claimed the Confederacy was a country were traitors rebelling against the U.S. government. The Confederates are often referred to as **Rebels**, or **Rebs**.

Before the Civil War, states had to join the Union two at a time, one a "Free State" and one a "Slave State." The USA always had the same number of Free States and Slave States. This was so neither side would have more votes in the Senate than the other.

During the war, President Abraham Lincoln signed the **Emancipation Proclamation**. It went into effect January 1, 1863. It stated that all slaves were free. The Confederacy said this did not apply to them, because they did not belong to the Union. After the Union won the war, slavery ended.

Some people say the war was fought over slavery. They say the Union was not racist and the Confederacy was.

Others say this is a very simplistic view. They claim the southern states (farmers) were tired of being told what to do by the northern states (industrialists).

We may never know the real reasons for the Civil War, but they are probably more complex than either of these views. However, the war still affects the way people think in the USA today, over 140 years later. Perhaps it reflects some problems that existed in the USA even before it became a country, back in 1776.



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### ADDITIONAL VOCABULARY

Freedman - A man who has been freed from slavery.

Frederick Douglass - A Freedman who became very famous for campaigning against slavery. He was a speaker, writer, diplomat and statesman. He appears in the movie GLORY for roughly two minutes.

Fraternization - Spending time with people that you should not be friendly with. In the US military, officers and enlisted men should not “fraternize” with each other.

Abolitionist - Someone who campaigned against slavery.

Chloroform - A liquid that rapidly changes to vapor and causes unconsciousness if inhaled. It was formerly used as an anesthetic during surgery. Sometimes it is still used in veterinary medicine.

Servile insurrection - ‘Servile’ refers to servants, or slaves. ‘Insurrection’ refers to rebellion against the government.

Contraband - Goods that are imported or exported illegally. This includes goods that are imported or exported without paying taxes, and goods that are prohibited by law from being taken into or out of a country.

Bayonet - A blade that can be affixed to the end of a rifle and used for stabbing.

Deserter - A member of the armed forces who leaves his or her post without permission and does not intend to go back.

Forage - To search for something, especially food or supplies. In the military, this means that soldiers raid a town for food or supplies.

Oppression - Controlling a person harshly.

Ante up - Pay what you owe.