

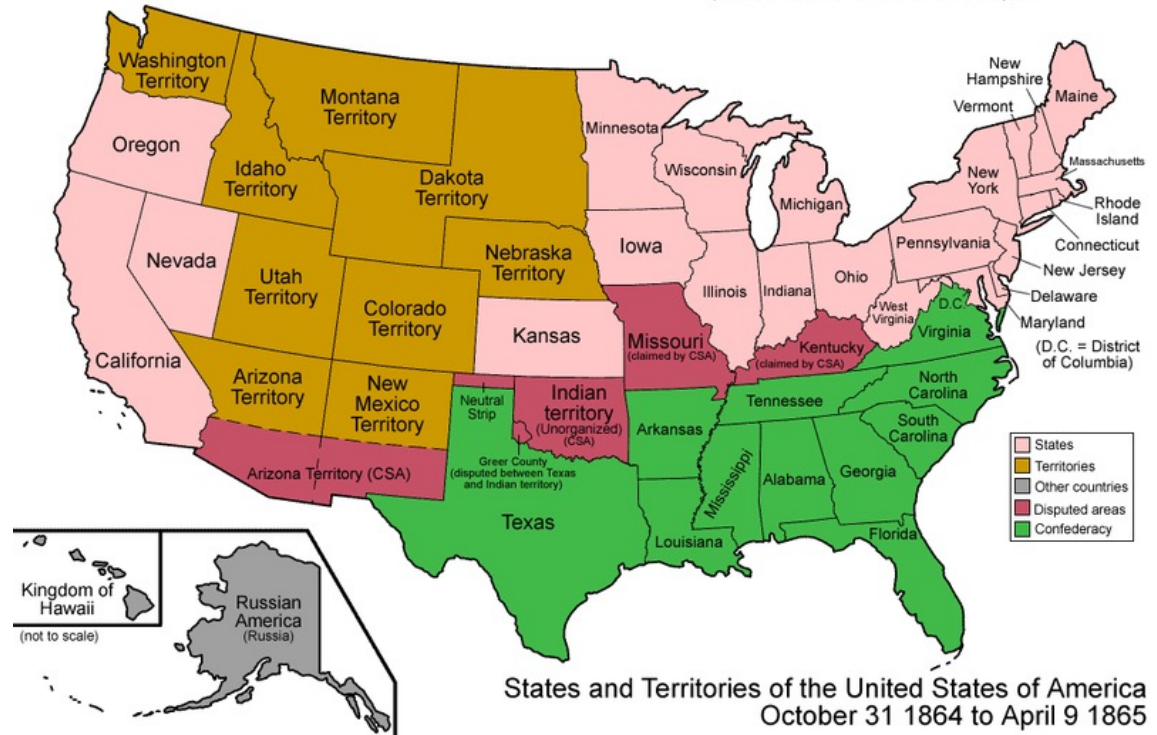
# Division

1855-1865

# Population 30 Million

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The Confederate States of America surrendered on April 9 1865.  
The process of Reconstruction took from one to five years.



## The North

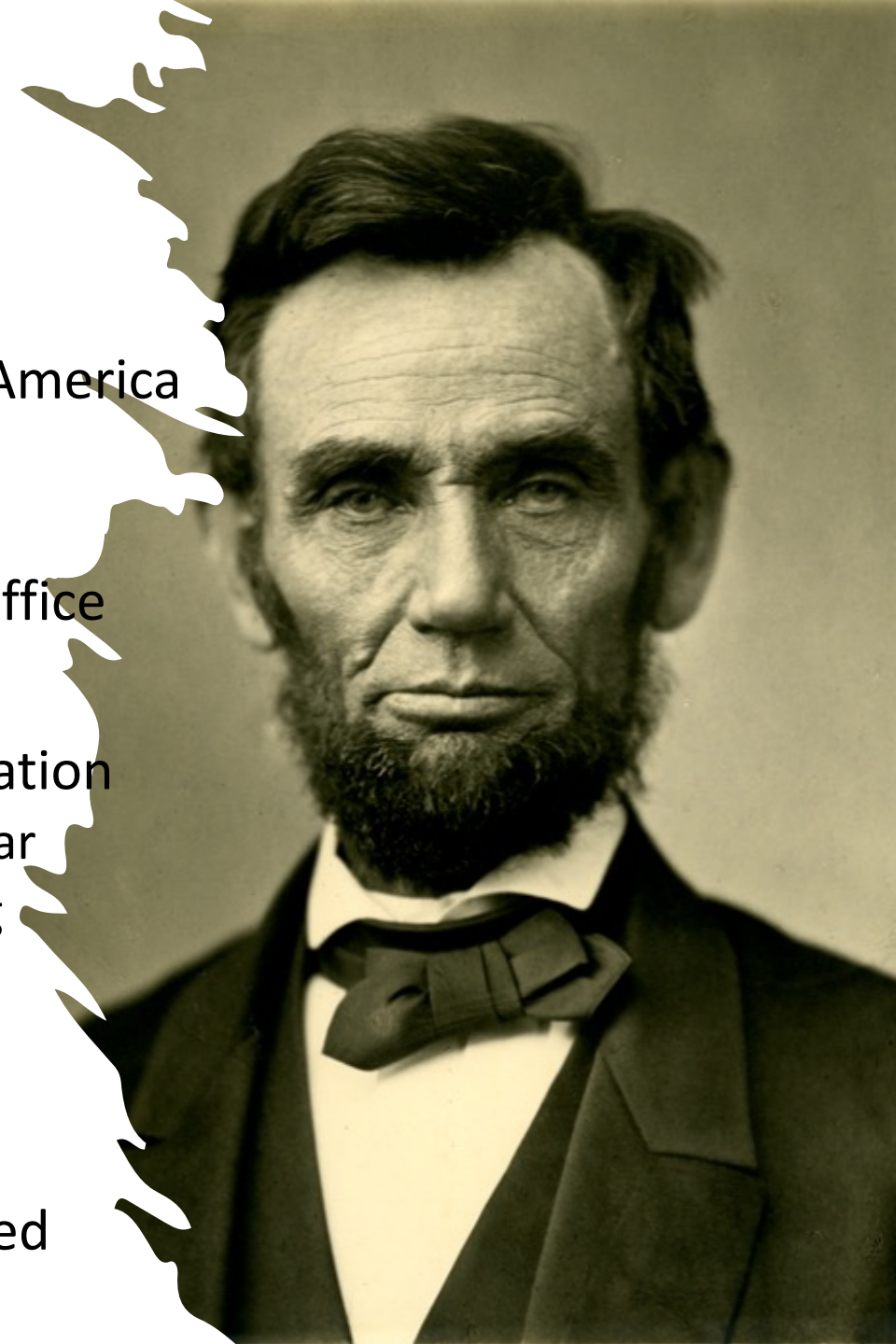
- Industrial Revolution and cheap transportation turn northern cities into bustling hubs of education, banking, and science
- Immigration leads to a diverse and complex cultural landscape
- Continual questions of ethics, equity, morality, progress, reform, etc.

# The South

- Relatively homogenous
- Technology and social reform are slow
- Industry clearly defined
  - Agriculture is the “backbone”
  - Plantations and small farms are the “nervous system”
  - Cotton, sugar, rice, and tobacco are the “blood”
  - Slavery is the “heart”

# A Nation Divided

- 1860: Lincoln elected president
- Feb 1861: Confederate States of America
  - Eleven southern states secede
  - Jefferson Davis chosen president
- March 1861: Lincoln sworn into office
- April 12, 1861: Civil War begins
- Sep 1862: Emancipation Proclamation
  - Makes ending slavery a goal of war
  - Dissuades British from interfering
- 1864: Lincoln reelected
- April 9, 1865: Civil War ends
  - Lee surrenders to Grant
- April 14, 1865: Lincoln assassinated



## Social and Political Scene

- Social and political scenes are virtually the same
- The South is decimated, not only physically but also economically, now that the institution upon which their entire infrastructure rests has been dissolved
- These new *United States* struggle to find common ground and identify what it means to be a democracy—economically, politically, and socially

# Literary Scene

- Literature becomes a form of social protest
- Like the revolutionary period almost 100 years before, speeches, songs, letters, memoirs, and journals dominate as we attempt to figure out *who we are...*
- A variety of issues plague the nation
  - War
  - Slavery
  - African-American Rights
  - Women's Rights
  - Native-American Rights
  - Immigration
  - Science vs. Religion

# Frederick Douglass

1817(?) - 1895

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- Born into slavery on a Maryland plantation
- At 8, sent to live as a servant with the Auld family in Baltimore
- Mrs. Auld teaches Douglass to read and write
- Her husband insists that if a slave learns to read, he will become “dissatisfied” with his condition and desire freedom
- Douglass begins teaching other slaves to read and write
- Escapes at age 21 after two previously unsuccessful attempts
- Spends four years lecturing
- In 1845, flees to England upon publishing his autobiography
- Buys his freedom and returns years later as a political activist

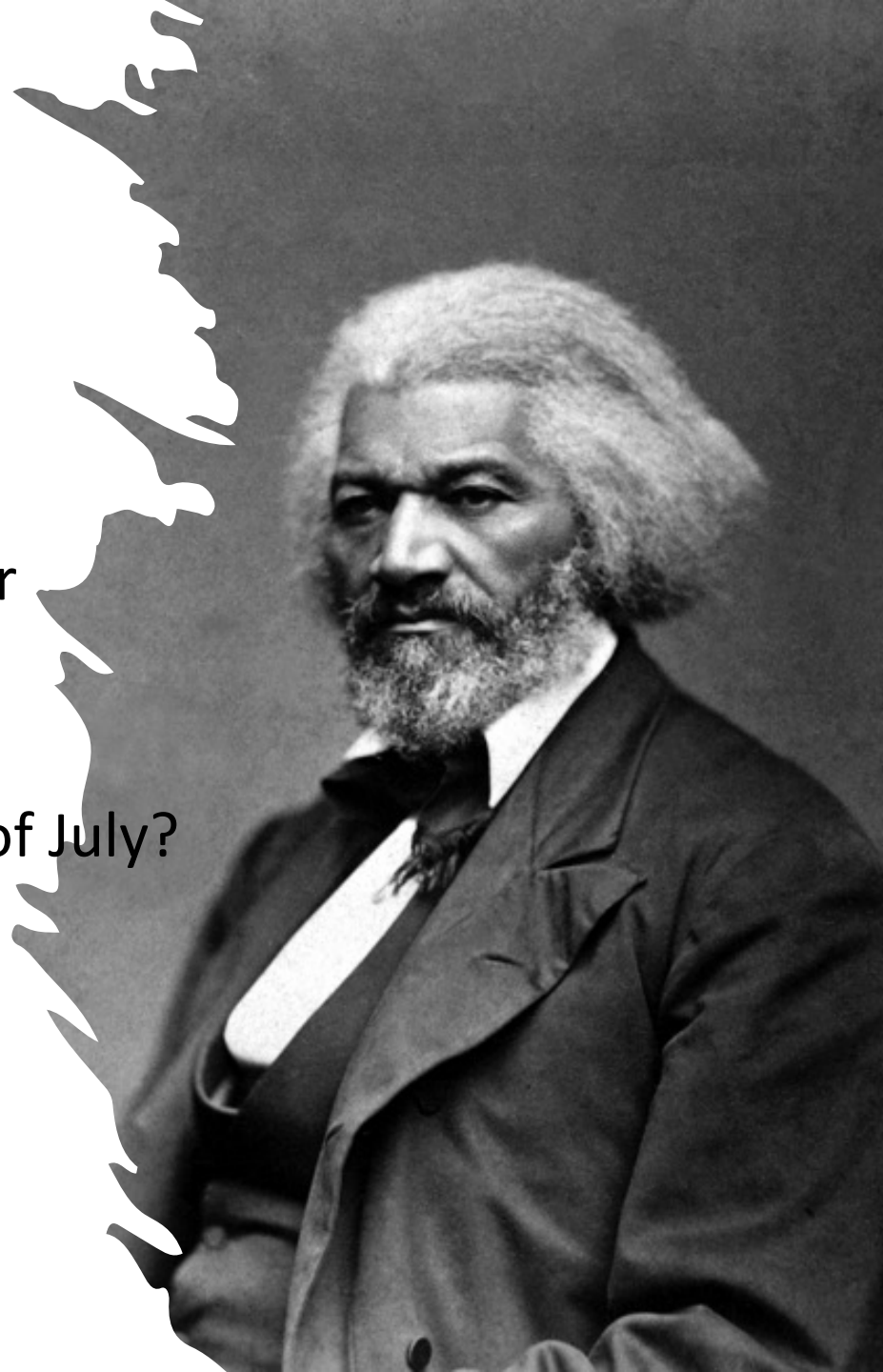


# *My Bondage and My Freedom*

- Published in 1845
- Painfully documents the break-up of the family and the physical brutality of slavery in terms that resonate with his audience
  - Master is his father
  - Mother is a stranger
  - Animal imagery depicts dehumanization of slavery
- Uses what white America values as ammunition
  - Religious Hypocrisy: Are we good Christians?
  - Political Hypocrisy: Are we good Patriots?

# What to the Slave Is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?

- Delivered in New York on July 5, 1852, at the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Society
- The Big Question?
- *What to the slave is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?*





# Sojourner Truth

## 1797-1883

- Born Isabella Baumfree
- Born into slavery in NY
  - Spoke Dutch
- Sold several times before state emancipation (1827)
- 1843: Gives herself the name “Sojourner Truth” and becomes a travelling Methodist preacher
  - Abolition
  - Women’s Rights
  - Prison Reform
  - Capital Punishment

# On Women's Rights

## "Ain't I a Woman?"

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- 1851: Delivered at the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio
- Recorded by Marius Robinson: abolitionist and editor
  - No mention of the phrase "Ain't I a woman?"
- 1863: Frances Dana Barker Gage publishes a different version
  - Gives Truth a Southern slave dialect
  - Inserts the phrase "Ain't I a woman" as a refrain
  - Includes several facts that don't match historical evidence
- Nonetheless, Gage's version becomes the standard

# On Women's Rights (Ain't I a Woman)

## 1851 Version

- May I say a few words? I want to say a few words about this matter.
- But man is in a tight place, the poor slave is on him, woman is coming on him, and he is surely between a hawk and a buzzard.

## 1863 Version

- Well, chillen, whar dar's so much racket dar must be som'ting out o'kilter.
- I tink dat, 'twixt de slaves of de South and de women at de Norf, all a-talking 'bout rights, de white men will be in a fix pretty soon.

# Gettysburg Address

- 1863: Delivered a few months after the bloody battle at Gettysburg
  - What is Lincoln's objective?
  - What role does he suggest democracy plays in this war?
  - How does he define the danger?
  - What literary reference and political ideal does he constantly return to as he builds an argument for compromise and unification?

... more and seven years ago our fathers  
to forth, upon this continent, a new nation,  
in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposi-  
tion that all men are created equal.  
We are engaged in a great civil war,  
and whether that nation, or any nation, so con-  
secrated, can long endure. We are here  
on a great battle-field of that war. We  
dedicate a portion of it as <sup>a</sup> final resting  
place <sup>for</sup> of those who here gave their lives  
that that nation might live. It is altogether fit-  
ting and proper that we should do this.  
But in a larger sense we can not ded-  
icate or consecrate—we can not hallow  
this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who  
here, have consecrated it far above our  
power to add or detract. The world will little  
or long remember, what we say here, but  
can never forget what they did here. It is  
for us, the living, rather to be dedicated  
to the unfinished <sup>work</sup>, which they have  
thus far, so nobly carried on. It is rather

# Chief Joseph

1840(?) - 1904



- Nez Percé tribe (Oregon)
- His father, the chief, converts to Christianity
- Joseph sent to a school run by missionaries
- Becomes chief in 1871
- U.S. Government tries to relocate tribe to Idaho
- Tribe had signed a treaty giving U.S. control
- Joseph tries to negotiate a fairer treaty but fails
- Tribe wins several battles, but is outnumbered
- Surrender speech (October 5, 1877) becomes a symbol of the Native American plight
- Land was never returned to the Nez Percé

# Who Are We?

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