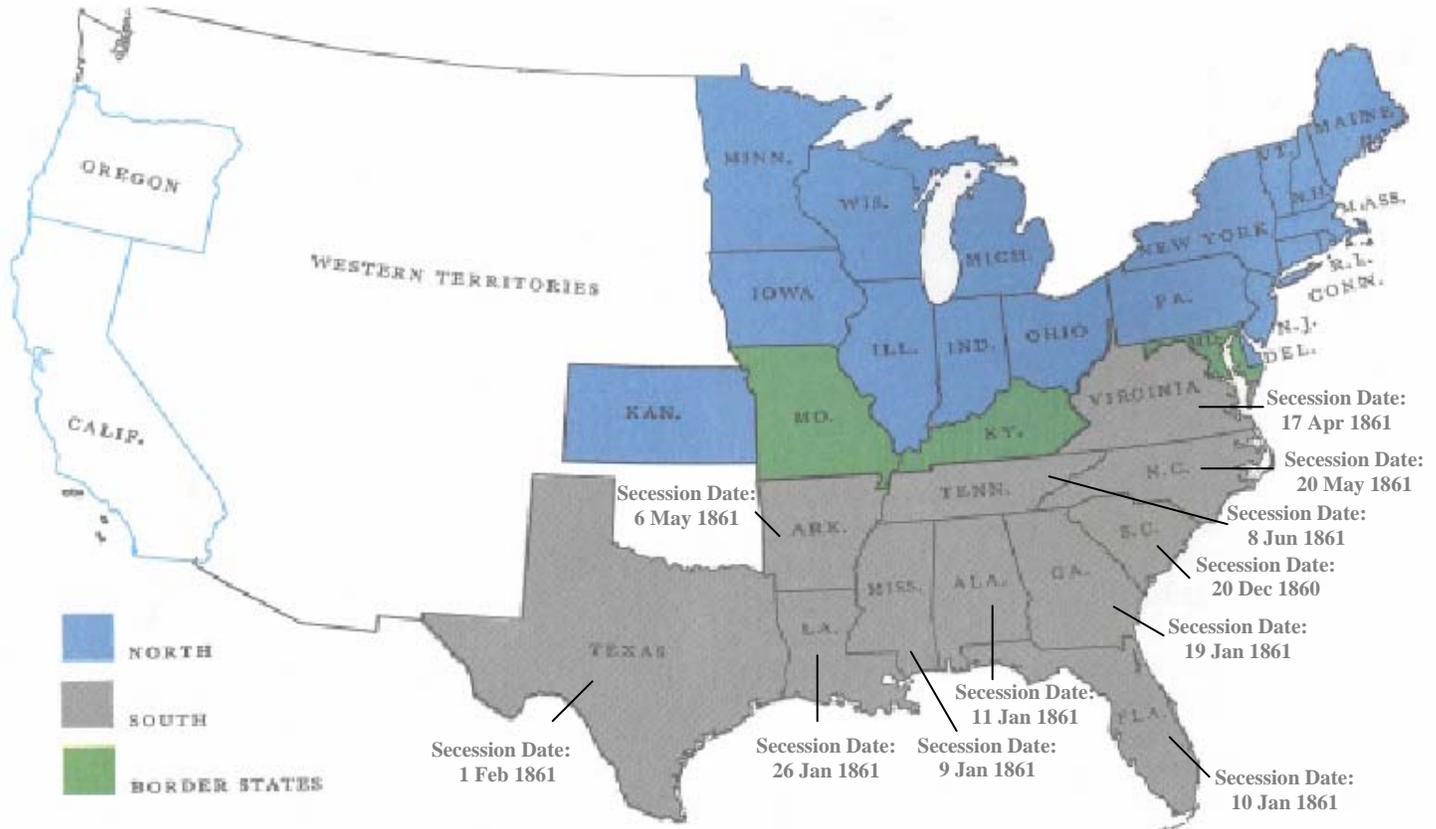


# Vicksburg

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Vicksburg National Military Park



## A House Divided



*The division of the states in May, 1861, after the start of the war. California and Oregon were with the North, but were too far away to be of much help in the fighting. The border states were still undecided. (From Flato, Charles, 1961. The Golden Book of the Civil War, Golden Press, New York.)*

### **"In Your Hands, My Dissatisfied Fellow-Countrymen, and Not In Mine, is the Momentous Issue of Civil War."**

- Abraham Lincoln, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861



Abraham Lincoln



Jefferson Davis

Like the nation itself, the political parties were hopelessly split in the 1860 election. The Democrats ran two tickets, one Northern, one Southern, while the border states ran their own candidate. The Republican candidate was Abraham Lincoln, who won the largest number of electoral votes, although he did not receive a majority of the popular vote.

When the election returns came in, the South Carolina legislature was in session and immediately

prepared to leave the Union. On December 20, 1860, a state convention voted for secession. Other states soon followed, and on February 8, 1861, delegates from South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas met in Montgomery, Alabama where they established a new nation, the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis, a former U.S. Senator and Secretary of War, was elected President.