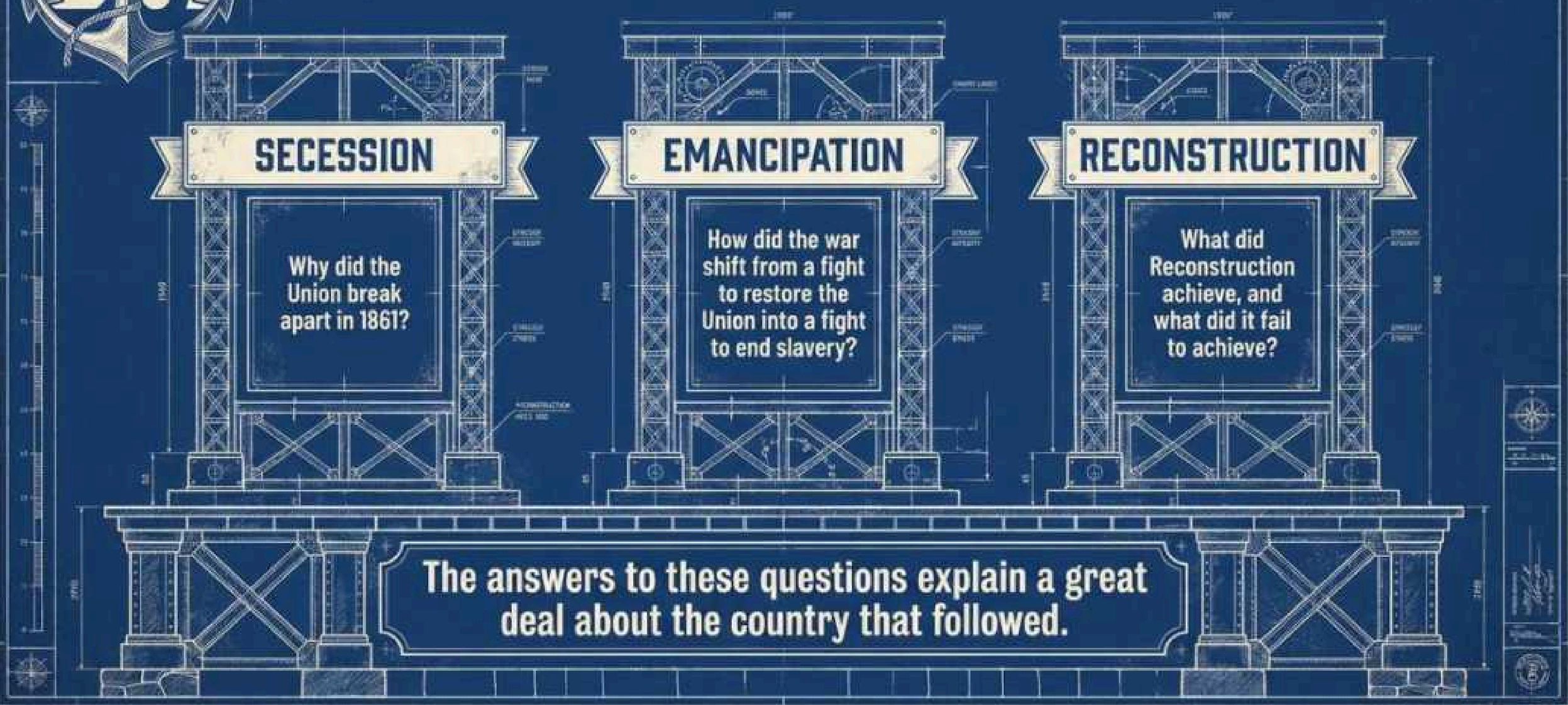
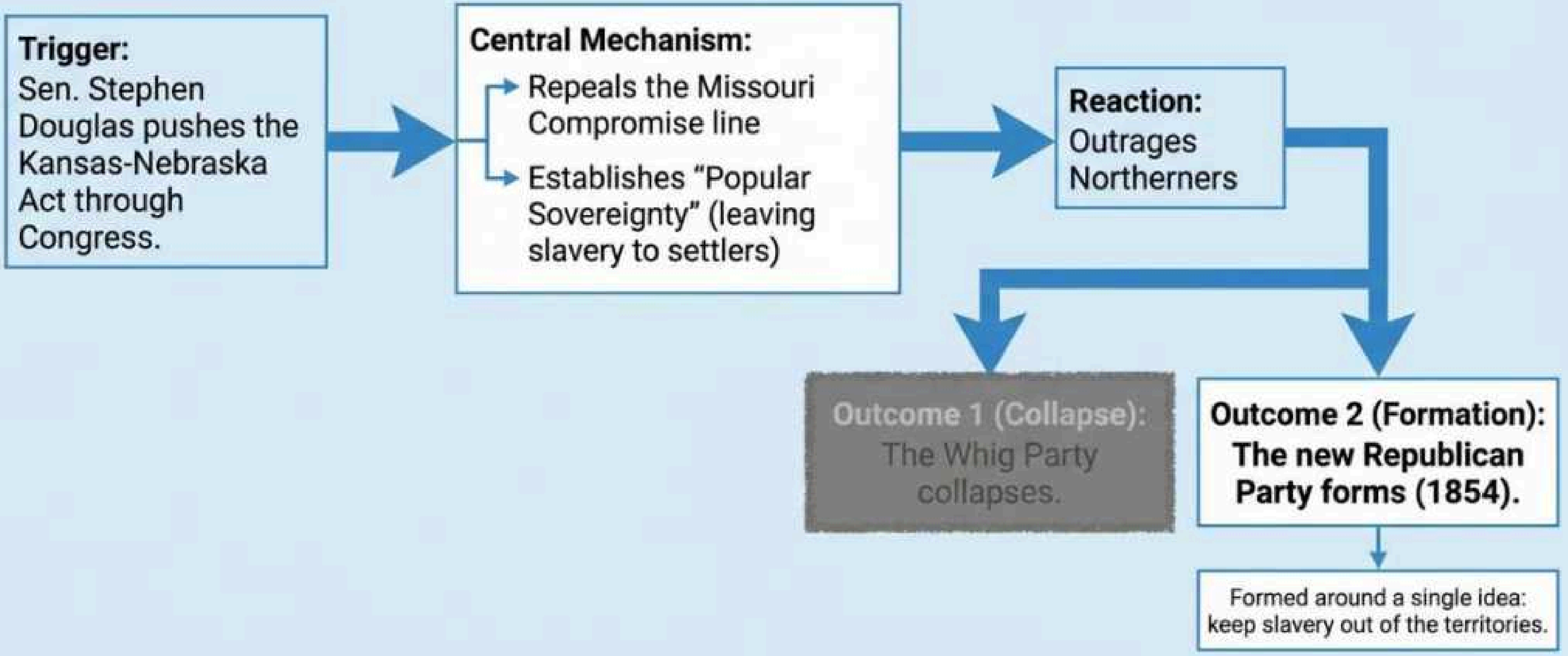
6.1

THREE ORGANIZING QUESTIONS OF THE ERA



The answers to these questions explain a great deal about the country that followed.

6.2
The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854



6.3 | 1857: Dred Scott v. Sandford

Chief Justice Roger Taney's Ruling:
Black people (enslaved or free) cannot be citizens.
Congress has no power to ban slavery in the territories.

Republican Reaction

Feared the ruling threatened to open the entire country to slavery.

Deepened distrust of the courts.

Southern Reaction

Welcomed the ruling.

Deepened distrust of the opposing section.

The decision deepened mutual national distrust rather than settling the issue.

6.4 The 1858 Illinois Senate Race

	 Abraham Lincoln	 Stephen Douglas
Stance on Slavery	A moral wrong that should not spread	Defended "popular sovereignty"
Key Rhetoric & Debates	"A house divided against itself cannot stand"	Advocated leaving the choice to local settlers across 7 debates
Historical Outcome	Lost the seat, but became a national figure	Won the Senate seat

6.5 The 1860 Election Fractures the Nation

Lincoln wins with ~40% of the popular vote and an electoral majority.

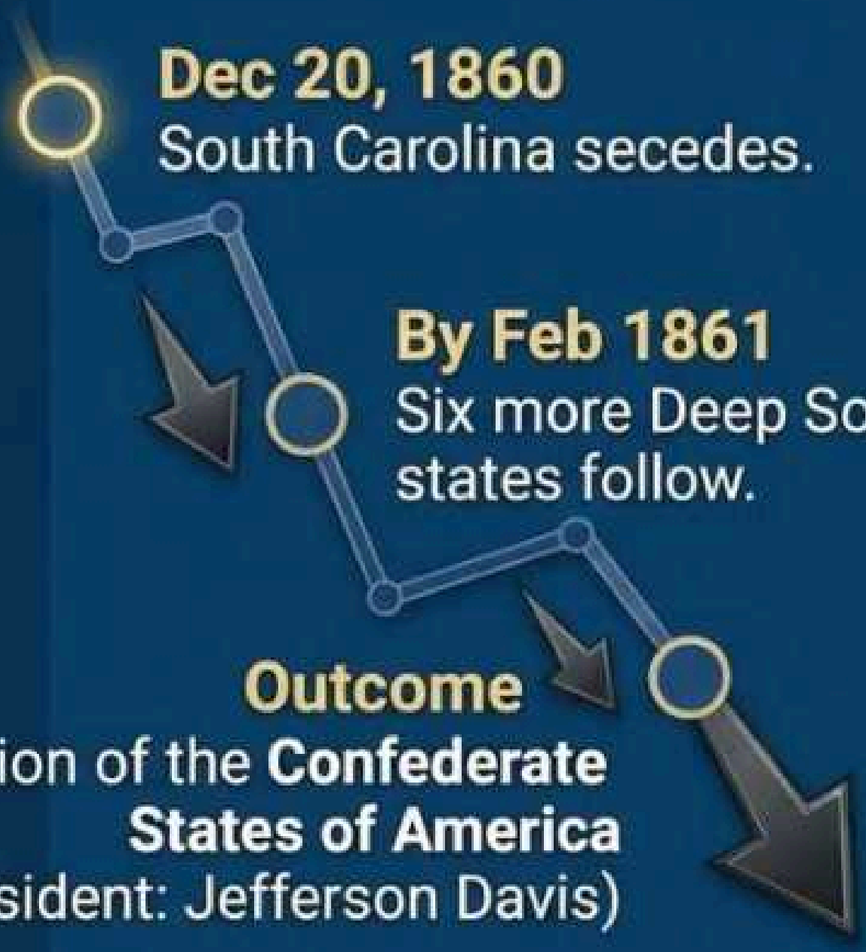
Notable Fact: Lincoln was entirely absent from most Southern state ballots.



Platform: Opposed the expansion of slavery; promised no interference where it already existed.

Catalyst: Many Southern leaders judge this election result as the definitive trigger to leave the Union.

6.6 The Confederacy Forms



Dec 20, 1860
South Carolina secedes.

By Feb 1861
Six more Deep South states follow.

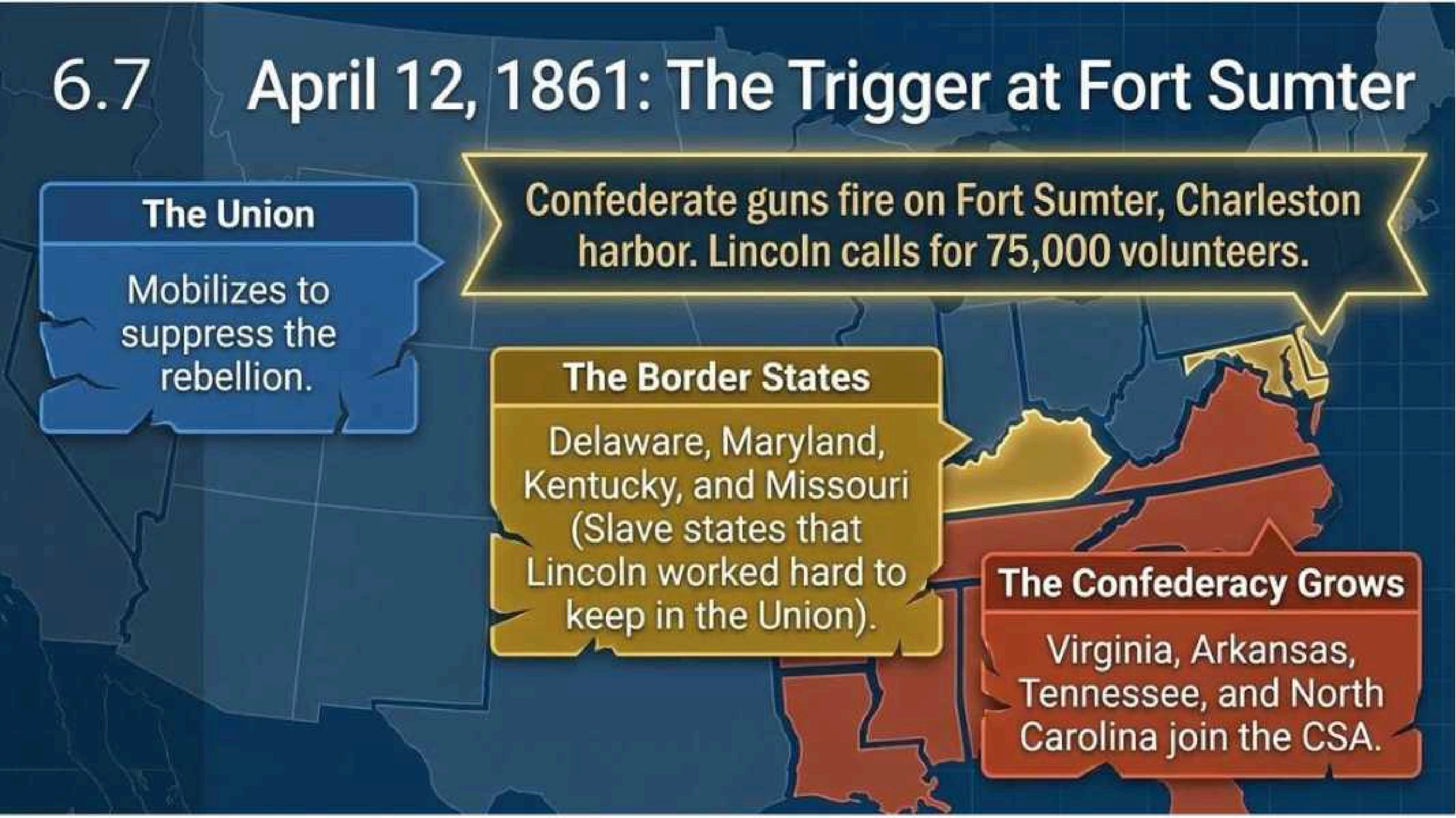
Outcome
Formation of the **Confederate States of America**
(President: Jefferson Davis)

Declarations of secession explicitly name the defense of slavery as the reason.

Confederate VP Alexander Stephens (March 1861) calls **slavery** the **“cornerstone”** of the new government.

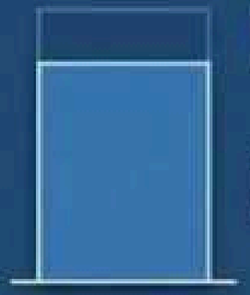
Historians agree: Slavery was the central cause of the war.

6.7 April 12, 1861: The Trigger at Fort Sumter



6.8 Asymmetry of War: Resources & Strategy

The Union



Population: 22 million

Free Population



Assets: Majority of factories and railroads

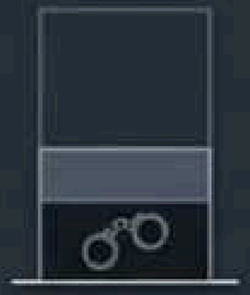


Strategy: Blockade the coast, take the Mississippi River





The Confederacy



Population: 9 million
(including 3.5 million enslaved)

Free Population

Enslaved Population



Assets: Defensive terrain advantage

Strategy: Survive, hope for British/French aid (which never came)





6.9 Early Battles Prove the War Will Be Long

July 1861 (Bull Run):
Union army flees. Reality sets in.

1862 (The East):
Robert E. Lee takes command of the Army of Northern Virginia, winning key victories.

~23,000 casualties.
The **bloodiest single day** in American history.

Sept 1, 17, 1862
(Antietam, MD): Union forces stop Lee's invasion.

6.10 The Shift to Emancipation

Catalyst

Antietam victory gives Lincoln the political capital to act.



The Proclamation

Preliminary issued Sept 22, 1862. Takes effect **Jan 1, 1863**.



Scope & Limits

Freed enslaved people only in areas in rebellion (exempted border states).



Military Shift

Allowed Black men to join the army (~180,000 served, including the 54th Massachusetts).



The Final Resolution

The **13th Amendment** (Ratified Dec 1865) ends slavery everywhere.



6.11 The Turning Point & Total War

1863: The Turning Point



July 1863: Union wins at Gettysburg, PA, and Vicksburg, MS (securing the Mississippi River).



Nov 1863: Lincoln dedicates the Gettysburg cemetery.

A speech of just over two minutes proclaiming a **"new birth of freedom"**.

1864: Total War



Ulysses S. Grant takes command of all Union armies.



William T. Sherman executes his march through Georgia.

6.12 April 1865: Surrender and Assassination

April 9, 1865

Robert E. Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.



April 14-15, 1865

John Wilkes Booth shoots Lincoln at the Ford's Theatre; Lincoln the next morning.



The Aftermath

Andrew Johnson (a Southerner and former Democrat) becomes President.





Core Challenge:
Johnson inherits the monumental task of reconstructing a **nation with 4 million newly freed people.**



6.13 The Clash Over Early Reconstruction

Presidential Approach (Andrew Johnson)

- Favored quick, lenient reconstruction.
- Pardoned most former Confederates.

Result: Southern states enact "Black Codes" limiting the freedom of Black people.

Congressional Pushback (Radical Republicans)

- Created the Freedmen's Bureau (March 1865) to help the freed.

Action: Passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866 over Johnson's presidential veto.

6.14 Reconstruction Moves into the Constitution

15th Amendment (Ratified 1870):
Barred denying the vote because of race.

14th Amendment (Ratified 1868):
Defined citizenship to include everyone born in the country; guaranteed equal protection of the laws.

Reconstruction Acts (1867):
Placed the South under military districts.

Political Fallout

The House impeaches President Johnson in 1868; the Senate falls one vote short of removal.

6.15

The Realities of Reconstruction

Real Change & Achievements

- Black men vote and hold office (~2,000 during these years).
- **Highlight: Hiram Revels** becomes the first Black member of the Senate (1870).
- Southern states create public schools.
- Freed people build churches and colleges.

Unmet Hopes & Limits

- Hopes for land (the “forty acres”) remain mostly unmet.
- **Economic Reality:** Many freed people are forced into sharecropping.

6.16 White Resistance and Northern Retreat

Violent Resistance: KKK forms in TN (1865) using terror against Black voters/Republicans.

Federal Pushback: Congress passes Enforcement Acts (1870-71) to suppress the first Klan.

Escalation: White paramilitaries kill scores of Black men at Colfax, Louisiana (1873).

Retreat: The Panic of 1873 and Northern weariness weaken federal support. The Supreme Court narrows the new amendments.

6.17 1876-1877: The Era Ends

The Disputed Election (1876)

Samuel Tilden wins popular vote, but returns in SC, FL, and LA are contested.

The Commission

An electoral commission votes 8-7 to give Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency by a single electoral vote.

The Resolution (1877)

Hayes withdraws the last federal troops from the South.

Historical Caveat: Historians continue to debate how much of a formal bargain lay behind this troop withdrawal.

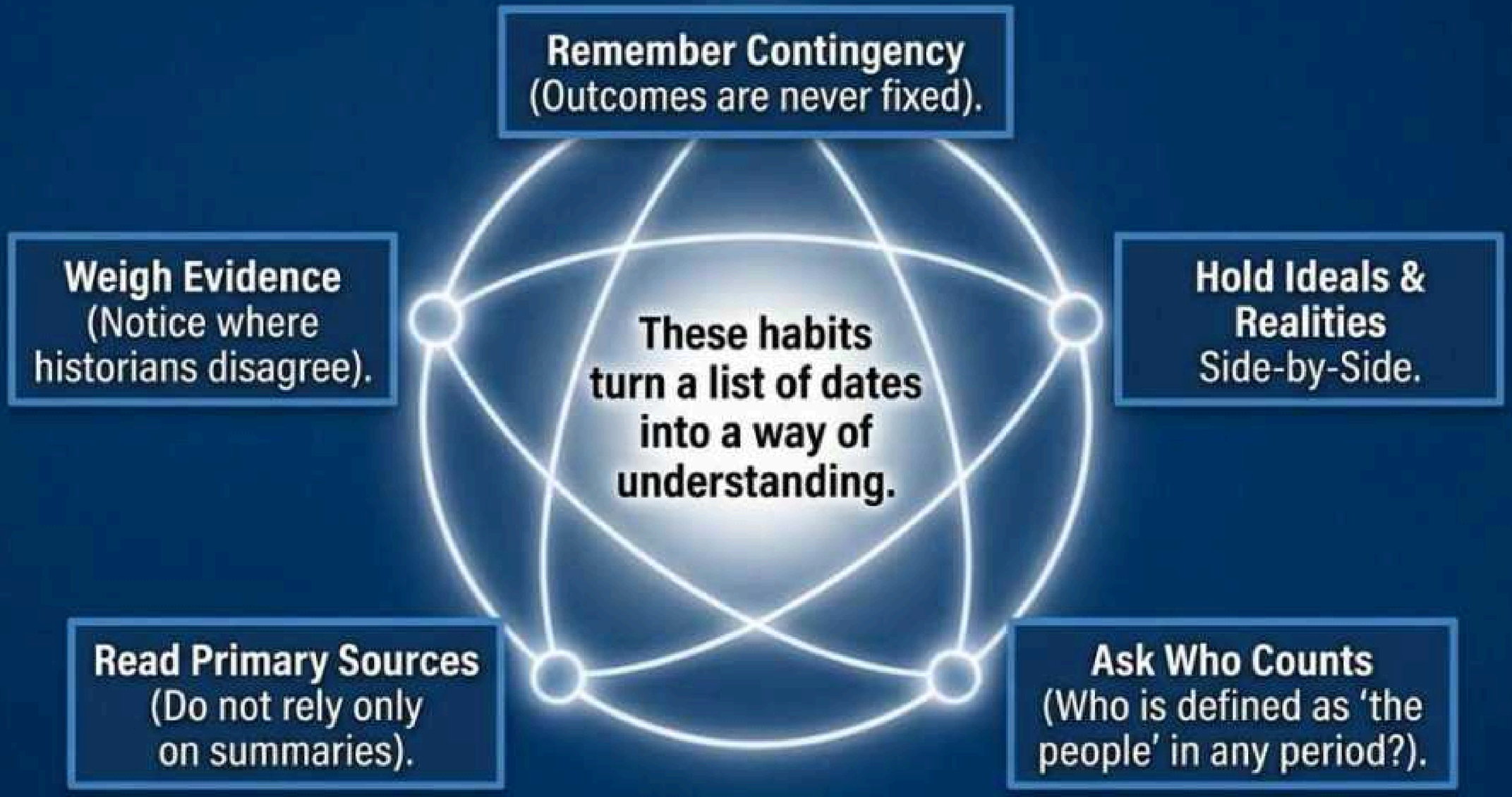
6.18 The Legacy of Reconstruction

Historian Eric Foner defines Reconstruction as an "Unfinished Revolution."

Long-Term Bedrock: The Reconstruction Amendments lay dormant but become the foundational basis for civil rights law in the 20th century.

Immediate Reality: White Democrats regain control across the South; Black rights are left unprotected.

6.19 Bringing It Together: 5 Habits of Mind



6.20 Where to Go Next: Essential Reading

Colonial & Early National

Alan Taylor's "American Colonies" &

Gordon Wood's "Empire of Liberty".

The Civil War

James McPherson's "Battle Cry of Freedom" (The standard one-volume history).

The Aftermath

Eric Foner's "Reconstruction" (The classic account).

6.21 Closing Exercise

Choose one of the three amendments passed after the Civil War. Write a single paragraph on what it promised and how long it took to be enforced.

That gap between promise and practice is a theme of the whole course.

Thank you for studying History 201 B with Anderson Academy.

Contact: garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com