



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Historical Crisis: Reconstruction

Chairs: Calvin Johnson '25

Rapporteur: Lira Schwab '26

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to CAMUN! I'm anxious to explore the topic of reconstruction in the U.S. with you all. My name is Calvin Johnson. I've been involved with Model UN here at CA for two years, and this is also my second year staffing CAMUN. If you all were in the Bee Movie Crisis last year, I was the crisis manager. I'm also involved in Ethics Bowl. Some of my hobbies include reading, writing, running and the outdoors, movies, and gaming. Of course, I find history really cool, and that's why this committee is so exciting; all of the questions covered in this committee are still relevant today and will give you insight into how the U.S. government works. There are some colorful characters in this committee too, and I hope you all embrace the heart of the debate here!

Writing a position paper is not required, but if you'd like to be considered for awards, please email your position paper to the chair by **March 29th**.

I hope to get a chance to get to know each and every one of you, and I look forward to the debate! For many of you, this may be your first crisis, and that is completely okay. I will do my best to clear up any confusion about this crisis and about crisis committees in general. If you have any questions, of course, feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

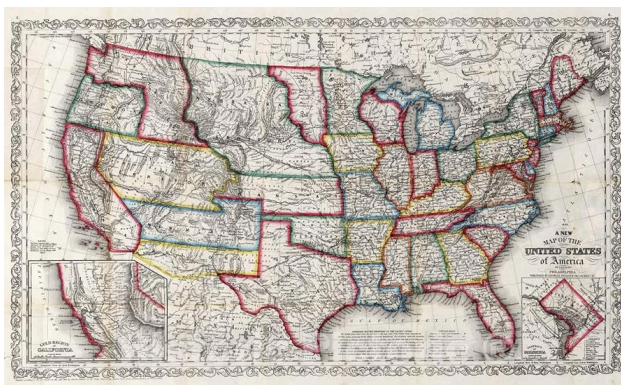
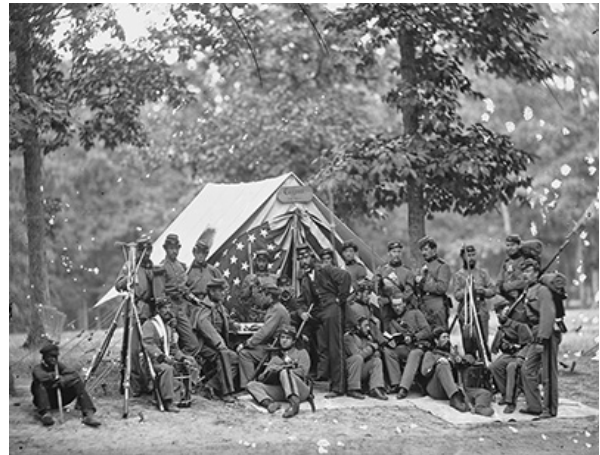
Calvin Johnson '25, Calvin.Johnson@ConcordAcademy.org



Introduction

This committee takes place right after the 13th amendment was *passed*. This means that the committee takes place before Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, and before the official end of the Civil War.¹

Delegates, this means that you will have to answer questions that emerge from the end of such a dividing war. In the current world, political views are becoming increasingly polarized². Before the war, this issue was so large that the political divide caused a civil war. Now, the south is looking like it's going to be joining the Union again (although this may not necessarily happen, in a crisis anything can happen), but this ideological divide has not been solved. It is your job to appease the now free black people, the Republicans, the South and confederates, and slave owners, while not making grounds for another civil war in the future. We will also be looking for you all to represent your character; we're not looking for the correct view today, we're looking for the view of your character during the time period. On top of this, the civil war must be addressed in this crisis; it seems as though it is coming to an end, and the Confederacy seems to be losing, but this isn't guaranteed. Generally, people from the South are pro-slavery and anti-union, while the North is anti-slavery. However not everyone from the south believes in slavery, and vice versa.



This committee takes place more than one hundred and fifty years ago, however, the issue of a civil war and political divide still takes up a large portion of political arguments and discussions in the present. As mentioned previously, political views are only becoming more polarized, meaning that while the civil war takes this issue to the extreme, discussions addressing this polarization are still important and relevant today. I hope that this committee

makes you think about these problems and formulate a more complex perception of the situation.

¹ <https://www.archives.gov/research/still-pictures/civil-war>

² [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#)

This committee will take the form of a traditional crisis. Debate and directives will be passed and periodically crisis updates will be presented. Regarding crisis notes, anything far in the future, like nuclear weapons or biowarfare will not be approved. Additionally, any assassinations of delegates will not be permitted, however, anything injuring or reducing the powers of delegates is permitted. With this said, anything in these general guidelines will be examined by the quality and setup of these crisis notes, and will be approved if my team thinks your note does well in this regard. I look forward to seeing your creativity in this area.

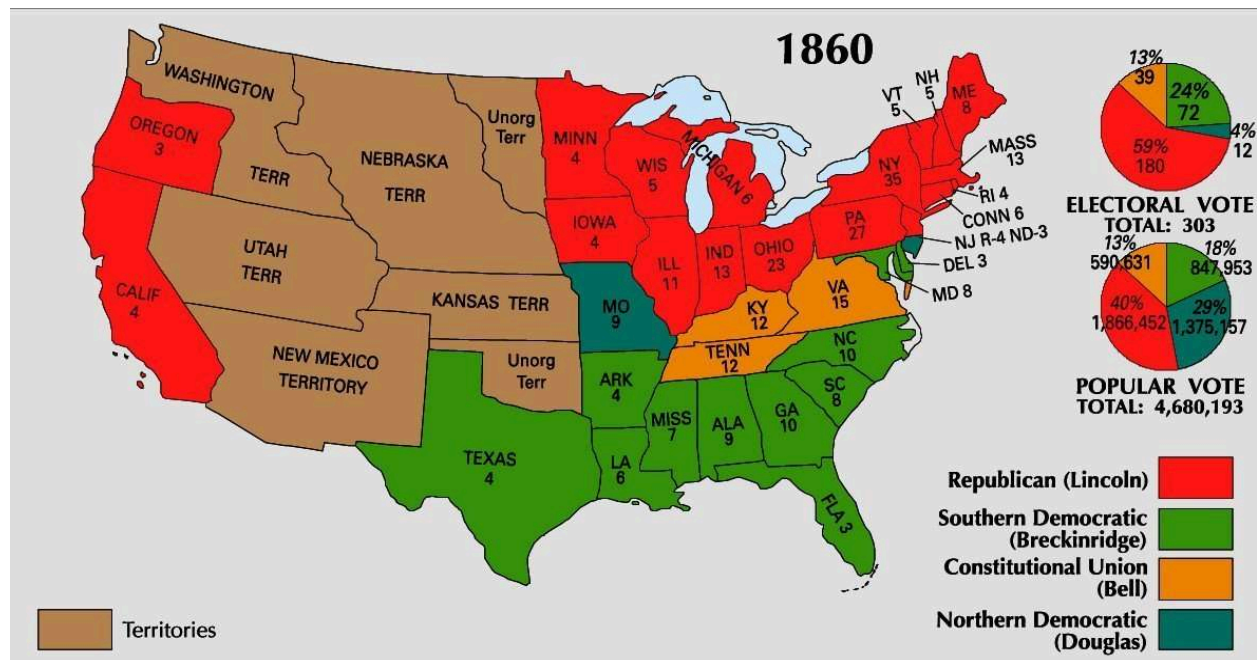
If you would like us to consider you for an award, you must submit your position paper by 11 pm, March 28th.

On the sensitive nature of this topic

I realize that this committee will likely deal with hard topics and maybe a vulnerable spot for some delegates. If for any reason you would like to step out or process the emotions that are being brought up by this committee, I completely understand; just ask and you can step out or we can work something out.

This time period took place before the 'Party Switch' in U.S history, which generally marked a point in time where Republicans switched from being in favor of workers' rights and a larger government to the opposite; the democratic party switched from being in favor of a smaller government and less taxes to the opposite as well. While not a hard and fast rule, the democratic party before the Civil War was mostly located in the South

Map from the 1860 Election:



Positions

1. **Joseph E. Brown**– Brown is the current governor of Georgia. He is a firm believer in state's rights and slavery. He was a firm supporter of secession in the years leading up to the war, however he has been critical of Confederate powers expanding and has protested conscription and other facets of the Confederacy.
2. **Howell Cobb**– Cobb is a political figure who aligns himself with the Confederacy. He currently controls the Georgia Reserve Corps. He has been in many political roles, such as being the Governor of Georgia and being a representative from Georgia. He played a large role in the founding of the Confederacy.
3. **Jefferson Davis**– Jefferson Davis is the President of the Confederacy. Among other previous political endeavors, he was a senator for Mississippi before Mississippi's secession. He was also the secretary of war shortly before the Civil War.
4. **Frederick Douglass**– Frederick Douglass is an anti-slavery advocate and has published multiple works including *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. He

was born into slavery and escaped from bondage in 1838. Since then he has been staunchly abolitionist, quickly becoming one of the most famous freed slaves.

5. **Stephen Duncan**— Stephen Duncan is a slaveholder who owns more than 1,000 slaves. However, he is currently a Unionist and does not support the Confederacy. He currently resides in New York City after being forced out of Mississippi by the Confederates. Due to the wealth gained from his enslaved people, he is incredibly rich.
6. **Nathan B. Forrest**— Nathan B. Forrest is a current Confederate Army general. He has been in many battles in the American Civil War and is very experienced in the field of battle. In the Battle of Fort Pillow, he massacred many Union troops, black soldiers and whites alike.
7. **Abraham Galloway**— Abraham Galloway was born a slave in 1837. He escaped from slavery in 1857 and moved north to Ontario. He was one of five black people who came to Abraham Lincoln, asking him for black suffrage. In fact, he was quite the leader, organizing chapters of the National Equal Rights League.
8. **William Lloyd Garrison**— William Lloyd Garrison is an abolitionist. He founded The Liberator newspaper, which advocated for abolitionism. It generally appeals to the moral values of readers rather than political values. Garrison believes that the very foundation of the United States is invalid; that because of its imperialism, it is by definition an immoral system.
9. **Ulysses S. Grant**— Ulysses S. Grant was born in Ohio and attended the United States Military Academy. is the current commanding general of the Union Army. He has commanded the army well and come out with many victories. He is a republican and does not own any slaves.
10. **Andrew Johnson**— Andrew Johnson is the current vice president to Abraham Lincoln. Despite Lincoln being a Republican, Andrew Johnson is a Democrat (The only seceded state politician to remain in Senate). In previous years he was an anti-abolitionist and was an advocate for the poor.
11. **Joseph Johnston**— Johnston was born in Virginia and attended the United States Military Academy. He was the highest-ranking official to resign from the Union Army and served in the Confederate Army instead. He defended the capital of the Confederacy in the Peninsula campaign and is not in charge of the Army of Tennessee.

12. **Robert E. Lee**— Lee is currently the commander of the North Virginia Army, however, there are talks that he might be promoted to general in Chief soon. He led the Confederacy in the Battle of Gettysburg, where he suffered a defeat. Lee is not a pro-abolitionist and believes that black people are inferior, however, he does have sympathetic feelings towards them, and believes that slavery should end in the future; just not now.
13. **John Letcher**— Letcher was the governor of Virginia and a Democrat. He led the push for Virginia to secede from the Union leading up to the Civil War, and was actively involved in politics beforehand, serving as a representative from Virginia a few years before the Civil War.
14. **Abraham Lincoln**— Abraham Lincoln is the current president of the United States. He won the 1860 presidential election and also won the 1864 presidential election. Southern states largely succeeded from the Union because of their fears of Lincoln's actions on slavery. In 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which allowed any slaves in annexed states to be freed. This did not include union slave states, such as Kentucky, meaning that slaves in this state would not be freed under the proclamation.
15. **Robert Smalls**— Smalls is a slave who recently escaped from bondage in a daring escape from the CSS Platner, a military transport ship. Since then he has been a part of the Union Navy. His escape and example helped convince Abraham Lincoln to allow black people into the Union army.
16. **Alexander Stephens**— Stephens is the vice president of the Confederacy. Before the war, he was deeply invested in politics, serving as a senator and representative from Georgia. He was firmly anti-abolitionist, however, he was not for secession from the Union before the war. He has now become the vice president of the Confederacy.
17. **Thaddeus Stevens**— Thaddeus Stephens is a radical Republican. He was a lawyer before he became invested in politics, being a representative from Pennsylvania. He is known for his harsh language, often calling opponents 'slimes' or 'rascals'. He is pro-abolition and was integral to the defense and proposition of the 13th Amendment.
18. **Charles Sumner**— Sumner is a liberal republican, pro-abolitionist, and deeply invested in politics, being a senator from Massachusetts. He attended Harvard University and was pro-racial integration. He was beaten by Preston Brooks, another state representative, which embodied the current polarization of politics during the time.

19. **Robert Toombs**— Robert Toombs is the current Colonel of the 3rd Cavalry of the Georgia Militia. He is a Confederate and has some experience on the Confederate side of the war. He was, for a short time, the Secretary of State of the Confederacy before resigning.

20. **Harriet Tubman**— Tubman was born into slavery and escaped from bondage in 1859. Since then, Tubman has been a figure representing abolition and has been a leader in the abolitionist movement. She played a key role in the Raid on Combahee Ferry, which liberated more than 750 slaves.³



Questions to Consider

1. How should the United States approach the aftermath of a civil war? Should it punish the defeated severely, or should it try and find a compromise, or somewhere in between?
2. What will happen to the soldiers of the losing side?
3. Which side will win? What losses will the United States be faced with?

Resources for Further Research

1. [Reconstruction and 1876: Crash Course US History #22](#)
2. <https://ap.gilderlehrman.org/period/5>
3. [History & Culture - Reconstruction Era National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
4. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Reconstruction-United-States-history>
5. [Reconstruction and Its Aftermath - The African American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship | Exhibitions \(Library of Congress\)](#)
6. [The American Civil War - OverSimplified \(Part 1\)](#)
7. [The American Civil War - OverSimplified \(Part 2\)](#)

³ <https://source.colostate.edu/what-really-started-the-american-civil-war/>



CONFERENCE POLICIES

Gratefully adapted from the NAIMUN LX delegate guide

1. Position Papers

Position Papers are required for all delegations who wish to receive an award. Position papers should be emailed to the chair by March 29, 11:59 p.m. ET. Please email the chair with any additional questions regarding position papers.

2. Plagiarism and Pre-writing

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited at CAMUN. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, verbatim or near-verbatim copying from digital or physical sources. This rule applies to any document submitted by delegates throughout the conference, including position papers, draft resolutions, directives, and other documents. Additionally, CAMUN prohibits the use of artificially intelligent generators like ChatGPT in the creation of written documents. All work will be thoroughly checked for plagiarism.

3. Technology

CAMUN prohibits the use of technology in committee sessions, including but not limited to computer and cell phones, except during unmoderated caucuses as directed by the Chair.

4. Accommodations

For questions and requests related to disability and special accommodations, please email the CAMUN secretariat at ModelUN@ConcordAcademy.org. CAMUN will do its best to fulfill all appropriate requests.