

# AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

Major Engagements & Strategic Turning Points (1861-1865)

## 1861: The Outbreak

| DATE        | ENGAGEMENT     | STATE | STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE                                               |
|-------------|----------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 12-13 | Fort Sumter    | SC    | Opening engagement; Confederate victory leads to further secessions. |
| July 21     | First Bull Run | VA    | First major land battle; ended illusions of a short, bloodless war.  |

## 1862: The Bloody Year

| DATE      | ENGAGEMENT     | STATE | STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE                                            |
|-----------|----------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 6-7 | Shiloh         | TN    | High casualties; Union gains momentum in the Western Theater.     |
| Sept 17   | Antietam       | MD    | Bloodiest single day; prompted the Emancipation Proclamation.     |
| Dec 13    | Fredericksburg | VA    | Major Confederate victory; significant Union setback in the East. |

## 1863: The Turning Point

| DATE     | ENGAGEMENT         | STATE | STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE                                                   |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 1-3 | Gettysburg         | PA    | Halted Lee's invasion of the North; highest casualties of the war.       |
| July 4   | Siege of Vicksburg | MS    | Union gains control of the Mississippi River, splitting the Confederacy. |

### 1864-1865: Total War & Conclusion

| DATE         | ENGAGEMENT        | STATE | STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE                                              |
|--------------|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May-June '64 | Overland Campaign | VA    | Grant's war of attrition against Lee; leads to Siege of Petersburg. |
| Sept 2 '64   | Fall of Atlanta   | GA    | Critical rail hub captured; ensured Lincoln's re-election.          |
| April 9 '65  | Appomattox C.H.   | VA    | Lee surrenders to Grant, effectively ending the conflict.           |