



THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR (1861–1865)

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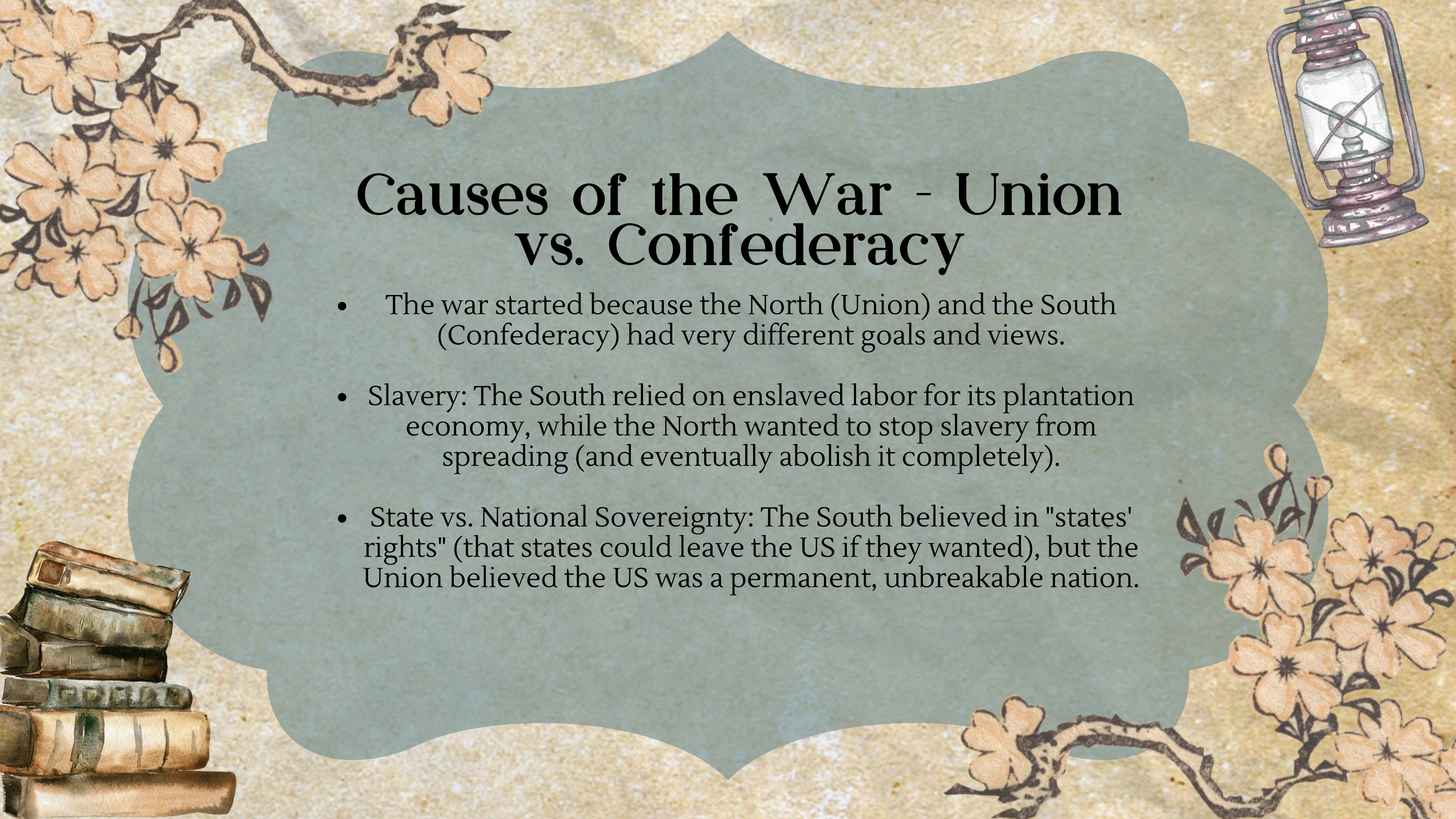
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Causes of the War - Union vs. Confederacy

- The war started because the North (Union) and the South (Confederacy) had very different goals and views.
- Slavery: The South relied on enslaved labor for its plantation economy, while the North wanted to stop slavery from spreading (and eventually abolish it completely).
- State vs. National Sovereignty: The South believed in "states' rights" (that states could leave the US if they wanted), but the Union believed the US was a permanent, unbreakable nation.

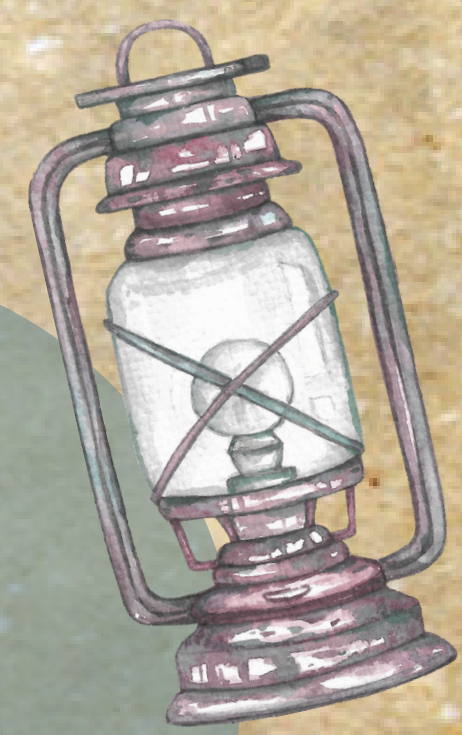


Life Before the War & The Economy



- The North: Had a fast-growing, industrial economy with factories and textile mills. They exported wheat and corn to countries like Great Britain.
- The South: Had an agricultural economy that grew raw cotton.
- Economic Connection: Northern textile mills bought raw cotton from Southern plantations to make cloth, while the South bought manufactured goods from the North.





Key Pre-War Events & Escalation

- Stephen F. Austin & Texas: In the 1820s, Stephen Austin brought 300 American families ("Old Three Hundred") to settle in Mexican Texas, starting major American movement into the region.
- The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850: A cruel federal law forced Northern citizens to help capture escaped enslaved people.
- Escape to Canada: Because the North was no longer safe from slave catchers, thousands of freedom seekers had to use the Underground Railroad to escape all the way to Canada.





Key Battles of the Civil War

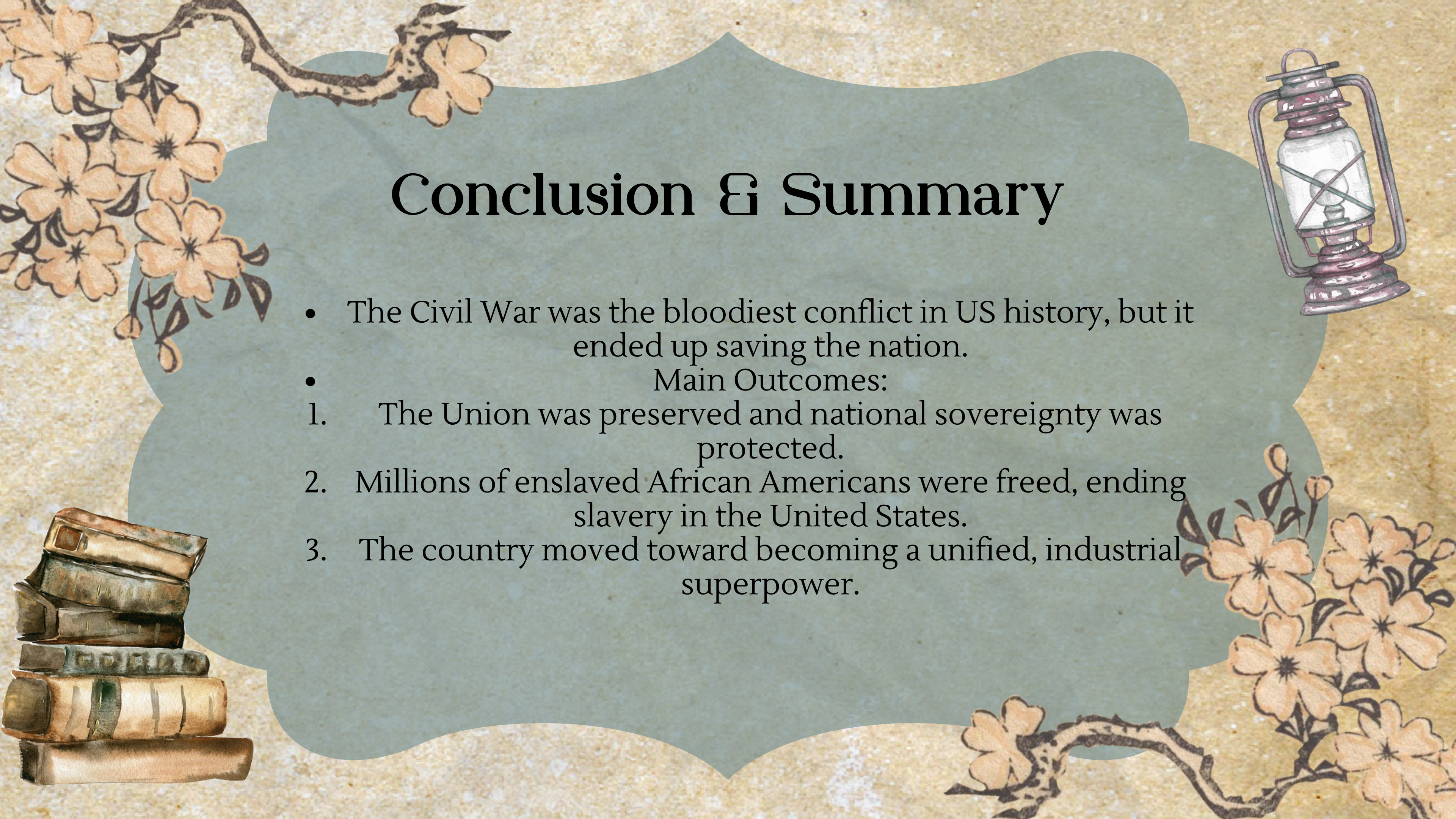
- First Battle of Bull Run (1861): The first big land battle that proved the war was going to be long and brutal, not an easy win for the Union.
- Battles at Fort Henry & Donelson (1862): Union victories in Tennessee where General Ulysses S. Grant earned a huge reputation for his leadership.
- Battle of Antietam (1862): The single deadliest single-day battle in American military history.
- Peninsula Campaign (1862): General George McClellan moved too slowly and failed to capture Richmond, causing President Lincoln to lose confidence in him.



International Impact & "King Wheat"

- The Confederacy hoped Great Britain would join their side because Britain needed Southern cotton ("King Cotton").
- However, Europe had terrible crop failures during the early 1860s and desperately needed food.
- The North exported massive amounts of surplus wheat and corn to Britain ("King Corn"), which helped keep Britain neutral during the war.





Conclusion & Summary

- The Civil War was the bloodiest conflict in US history, but it ended up saving the nation.
- Main Outcomes:
 1. The Union was preserved and national sovereignty was protected.
 2. Millions of enslaved African Americans were freed, ending slavery in the United States.
 3. The country moved toward becoming a unified, industrial superpower.



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