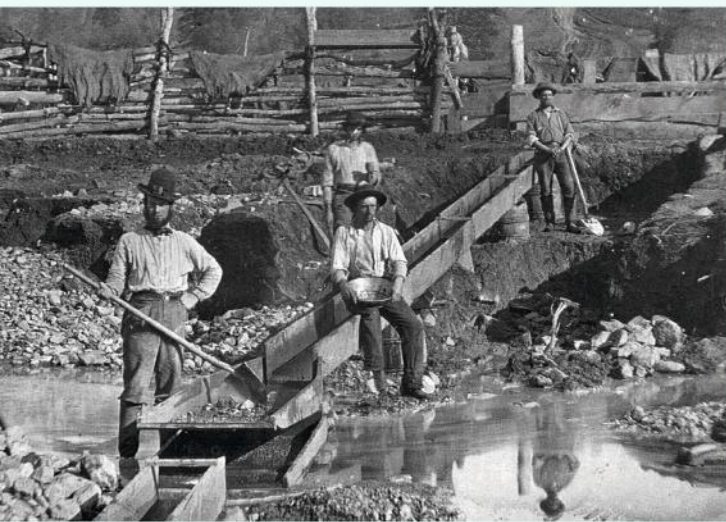


AMERICA: AN EXPANDING NATION

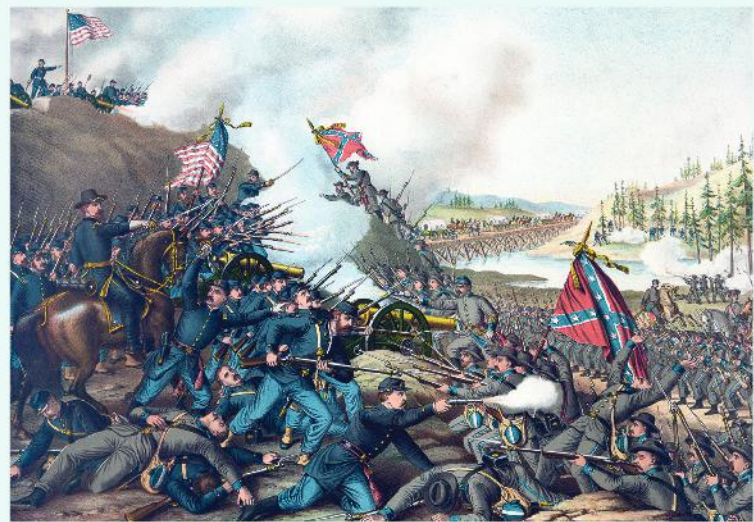
The frontier

In the early 19th century, the young American Republic that emerged after the American Revolution looked to expand its territory. Millions of immigrants arrived in America and moved towards the **new territories of the west**, staking their claims to land and resources. The nation gradually acquired new territories from former colonisers such as France and Spain. A war with Mexico brought **Texas, California and New Mexico** into the United States, which now stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The **discovery of gold** in California in 1848 attracted growing numbers of pioneers and the country began to prosper.



The Civil War 1861-1865

Slavery became a dominant issue and created growing tension between the abolitionist Northern States and the Southern States. When **Abraham Lincoln**, candidate of the **anti-slavery Republican Party** was elected president in 1860, delegates of the Southern States (South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas) 'seceded', leaving the Union they created an independent government of the '**Confederate States of America**' with **Jefferson Davis** as President. Lincoln's government declared the Confederacy illegitimate, and a Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina in April 1861 marked the start of a bloody **Civil War**, which continued until 1865.

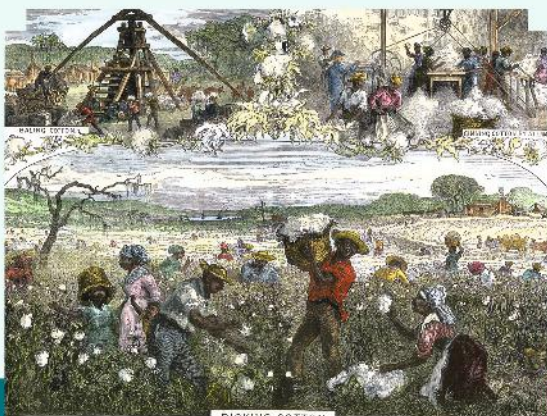


1861

1863

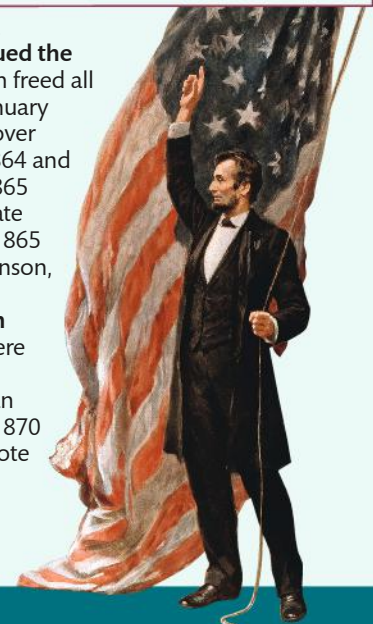
North and South

The economy of the **northern states** modernised rapidly, with small farms based on free labour and growing industry. The **South**, on the other hand, was based on large plantations, producing sugar, cotton, tobacco and rice and relying on slave labour. As slavery began to expand westwards, many Northerners came to believe that slavery should be abolished. A network, known as the '**underground railroad**' emerged, helping slaves to find their freedom by escaping to the northern states or to Canada.



The Emancipation Proclamation 1863

After the terrible battle of Antietam, on 22 September 1862, **Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation**, which freed all slaves in 'enemy territory' as of 1 January 1863. **General Ulysses Grant** took over command of the Union forces in 1864 and the war finally came to an end in 1865 with the surrender of the Confederate forces. Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 and the new president, Andrew Johnson, had to attempt to reconcile former enemies. Under the **Reconstruction Acts** of 1867 the Southern States were readmitted to the Union. The **14th Amendment** of 1868 gave American citizenship to former slaves and in 1870 black men were given the right to vote under the **15th Amendment**.



POST-WAR AMERICA

After the war

1866

Newly freed slaves found themselves in a hostile environment and many emigrated to the North. Many Southerners joined organisations like the **Ku Klux Klan** (founded in 1866) to resist equality for the blacks and to restore white control over the southern states' governments. While slaves were being freed in the South, the Native Americans were being dispossessed of their ancestral lands in the West.

Moving West

After the Civil War ended in 1865, thousands of settlers moved West to **the Great plains** of grassland lying between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. Many who had rushed to California for gold and had been unsuccessful, settled down and became farmers. Thousands of freed slaves fled the South to begin a new life in the Great Plains. However, it was not a desert area. It was inhabited by the **native Americans** who had lived there long before the arrival of the Europeans. The American West was settled in the years between 1840 and 1895.



1866

The 'Gilded Age'

Although tensions still remained, the United States enjoyed a period of peace and entered a **Gilded Age** (after Mark Twain's novel), which saw industry flourish and immigration continue. Steel and iron production flourished and the development of gold and silver mining led to the need for an improved transport system. The American **railroad system** developed and great fortunes were won by men like **John D. Rockefeller** and **Andrew Carnegie**, who exploited the oil and steel industries respectively. The Gilded Age also took its name from the great fortunes created and the lifestyle that this wealth supported.



CHECKPOINT

1 Answer the following questions.

- 1 What political and social reforms were enacted during Victoria's reign?
- 2 What important industrial and technological advances changed Britain in the 19th century?
- 3 What wars were fought in the Victorian Age to defend the interests of the British Empire?
- 4 What status was granted to Canada under Victoria's reign?
- 5 What tragic event struck Ireland in the middle of the century and what effects did it have?
- 6 What was the cause of conflict between the Northern and Southern states of the USA?
- 7 What measures led to the emancipation of the black population of the USA?
- 8 What industries developed in the 'Gilded Age' in America?