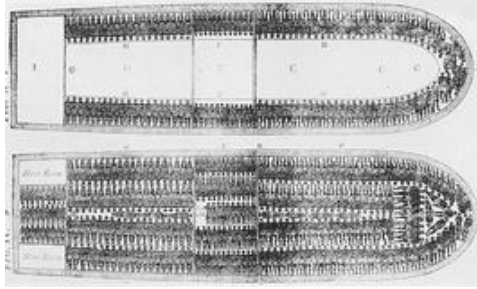


# CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR



*Despite some claims to the contrary, there is much evidence that controversy about slavery caused the secession and the subsequent Civil War.*

- (1) Comments by Robert Toombs, Sec. of State of the CSA, in 1849 while a US Senator from Georgia, in the Senate, when debating slavery in the western territories
- (2) Nashville Convention, 1850
- (3) Statements made by leading Confederates before the secession
  - a. Jefferson Davis' six resolutions in the Senate in 1860, and his final speech to the US Senate in January 1861
  - b. Alexander Stephens' *Cornerstone Speech*
- (4) Crittenden Compromise (rejected by Lincoln)
- (5) Statements Confederate commissioners made to southern states that had not yet seceded
- (6) Declarations of secession by seceded states

**Generally speaking, southern counties with few slaves voted to stay in the Union;  
counties with many slaves voted to secede.**

*If the dispute was about slavery, why didn't they just pass laws against it, like other nations did?* Britain did eliminate slavery this way, but there were few slaves in England itself when Parliament abolished slavery in England in 1808; Parliament then in the 1830s abolished slavery in its Caribbean colonies—colonies that had no representation in Parliament. When the US elected a President on a platform of merely preventing slavery in the territories, the South seceded. There would have never have been a way for the government to abolish slavery by passing a law—at least, not until the South seceded.

*Wasn't the South about to end slavery, without a war? Wasn't slavery becoming obsolete?* Slavery for agricultural work was not obsolete, and is even done to this day in certain locations around the world. Certainly, slavery continued in other locations in the Americas for decades after the Civil War, on sugar plantations. Nor is it easy to see the South as peacefully freeing slaves, when you look at the Black Codes created in the South after abolition was forced upon them.

*Did the South secede over "States Rights"?*

The question must be asked: why was the Union imperiled to begin with? What rights did southern states insist on, and want to defend against the federal government? Those having to do with slavery.