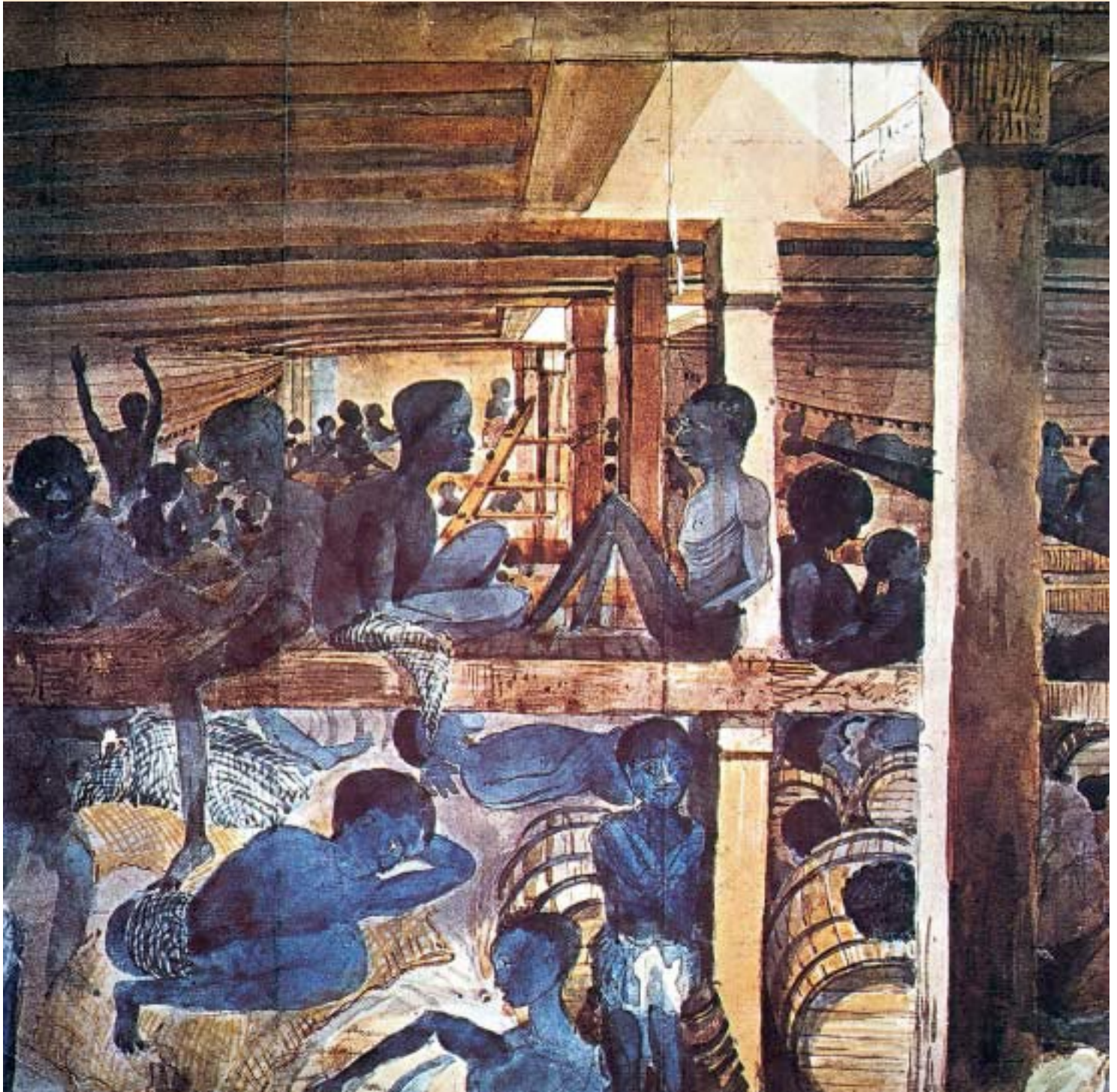


5 Slavery and the American Civil War

DOMINATION
INFLUENCE
OPPOSITION
RÉVOLTE



CLOSE-UP 5

DOMINATION
INFLUENCE
OPPOSITION
RÉVOLTE

1. Slavery

1. Compare pictures 1 and 2 and imagine the life of each group. (Useful words: shack / cabin - mansion ['mænsjən] demeure - hooped dress robe à cerceaux - hen poule - peacock paon.)
2. Read the text twice, then cover it and sum up the reasons for the presence of so many slaves in the South.



1

500,000 Africans were brought over as slaves to North America between 1619 and 1808, when importing slaves became illegal. However, the practice of owning¹ slaves continued in the agrarian South and Southerners became solidly united behind the “peculiar² institution” of slavery as new economic

5 factors made it highly profitable. Among these was the rise of a great cotton-growing industry, since English factories needed more and more cotton for their textile production, and planting and picking were done by hand. Sugarcane and tobacco, two labour-intensive crops³, also

10 contributed to the extension of slavery.

Southerners also supported slavery because they believed that blacks were inferior people who lived in a state of barbarism in their native Africa and could only integrate into a civilised society if disciplined through

15 slavery.

In 1860, on the eve⁴ of the Civil War, the labour force in the South included four million enslaved blacks.

1. posséder - 2. particulier - 3. culture - 4. veille

2



2. The roots of the conflict

1. Look at the map on p. 19 and name the states that are in abbreviated form.
2. What information does this map give you? Give the map a general title.
3. Read the text and complete your answers to question 2.

In 1808 the USA was divided into slave states and free states. As southern planters needed more land for their growing cotton industry, politicians debated the question of whether slavery would be

5 legal in the new Western territories. The Missouri Compromise (1820) permitted slavery in the new state of Missouri and the Arkansas Territory but it was barred everywhere west and north of Missouri, which infuriated southern landowners.

10 Moreover, Southerners resented the high tariff barriers that protected northern industries and raised prices in the South. They demanded free

trade* to sell their cotton to England in exchange for English manufactured goods, which were

15 cheaper than those they were forced to buy from the North.

So, when Abraham Lincoln, a resolute abolitionist, was elected president in 1860, eleven states seceded from the Union and proclaimed themselves an independent nation, the Confederate States of America. They chose Jefferson Davis as their president and Richmond, Va., as their capital.

* libre échange



3. The Blue and the Gray

1. Describe the painting briefly. What was the painter's goal?
2. Read the text and the milestones, then cover them and make a short summary of the Civil War.
3. Use the Internet to find the first lines of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address.



With a population of 22 million (vs nine million in the Confederacy*), the North (Yankees) had a greater military potential. The Union also possessed material advantages - money, factories, food production, ships and transport - that eventually proved decisive.

However, the North did not achieve the quick victory it had expected. Training inexperienced volunteers and finding efficient military leadership was a difficult task. With its stronger military

tradition, the South (Rebels or "Rebs") had more men and officers experienced in the use of arms. In the end, the Civil War turned out to be the costliest war in the history of the USA: 620,000 men were killed and at least that many more wounded, more men dying of disease than on the battlefield.

* four million of whom were slaves whose loyalty to the Confederacy could not be relied on.

Milestones

- April 12, 1861: Confederate artillery opens fire on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. War begins.
- January 1, 1863: Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation that frees all slaves.
- July 1863: The Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., the turning point of the Civil War, is won by the Union army.
- November 19, 1863: Lincoln delivers the

Gettysburg Address, in which he reiterates the nation's fundamental principles.

- January 31, 1865: The 13th Amendment abolishes slavery in the United States.
- April 9, 1865: General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia.
- April 14, 1865: President Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth, a sympathiser of the Southern cause.

4. The auction sale

1. Read the text and use the context to match each word with its French translation:
auction sale (title) –
crippled (l. 3) – *bidding* (l. 20) –
hammer (l. 24) – *gruffly* (l. 27) –
darkey (l. 28) – *groan* (l. 29) –
limb (l. 33) – *clatter* (l. 35) –
heel (l. 42).
*marteau – négro – talon –
enchère(s) – grognement –
membre – vente aux enchères
– fracas – d'un ton bourru –
estropié.*
2. Pick out words and expressions in colloquial English and give the correct forms.
3. Sum up the story in your own words and give the reasons why *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is often cited among the causes of the American Civil War.



Harriet Beecher STOWE (1811-86) was a writer and philanthropist. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which tells the story of fugitives who escape the chains of slavery, was a worldwide success and contributed greatly to popular feeling against slavery.

The woman might have been sixty, but was older than that by hard work and disease, was partially blind, and somewhat crippled with rheumatism. By her side stood her only remaining son, Albert, a bright-looking little fellow of fourteen years. The boy was the only survivor of a large family, who had been successively sold away from her to a southern market. The mother held on to him with both her shaking hands, and eyed with intense trepidation every one who walked up to examine him.

The auctioneer, a short, important fellow, elbowed his way¹ into the crowd. The old woman drew in her breath², and caught instinctively at her son.

"Keep close to yer mammy, Albert – close – dey'll put us up togedder," she said.

"O, mammy, I'm feard they won't," said the boy.

"Dey must, child. I can't live, no ways, if they don't," said the old creature, vehemently.

The stentorian tones of the auctioneer, calling out to clear the way, now announced that the sale was about to commence. A place was cleared, and the bidding began. The different men on the list were soon knocked off³ at prices which showed a pretty brisk⁴ demand in the market; two of them fell to Haley.

"Come, now, young'un," said the auctioneer, giving the boy a touch with his hammer, "be up and show your springs⁵, now."

"Put us two up togedder, togedder – do please, Mas'r," said the old woman, holding fast⁶ to her boy.

"Be off," said the man, gruffly, pushing her hands away. "You come last. Now, darkey, spring," and, with the word, he pushed the boy toward the block, while a deep, heavy groan rose behind him. The boy paused, and looked back; but there was no time to stay, and, dashing⁷ the tears from his large, bright eyes, he was up in a moment.

His fine figure, alert limbs, and bright face, raised an instant competition. Anxious, half-frightened, he looked from side to side, as he heard the clatter of contending⁸ bids – now here, now there – till the hammer fell. Haley had got him. He was pushed from the block toward his new master, but stopped one moment, and looked back, when his poor old mother, trembling in every limb, held out her shaking hands toward him.

"Buy me too, Mas'r, for de dear Lord's sake! – Buy me. – I shall die if you don't!"

"You'll die if I do," said Haley. "No!" And he turned on his heel.

Harriet BEECHER STOWE, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) (abridged)

1. *se frayer un chemin à coup de coudes* - 2. *retenir son souffle* - 3. *ici, adjuger* - 4. *ici, forte* - 5. *dynamisme* - 6. *fermement* - 7. *essuyer brusquement* - 8. *ici, contradictoire*