

Run up to the Civil War

January 1861

Jan 2 South Carolina troops seize old Fort Johnson in Charleston Harbor

Jan 3 Georgia state troops seize Fort Pulaski-photo Nathan Jones



Jan 4 Alabama state troops seize the U.S. Arsenal at Mount Vernon, Alabama

Jan 5 U.S. Senators from seven southern states meet in Washington D.C. to discuss secession

Jan 6 Florida takes over the Apalachicola Arsenal

Jan 7 Mississippi and Alabama State Conventions meet to discuss secession

Jan 8 Jacob Thompson of Mississippi, Sec. of Interior & last Southerner in Cabinet, resigns

Jan 9 Star of the West fails to relieve Fort Sumter
Mississippi secedes from the Union

Jan 10 Florida secedes from the Union

Jan 11 Alabama secedes from the Union

Jan 14 US troops occupy Fort Taylor at Key West to prevent seizure by state forces

Jan 16 Crittenden Compromise killed in the U.S. Senate. An unsuccessful proposal introduced by Kentucky Senator John J. Crittenden on December 18, 1860, It aimed to resolve the U.S. secession crisis of 1860–1861 by addressing the grievances that led the slave states of the United States to contemplate secession from the United States. The compromise proposed six constitutional amendments and four Congressional resolutions. It guaranteed the permanent existence of slavery in the slave states and addressed Southern demands in regard to fugitive slaves and slavery in the District of Columbia. It proposed extending the Missouri Compromise line to the west, with slavery prohibited north of the 36° 30' parallel and guaranteed south of it. The compromise included a clause that it could not be repealed or amended.

The compromise was popular among Southern members of the Senate, but it was generally unacceptable to the Republicans, who opposed the expansion of slavery beyond the states where it already existed into the territories. The opposition of their party's leader, President-elect Abraham Lincoln, was crucial.

Jan 19 Georgia secedes from the Union

Jan 20 Mississippi state troops take over Ship Island in the Gulf off Mississippi

Jan 24 Georgia state troops take over the U.S. Arsenal at Augusta

Jan 26 Louisiana secedes from the Union