## Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

The Civil War was perhaps the most momentous event in American history. The survival of the United States as one nation was at risk and on the outcome of the war depended the nation's ability to bring to reality the ideals of liberty, equality, justice, and human dignity.

The war put constitutional government to its severest test as a long festering debate over the power of the federal government versus state rights reached a climax. Its enormously bloody outcome preserved the Union while releasing not only four million African Americans but also the entire nation from the oppressive weight of slavery.

Standard 1: The causes of the Civil War
<b>Standard 1A:</b> The student understands how the North and South differed and how politics and ideologies led to the Civil War.
Standard 2: The course and character of the Civil War and its effects on the American people.
<b>Standard 2A</b> : The student understands how the resources of the Union and Confederacy affected the course of the war.
<b>Standard 2B:</b> The student understands the social experience of the war on the battlefield and home front.
Standard 3: How various reconstruction plans succeeded or failed.
<b>Standard 3A</b> : The student understands the political controversy over Reconstruction.
<b>Standard 3B:</b> The student understands the Reconstruction programs to transform social relations in the South.
Standard 3C: The student understands the successes and failures of Reconstruction in the South, North, and West.