**The Civil War**The Civil War started because of uncompromising differences between the free and
slave states over the power of the national government to prohibit slavery in the territories that
had not yet become states. When Abraham Lincoln won election in 1860 as the first
Republican president on a platform pledging to keep slavery out of the territories, seven slave
states in the Deep South seceded and formed a new nation ‘the Confederate States of
America’. These were South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and
Texas.The incoming Lincoln administration and most of the Northern people refused to
recognize the legitimacy of secession.
The event that triggered war came at Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay on April 12, 1861.
Confederate forces threatened the federal-held Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. On
April 12, after Lincoln ordered a fleet to resupply Sumter, Confederate artillery fired the first
shots of the Civil War. Sumter’s commander, Major Robert Anderson, surrendered after less
than two days of bombardment, leaving the fort in the hands of Confederate forces. In
response, Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the Southern rebellion, a move
that prompted four other southern states:**Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas and North
Carolina** to secede.
**1. Military Strategies, Northern vs. Southern**The two parts were not evenly matched. The North had more in man power and economic
resources. Its population was about 22 million compared to the South’s 9 million of which 3.5
million were slaves. In industrial production, the North enjoyed an enormous advantage
because 4/5 of the nation’s factories lay in its limits together with most of its mineral wealth,
its supply of meat and grain, its financial and banking resources and its shipping. While the
North was able to become self-sufficient in war materials, the South had to rely heavily on
Europe, importing what supplies it could through a tightened Union blockade. Nevertheless,
the south had the advantage of home court since most battles took place in the south. They
also possessed an exceptionally skilled general, Robert E. Lee.