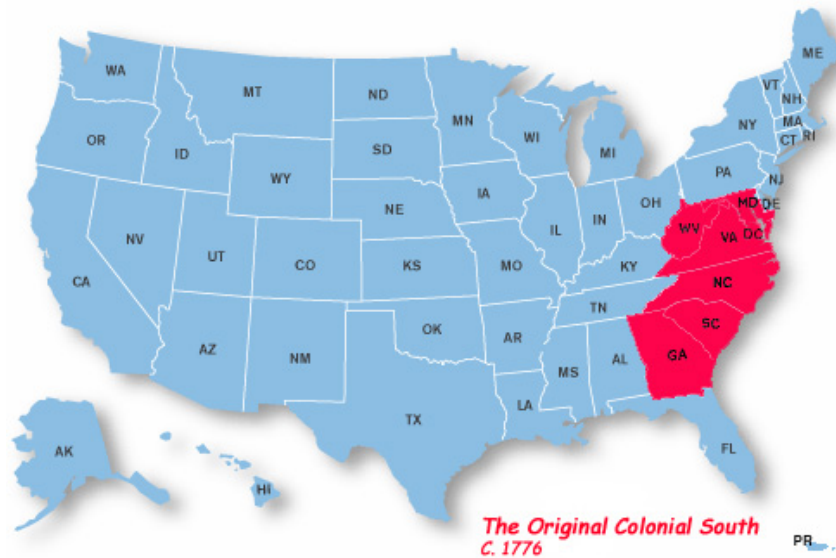
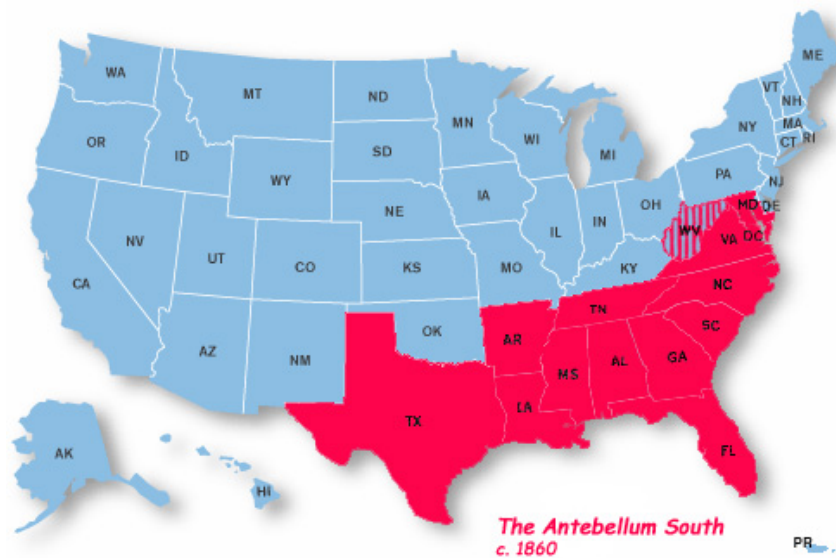


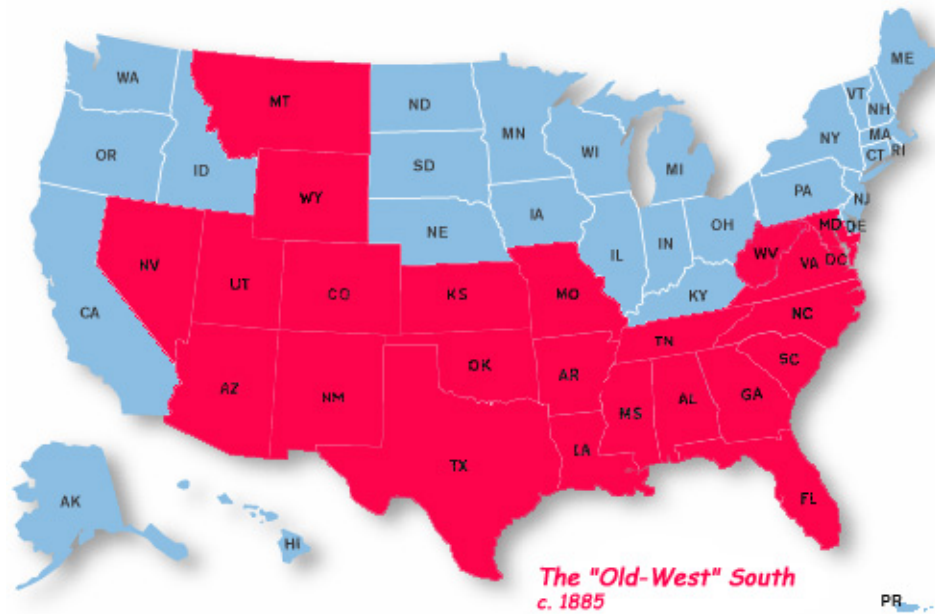
Triumph of the Confederacy!



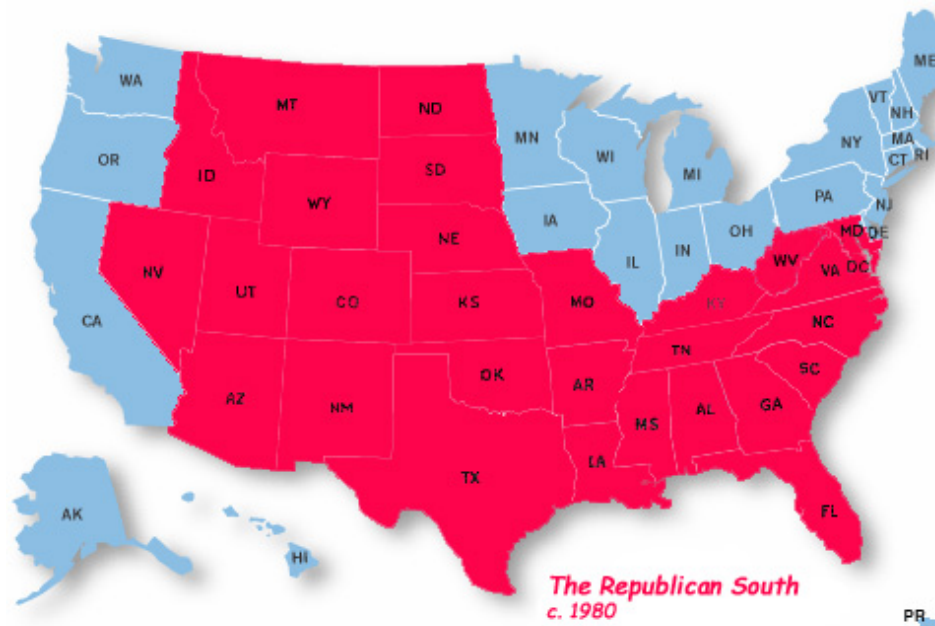
1. Back when America was British and there were neither Democrats nor Republicans, the seed of the later split in American political culture had already been planted. The southernmost of the original 13 colonies had a distinctive flavour that was alien to the north, and was in a headlong rush toward an entrenched slave economy.



2. On the eve of the American Civil war, the slave economy, and fundamentally non-urbane and undemocratic culture of the south had spread to the entire "classic" Old South. When Texas joined the American republic, it was already a slave state. In fact, a good deal of the motive behind stabbing Mexico in the back and declaring Texan independence was the preserve the institution of slavery after Mexico had outlawed it.



3. A generation after the dust of the Civil War had settled, much of the American west had been settled too. Many of the pioneers were from the Midwest and ultimately from further East. But "ranch country" was dominated by southerners left rootless by Appomatox. By default, the high plains and mountain states became part of the South.



4. The next 100 years were a time of consolidation. The South didn't grow rapidly, but spread consistently into adjacent states. When Ronald Reagan was elected, most of the heartland had become de facto Southern in its values and loyalties.

