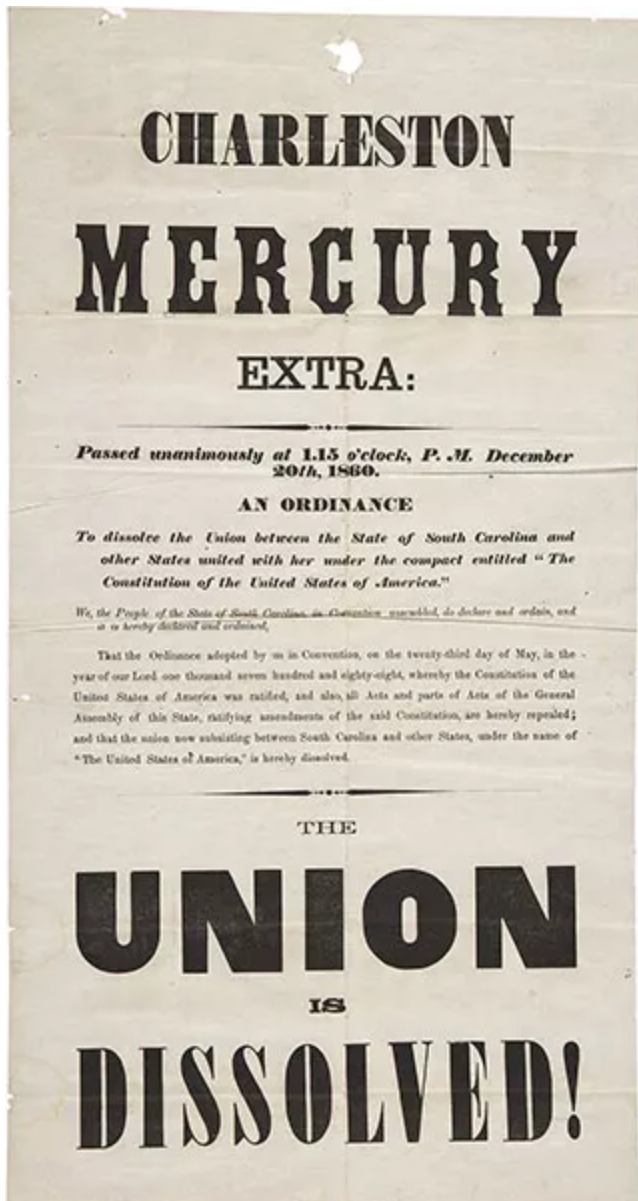




ARTICLE

South Carolina Secession

Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park (<https://www.nps.gov/fosu/>)



South Carolina Historical Society

South Carolina and State Sovereignty

Secession and Path to War

“The issue before the country is the extinction of slavery...The Southern States are now in the crisis of their fate; and, if we read aright the signs of the times, nothing is needed for our deliverance, but that the ball of revolution be set in motion.”

- *Charleston Mercury* on November 3, 1860

South Carolina became the first state to secede from the federal Union on December 20, 1860. The victory of Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election triggered cries for disunion across the slaveholding South. The secession of South Carolina precipitated [the outbreak of the American Civil War in Charleston Harbor on April 12, 1861](https://www.nps.gov/articles/battle-of-fort-sumter-april-12-1861) (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/battle-of-fort-sumter-april-12-1861.htm>).




- fort sumter and fort moultrie national historical park
- secession
- slavery
- politics
- south carolina
- charleston
- civil war
- american civil war

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