The content alone will make U.S. history researchers salivate.... The contexts and connections this material will provide to Civil War-era scholars are tremendous.”

—Cheryl LaGuardia, Research Librarian, Harvard University, Library Journal, September 15, 2007
BEYOND THE BATTLES...

...and behind the frontlines, this rare collection provides a multifaceted view of a country fighting to define its identity.

ProQuest Civil War Era captures the events, politics, and rhetoric precipitating the war. It features frontline reports about opposing armies and editorials from opposing politicians. It reveals the physical, emotional, and financial effects on families at home and soldiers in the field. Everything from the daily weather report to the assassination of a president is captured in ProQuest Civil War Era.

To learn more, start here.

A TREASURY OF PRIMARY SOURCES

ProQuest Civil War Era was developed in conjunction with librarians and expert Civil War scholars to meet research needs as no other resource can. It combines complete runs of regional newspapers and pamphlets that cover a wide range of topics. Together, these primary source documents, all in original article and page image, span the entire era—from Manifest Destiny through the end of the Civil War—enabling researchers to investigate not just the battles, but also the rising tensions that led the country to war.

Newspapers and Pamphlets Never Before Available Online

This collection provides nearly 2,000 pamphlets and complete runs of eight newspaper titles, covering 1840 to 1865, which have been specifically selected for the diverse perspectives they offer. The pamphlets express individual viewpoints of government officials, clergy, social reformists, and others. Newspapers are a perfect complement to these sources, offering insights on a broader range of events. The newspapers included in ProQuest Civil War Era provide news and editorial coverage that reflects a variety of regional and political orientations.

Newspapers (1840–1865)

ProQuest Civil War Era allows researchers to follow the development of issues leading to the Civil War, as recorded in the papers of the South, North, Mississippi Valley, and Border States. Previously unavailable digitally, the newspapers in ProQuest Civil War Era open the door to cross-searching, reducing search time and rewarding users with superior content.

Southern Titles:
- Richmond Dispatch (Virginia)
- Charleston Mercury (South Carolina)
- The Daily Picayune (New Orleans)

Northern Titles:
- The Boston Herald (Massachusetts)
- New York Herald
- Ohio State Journal

Border State/Mississippi Valley Titles:
- The Louisville Daily Journal (Kentucky)
- The Memphis Daily Appeal (Tennessee)
As in later wars, Civil War journalists were “embedded” with the troops, and their accounts are invaluable primary sources. Their vivid stories, drawings, and photographs soon dispelled the romantic picture of war common to North and South. Their more personal stories told readers at home about soldiers, camp life, and the effects of war on ordinary people and their environment. And the death lists brought the war home to suffering families, day after day.

Statements of opinion flowed two ways: from newspaper to community, and back again. Editorials, letters to the editor, and the inevitable bias that creeps into news articles are vital to researchers tracing a wide range of viewpoints from various regions of the country, from antebellum America through the war’s end.

Newspapers also provide direct evidence of the war’s cultural and historical context. News articles tell what was happening on the battlefield and elsewhere; reviews describe music and literature; and business news reveals the war’s financial impact. Advertisements are essential primary source information also, illuminating the tastes of the time.
Pamphlets from Two Important Collections

The Slavery and Anti-Slavery Pamphlets from the Libraries of Salmon P. Chase & John P. Hale collection includes 166 pamphlets, speeches, reports, legal opinions, and convention proceedings covering slavery and anti-slavery movements, and the conditions of African-Americans after the Civil War.

The Civil War Pamphlets (1861–1865) collection includes 1,758 pamphlets illustrating the "war of words" during the conflict. They provide a wide-ranging view of the issues and attitudes that led to the war and its impact on American society. Included in the collection are biographies, campaign literature, government documents, journals, maps, presidential addresses, sermons, and speeches.

Pamphlets, often 20- to 40-page treatises, were a precursor to today's opinion/editorial newspaper pages. They provided an outlet for individuals to express their views through an alternative channel. These respected pamphlet collections are a perfect complement to the variety of editorial perspectives presented in newspapers.

Each pamphlet collection includes a series of subject categories, enabling researchers to quickly explore pamphlets on a specific topic, ranging from "Constitutional Issues and States Rights" to "Slavery and Religion" to "Literature and Fiction." This subject mapping allows simple, one-click access to many curriculum-based topics, helping both advanced and novice researchers identify subjects of interest.

"[Newspapers and pamphlets] are the single greatest window on public opinion, its hopes, its fears, and the daily life of our ancestors in that most trying time."

—William C. Davis, Professor of History, Director of Programs, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Virginia Tech
"The Yankees Reported to Be Defeated and Falling Back on Baltimore," announced the Richmond Dispatch on July 7, 1863, to Southern readers. The New York Herald, in contrast, described "The Terrific Three Days’ Battles of Gettysburg—The Great Victory of Friday" for its Northern readers. The only element the two newspapers agreed on was that Gettysburg had been the bloodiest clash to date.

Through a single search, ProQuest Civil War Era provides a window through which researchers gain regional perspectives and a broader understanding of the arguments and events leading to the war and of the war itself. Rather than the sanitized summarization of dates and events often found in history books, this resource puts explorers in the moment, letting them experience the chaos and uncertainty, the hopes and fears, and the victories and defeats from the varied viewpoints of Americans living in the mid-1800s.

Was slavery an economic question? Or was it a moral issue? Through advertisements for the sale of slaves, pamphlets explaining how "slavery is antagonistic to wealth" and "contrary to morality," and reports of senate debates so heated that they ended in physical violence, ProQuest Civil War Era provides the critical connections for understanding the complex American social and political landscape that ripped the country in half.

Perfect for History Researchers

The Civil War's effect went beyond the battlefields, changing the lives of women, children, African-Americans, Native Americans, immigrants, farmers, laborers, and settlers. These newspapers and pamphlets not only disseminated information, but also reflected and shaped public opinion. ProQuest Civil War Era brings to life the words, stories, and events that touched the daily experiences of nearly every American. Researchers can explore the impact of this transformative event through multiple viewpoints.

ProQuest Civil War Era is a vital resource for researching and understanding the Civil War—not just where people fought, but why they fought.
PROQUEST CIVIL WAR ERA—INDISPENSABLE BACKGROUND FOR RESEARCH TOPICS

- Abolition and other reform movements
- Politics (party compromises, dissolution of the Whig party, Northern and Southern Democrats, the partisan Congress of the 1850s, and the falls of Stephen Douglas and James Buchanan)
- Westward expansion and economic growth
- "Hot" war in Missouri and Kansas prior to the Civil War
- Draft riots in the North
- Northern fears of European intervention
- Women and the war, including reform movements where women held political power not possible in government
- Religious themes, such as the moral stance taken on both sides of the debate, church groups that splintered
- Effects of war on citizens in Vicksburg, Richmond, Atlanta, and other areas
- Industrialization of war
- The effect on children ("powder monkeys," children/families traveling in army camps)
- Technology of war (photography, telegraphy, and railway)
- Nursing and medicine in the Civil War
- Legal matters, such as Fugitive Slave Act, Dred Scott, and Emancipation Proclamation
- Impact of privateers
- Impact of immigrants

Smarter Searching

ProQuest Civil War Era is available on the ProQuest® Historical platform, allowing users to cross-search with other products, such as ProQuest Historical Newspapers™ and the American Periodicals Series Online. Basic and advanced searching is available, as well as topic browsing. Users also can record their search history, save records and searches to “My Research,” and print or email articles and pamphlets.

In addition to using powerful search tools, researchers can browse pamphlets by title and subjects, such as:

- War at Sea
- Foreign Opinion
- Slavery—Laws and Debates
- Peace Movements
- Medical Aspects
- And more

Each pamphlet collection includes subject mapping capabilities. This simple, one-click access to many curriculum-based topics speeds searching for advanced scholars, and inspires novice researchers to identify subjects to study.
THE ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN

Trace contemporary reaction to this event through the combination of newspapers and pamphlets. Explore the various reactions across the country as told through the editorial viewpoints of eight regional newspapers. The pamphlet collection offers additional insights to the event, covering such topics as Lincoln’s eulogy, clergy discourses on the significance of the assassination, and the actual legal arguments made during the conspirators’ trials.

This collection is available on the ProQuest Historical platform, enhancing the value of the product by allowing users to cross-search the growing ProQuest Historical Newspapers offering and the American Periodicals Series Online. For example, additional perspectives on the assassination can be found in periodicals, and Lincoln’s home-state newspaper—the Chicago Tribune—offers “Full Details of the Terrible Affair.”
The Economic Viewpoint

Abolition threatened the South with a destabilized economy and huge losses in wealth and investment. For example, the 1860 per capita income in the South was $3,978; in the North it was $2,040. The disparity was largely attributable to wealth obtained from cotton, a business driven by slave labor. Plantation owners regarded slaves as their most expensive and critical investment. Many small farmers in slave states opposed slavery for economic rather than moral reasons—abolition would allow them to be competitive against large plantations.

The North’s need to fund the war created the first federal income tax, national banking system, and issuance of greenbacks (federal banknotes) as compulsory legal tender. Unlike the Union, the Confederacy didn’t establish its national notes as legal tender. To fund the war, they simply printed more bills. When the tides of battle turned, the glut of printed money and competing notes created runaway inflation—up to 9,000 percent at its peak. Explore the economics and multitude of other issues in 19th-century America with ProQuest Civil War Era.

To Learn More

To learn more or to request a free trial, contact your ProQuest Account Representative at 800-521-0600, ext. 3344, email us at pqsales@proquest.com, or visit our website at www.proquest.com.