

SLAVERY, THE CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION: GETTYSBURG AND THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Readworks.org

In the summer of 1863, Southern and Northern troops clashed in one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. After the Confederate, or Southern, Army won a battle in northern Virginia, it invaded the North and headed into Pennsylvania. It hoped to collect more supplies and weaken the North. Meanwhile, the Union Army of the North was pursuing the Confederate troops. The two sides met and fought near the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The battle at Gettysburg has been called "the most crucial battle in American history."

Before the Battle of Gettysburg, the Confederacy had been doing very well in the Civil War. But at Gettysburg, the North defeated the South. The battle was bloody. The Union Army suffered 23,000 casualties, while the Confederate Army suffered 28,000. A casualty is someone who is killed, wounded, or captured in battle. The Battle of Gettysburg turned the tide of the war and marked the beginning of the success of the North in defeating the South.

In the fall of 1863, President Lincoln visited the battlefield at Gettysburg for a ceremony dedicating the field to all the soldiers who had died. He reminded people why Americans must stand up for their values. His speech, the Gettysburg Address, has become one of the most famous speeches of American history. Lincoln said:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the [idea] that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln's words were never forgotten. The government of the people, by the people, and for the people remains.

ON HALLOWED GROUND

Readworks.org

In July 1863, the U.S. Civil War came to the tiny southern Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg. For weeks, Confederate troops under the command of General Robert E. Lee had marched north from Virginia, hoping to battle the Union army on its home soil.

At Gettysburg, Lee got his wish. There, Confederate and Union forces fought a bloody three-day battle that turned the tide of the war. On the second day of fighting, Confederate troops rushed to a rocky hill called Little Round Top and were slaughtered by Union guns. The fighting was so intense at Devil's Den that the area was littered with corpses. When the battle was over, more than 51,000 lay dead or were wounded, missing, or captured.

"This is the last you may ever hear from me," one dying Confederate soldier said in a letter to his mother. "I have time to tell you that I died like a man. This letter is stained with my blood."

By 2010, a different battle was fought at Gettysburg and other Civil War sites. The National Trust for Historic Preservation said that developers laid siege to battlefields in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

Specifically, preservationists say a 175-mile swath of land in the region lost more than 150,000 acres to development between 1990 and 2010. In 2005, the trust placed this region on its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The corridor follows U.S. Route 15 in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Losing Ground?

Builders have gobbled up land in places such as Chantilly, Virginia. There, a mall sits near the battlefield where Lee pushed Northern troops out of Virginia in 1862.

In Spotsylvania, Virginia, the parking lot of a 7-Eleven store lies next to a Confederate cemetery. At Chancellorsville, Virginia, the site of Lee's most important victory, developers wanted to build homes where thousands died. And in Gettysburg, a business group hoped to open a casino.

Development Needed?

Some say the increase in development would help communities and, in many instances, not affect the historic sites. For example, supporters of the Gettysburg casino said the business would create 800 full-time jobs and wouldn't tarnish the historical significance of the battlefield.

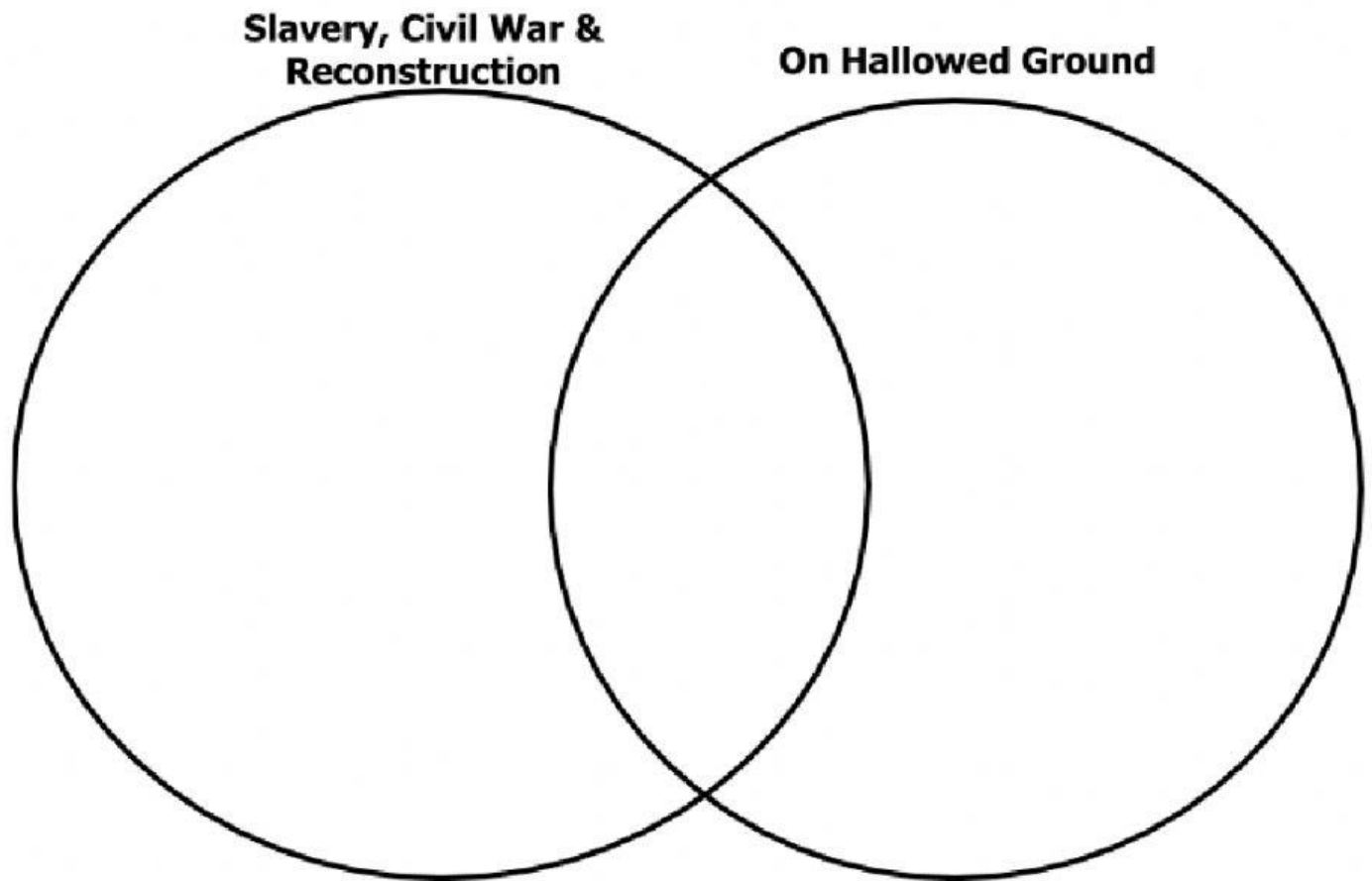
Striking a Balance

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Coalition, an association of more than 100 conservation groups, wants to strike a balance between development and preservation.

The group asked the federal government to name Route 15 as a National Scenic Byway. In 2009, the federal government gave this designation to part of Route 15 which helps protect the area. Preservationists ask Congress for money to preserve historic areas.

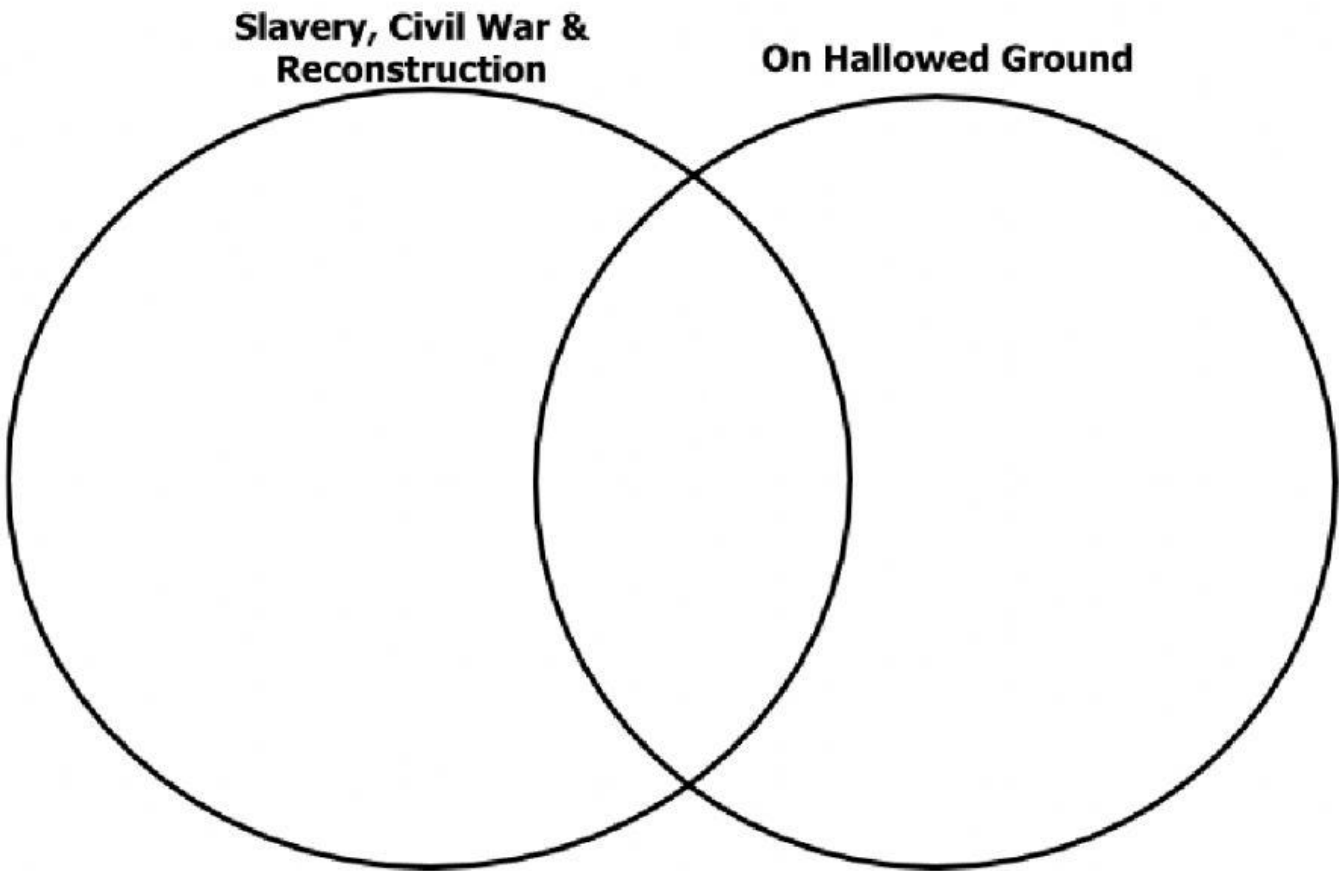
"We must be careful not to desecrate [dishonor] the sacrifice of those who fell, by building condos and golf courses and amusement parks in a way that is inappropriate," historian James Fuller told *Senior Edition*. "Yet, we have to change as new demands reflect the needs of society."

Directions: Select THREE of the following sentences that belong in the left side of the Venn Diagram under the title "Slavery, Civil War & Reconstruction" ONLY.



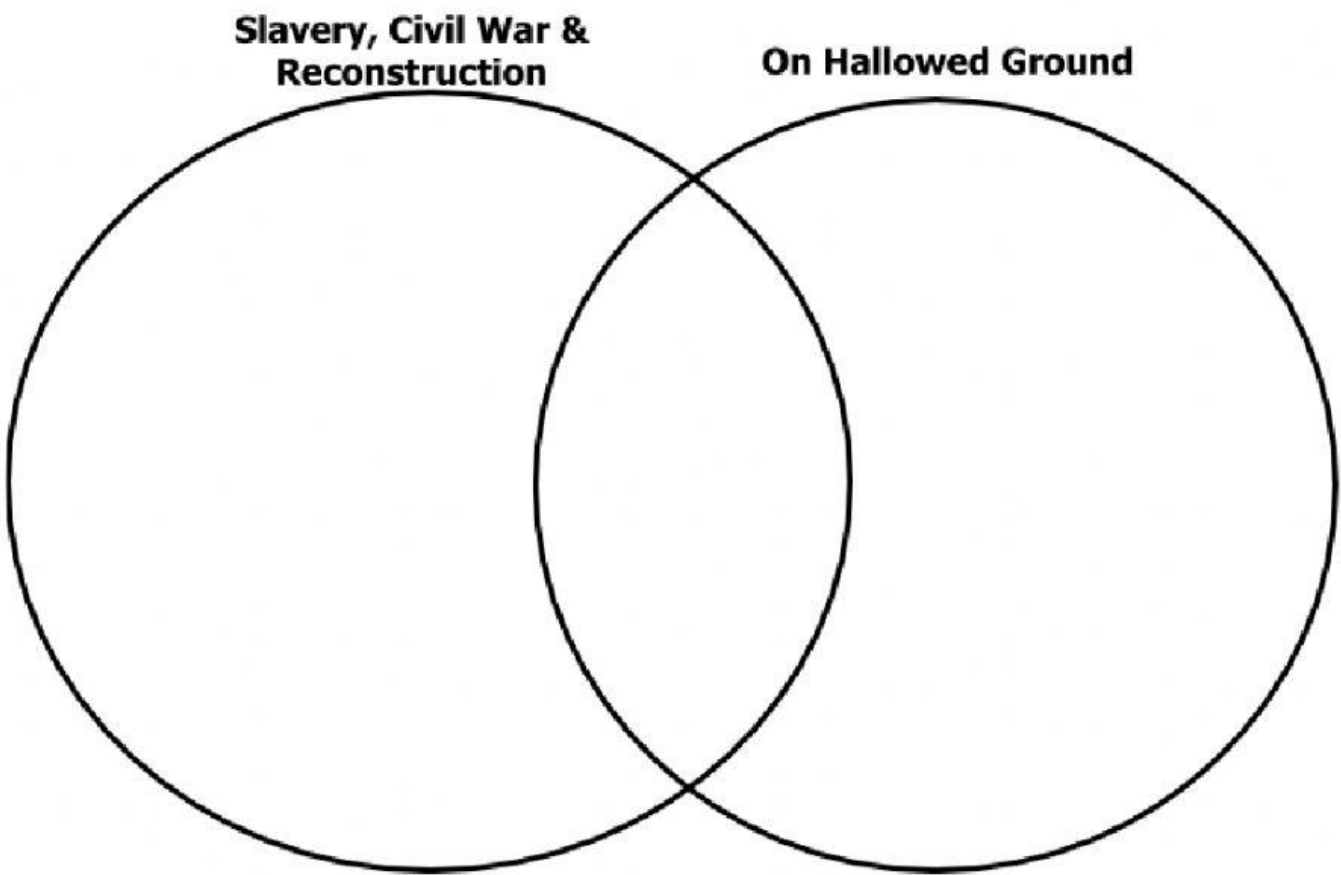
President Lincoln came to Gettysburg to dedicate the battlefield to all the soldiers who died.	One of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War was at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.	Developers laid siege to battlefields in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.
Many casualties were left after the battle of Gettysburg.	Builders were gobbling up land.	Lincoln's words "the government of the people, by the people, and for the people" remains.
Hallowed ground coalition wants a balance between development and preservation.	Confederate troops headed North.	President Lincoln gave his famous speech, The Gettysburg Address.

Directions: Select THREE of the following sentences that belong in the right side of the Venn Diagram under the title "On Hallowed Ground" ONLY.



President Lincoln came to Gettysburg to dedicate the battlefield to all the soldiers who died.	One of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War was at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.	Developers laid siege to battlefields in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.
Many casualties were left after the battle of Gettysburg.	Builders were gobbling up land.	Lincoln's words "the government of the people, by the people, and for the people" remains.
Hallowed ground coalition wants a balance between development and preservation.	Confederate troops headed North.	President Lincoln gave his famous speech, The Gettysburg Address.

Directions: Select **THREE** of the following sentences that are true for both passages and that belong in the middle of the Venn Diagram **ONLY**.



President Lincoln came to Gettysburg to dedicate the battlefield to all the soldiers who died.	One of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War was at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.	Developers laid siege to battlefields in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.
Many casualties were left after the battle of Gettysburg.	Builders were gobbling up land.	Lincoln’s words “the government of the people, by the people, and for the people” remains.
Hallowed ground coalition wants a balance between development and preservation.	Confederate troops headed North.	President Lincoln gave his famous speech, The Gettysburg Address.