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# The War Between the States

The Civil War dragged on for four long, bloody years. It was the most destructive war in United States history. More Americans died in this war than in any other war. Some battles raged in cities and others near the **plantations** (plan-TAY-shuhnz) in the South.

The North fought to save the Union. The South fought for the right to **dissolve** (dih-ZALV) the Union. In the end, the Union stayed together, but the battles left wounds that took years to heal.

▼ The ruins of Richmond, Virginia, after the Civil War

