

interests that encompassed Unionist slaveholders and even Southern sympathizers, well before the national government began imposing suppressive measures. Nonetheless, the unconsummated notion of a Confederate Maryland, while having lost the vitality of youth, lingers on the shores of the Chesapeake.

In mid-May 1861, Gen. Benjamin Butler's Massachusetts men marched into Baltimore and occupied Federal Hill, a site overlooking the city from which Butler promised to answer any hint of disloyalty with his heavy guns. Lincoln and General-in-Chief Winfield Scott were furious at Butler's unauthorized move and relieved him of command. The Massachusetts troops remained. Marylanders reacted variously to their presence: Unionists, Southern sympathizers, and secessionists found creative ways to express their sentiments. Views changed as Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus (initially along rail lines only, to ensure that troops could travel to Washington), and in the autumn, he sanctioned arrests of suspected disloyalists, including state legislators, the mayor of Baltimore, newspaper editors, and other prominent citizens. Letters from those incarcerated describe frustration at indefinite detainment without charges, anxiety at being deprived of liberty, and principled refusals to take loyalty oaths in exchange for release. The complexities of the June 1861 election—a triumph of pro-Union conservatives who opposed both secession and growing antislavery sentiment—must have puzzled and confused many observers. Marylanders began to confront both the seemingly abstract and irreconcilable concepts of federalism and states' rights and the practical need to choose sides in a rapidly escalating conflict.

The term "occupation" in Part 2 appears inside quotation marks for two reasons. Disagreement persists over the extent to which the presence of Union troops in parts of Maryland constituted a state of affairs normally associated with military rule. Second, "occupation" also encompasses the presence of Confederate forces on Maryland soil. Major rebel incursions occurred in the early days of the war and in 1862 and 1863, as Lee tried in vain to add Marylanders to his ranks en route to Antietam and Gettysburg, and in 1864, when rebel troops terrorized Frederick and Baltimore at the Battle of Monocacy prior to their desperate, abortive assault on Washington.

The story of slavery in nineteenth-century Maryland is one of economics and redemption, as the slaves themselves played a central role in the eradication of the rotting institution. Slave-cultivated tobacco had long been the economic bedrock of the southern and Eastern Shore counties; however, depleted soil unable to sustain consistent production had for decades been allowed to undermine the crop. By the middle of the century, cereals and corn were flourishing in eastern and southern Maryland, and the seasonal labor needed to harvest them made hiring free laborers a better economic deal than slave ownership. The consequent rise in manumissions had helped make Maryland, at the outbreak of the Civil War, home to 74,723 free blacks, the largest number in any state in America.³