SECESSION FACTS

Lincoln won the 1860 election with 39% of the popular vote; 61% of the electorate voted for someone other than Lincoln.

The 1860 congressional election resulted in Democrats holding the Senate and regaining the House. If the South had not seceded, Democrats would have controlled Congress for the first two years of the Lincoln Administration.

The pro-slavery Chief Justice Roger B. Taney would control the U.S. Supreme Court until 1864.

Thus, Republicans would have authority over only the Executive Branch had the South not seceded.

Only 2% of northern voters self-identified as abolitionists.

In 1860-1861, the Republican Party was not an abolitionist Party.

Congress had passed no laws regarding slavery in the western territories or the return of fugitive slaves since 1850.

In 1860, the U.S. Census reported only 803 fugitives out of 4,000,000 southern slaves; representing 1/50 of one percent of the total slave population.

In 1860, New Mexico, which stretched from Texas to California, was a "slave" territory with a detailed pro-slave code.

Seven states seceded from the Union in 1861 while the Democratic President James Buchanan occupied the White House.

Regarding the Lost Cause:

Slavery was not dying out in 1860.

The idea that the South seceded to defend states' rights developed after the war.

There is no evidence that supports the notion that the South seceded to avoid Republican-supported protective tariffs.