Slave Map, 1861, Library of Congress

This 1861 map, created by combining information from the U.S. Coast Survey and the 1860 census, shows the slave populations in the southern United States. Counties of each state are shaded in according the percentage of slaves out of the whole population. Different levels of shading, ranging from light grey for the lower percentages of slave to the darker shades for the higher percentages, reveal the vast differences in slave populations in the south. Statistics printed at the bottom of the map give total population levels. The map was widely printed and distributed as a fund raiser "for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers". President Abraham Lincoln found the map incredibly useful in focusing on the Confederacy's labor system and how and where to attack the Confederacy. After the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation was issued, Lincoln used the map to follow the progress of Union troops. The map is also featured in Francis Bicknell Carpenter's 1864 painting of "President Lincoln Reading the Emancipation Proclamation to His Cabinet."