

# Carl Schurz

Educator, Union general (1829 – 1906)



Schurz was born in Liblar, Germany and studied at the University of Bonn, where he was active in politics and advocated democratic reforms. Schurz took up arms in defense of the new German constitution and, during the struggle, met many men he would meet again in the Union Army. The German struggle ultimately failed and Schurz left, settling in London.

While teaching in London in 1852, he married Margarethe Meyer, and they moved to America, eventually settling in Wisconsin, where he began to practice law. At the 1860 Republican National Convention, Schurz was a supporter of Lincoln.

In 1861, Lincoln made him ambassador to Spain, where he succeeded in quietly dissuading Spain from supporting the South. After receiving an Army commission in 1862, he took command of a division, first under John C. Frémont, and then in Franz Sigel's corps, with which he took part in the Second Battle of Bull Run. He was a division commander at the Battle of Chancellorsville, and he fought at Gettysburg and at Chattanooga. Although without military training, he was one of the best of the politically appointed generals.

After the war, President Andrew Johnson sent Schurz through the South, but his subsequent report, containing strong recommendations for black suffrage and Civil rights, was ignored by the president. In 1869, he was elected to the Senate from Missouri. But, disgusted with the Republican Party, he became the chief organizer of the Liberal Republican Party, which nominated Horace Greeley for president in 1872. In 1876, Schurz returned to the Republican ranks, supporting Rutherford B. Hayes, who subsequently appointed him Secretary of the Interior.

Upon his retirement in 1881, Schurz moved to New York, and from 1881 to 1883 was editor-in-chief of the *New York Evening Post* and editor of *The Nation*.