

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: A NATION TORN APART: THE CIVIL WAR, 1861–1865

READING AND STUDY GUIDE

- I. Mobilization, Strategy, and Diplomacy
 - A. Comparative Advantages and Disadvantages
 - B. Mobilization in the North
 - C. Mobilization in the South
 - D. The Struggle for the Border States
 - E. Wartime Diplomacy

- II. The Early Campaigns, 1861–1863
 - A. No Short and Bloodless War
 - B. The Peninsular Campaign
 - C. A New Kind of War
 - D. Toward Emancipation
 - E. Slaughter and Stalemate

- III. Behind the Lines
 - A. Meeting the Demands of Modern War
 - B. Hardships on the Home Front
 - C. New Roles for Women
 - D. Copperheads
 - E. Conscription and Civil Unrest

- IV. Toward Union Victory
 - A. Turning Point: 1863
 - B. African Americans Under Arms
 - C. The Confederacy Begins to Crumble
 - D. Victory in Battle and at the Polls
 - E. War is Hell

The Civil War began in 1861 as a conflict over whether Southern states possessed the right to secede from the Union. But when the Lincoln administration's Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863, it became a war against slavery. The soldiers depicted in this joyous scene were among the 180,000 African American soldiers who contributed to the Union army's successful campaign to defeat the Confederacy.

Emancipation was but one of the many extraordinary aspects of the Civil War that make it the most written-about event in American history. The war pitted American against American, in some cases brother against brother. Senator John J. Crittenden of Kentucky, for example, saw two sons rise to the rank of general, one Confederate and the other Union. Mary Todd Lincoln, the president's wife, lost three brothers who were fighting for the Confederacy. The Civil War was also, for its time, an unusually bloody conflict. The 618,000 Americans who died in the four

years of conflict far outnumber the 115,000 lost in World War I and the 318,000 in World War II. The war also brought to the fore larger-than-life personalities such as Generals William Tecumseh Sherman, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, and it produced moments of heroism that would become the stuff of legend.

If these aspects of the war explain its popularity as a historical subject, they also indicate why the Civil War has generated so much heated debate. For generations Americans have argued over the true cause of the war and why the North won (or as some like to put it, why the South lost). They have debated the significance and wisdom of crucial decisions such as Lee’s move to attack the North in 1863 or Union general Meade’s failure to pursue the weakened Confederates after Gettysburg.

Yet for all this debate, few commentators dispute this fact: the Civil War brought profound social, political, and economic change to the United States. Most also agree that while the war ended the contentious question of slavery, it immediately raised equally challenging questions about racial equality.

Learning Objectives

After a careful examination of Chapter 13, students should be able to do the following:

1. Describe the initial responses in the North and South to the outbreak of Civil War.
2. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the North and South in terms of their readiness for war.
3. Describe the obstacles to centralized authority facing the South at the outset of the war. Comment on the leadership ability of Jefferson Davis.
4. Describe the response of the border states to the outbreak of Civil War.
5. Describe the leadership, strategy, tactics, and outcome of the First Battle of Bull Run.
6. Describe the conditions in army hospitals during the Civil War. Describe the role of women in the Civil War and comment on the conditions of camp life.
7. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of General George B. McClellan as leader of the Army of the Potomac. Describe the leadership style of General Robert E. Lee as head of the Army of Northern Virginia.
8. Explain the European response to the American Civil War. Explain why the South believed it could secure recognition from Britain. Identify which European states refused to recognize the Confederacy and explain why.
9. Point out the reasons the Battle of Antietam is considered a turning point in the Civil War.
10. Outline the provisions of the Emancipation Proclamation and describe southern, northern, and European responses to the document.

11. Describe the response of ex-slaves and free southern African Americans to the opportunity to fight in the Union Army. Comment on the treatment of African American troops by the United States Army and explain the significance of the performance of African American troops at Fort Wagner, South Carolina.
12. Explain the significance of Gettysburg and Vicksburg as turning points in the Civil War.
13. Define the term *writ of habeas corpus* and discuss Lincoln's suspension of this Constitutional protection during the Civil War.
14. Identify the Radical Republican faction in Lincoln's party and explain the challenge it presented to Lincoln in terms of party policy and its overall effectiveness in influencing Republican policy.
15. Discuss the New York Draft Riot by identifying the participants and their reasons for protesting conscription laws.
16. Describe the impact of the Civil War on the northern and southern economies.
17. Discuss the role of northern and southern women in the Civil War.
18. Identify the characteristics of the Confederate political system that actually retarded the South's ability to wage war effectively.
19. Summarize the prevailing views of northern whites, southern whites, and African Americans about the wishes and plans of God with regard to the Civil War.
20. Identify the two major initiatives Ulysses Grant brought to the Union war strategy. Identify three challenges faced by Grant in his efforts to implement these strategies.
21. Explain the significance of the fall of Atlanta to the overall Union war effort as well as to the outcome of the election of 1864.
22. Identify the candidates and issues of the 1864 presidential election.
23. Explain the impact of Sherman's March to the Sea.
24. Discuss Lee's surrender at Appomattox.
25. Explain the importance of Lincoln's assassination to the future of Reconstruction in the defeated South.
26. Comment on the Civil War's impact on the nation's economy and government.
27. Discuss the Civil War's impact on gender and race relations in the United States.

Key Terms & Definitions:

Border States The four slave states, Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware, that bordered the Confederacy. The Lincoln administration succeeded in keeping them in the Union. (379)

cotton embargo A ban imposed by Confederates in 1861 on the export of cotton, the South's most valuable commodity, to prompt cotton-importing nations like England and France to intervene to secure Confederate independence. (380)

Trent Affair A diplomatic incident in November 1861 when a U.S. Navy vessel stopped the British ship *Trent* and removed two Confederates heading for Europe to press for British and French intervention. (380)

Peninsular Campaign The complex plan developed by General George B. McClellan to capture the Confederate capital, whereby four hundred ships deposited 120,000 soldiers just east of Richmond at Fortress Monroe between the James and York Rivers. (382)

modern warfare Military conflict involving enormous armies that utilize the technologies of the Industrial Revolution in the areas of communications, transportation, and firearms. Victory is secured by destroying the enemy's army and inflicting suffering on civilian populations. (383)

contraband of war The term introduced by General Benjamin Butler to justify his refusal to return fugitive slaves to their owners because they were seized property. (384)

Emancipation Proclamation The decree announced by Lincoln in September 1862 and taking effect on January 1, 1863, declaring slaves in the seceded states not under Union army control "forever free." (385)

Copperheads Northern Democrats (sometimes called "Peace Democrats") who opposed the war and the Lincoln administration and favored a negotiated settlement with the Confederacy. (390)

Conscription Act A law passed by Congress in March 1863 to offset declining volunteers to the Union Army. It declared all male citizens (and immigrants who had applied for citizenship) aged twenty to forty-five eligible to be drafted into the Union Army. The rich could pay a \$300 fee to avoid the draft. (390)

Draft Riots Four days of rioting in New York City in July 1863 by mostly poor, immigrant, and working-class men who opposed the draft. (392)

Sherman's March to the Sea The 285-mile "scorched earth" campaign of General William T. Sherman across Georgia in late 1864 and early 1865. Sherman's soldiers seized or destroyed

\$100 million in goods, hurting Southern morale and depriving the Confederate army of supplies. (399)

Special Field Order No. 15 The directive announced by General Sherman in January 1865 during his March to the Sea that set aside more than 400,000 acres of seized Confederate land for distribution to former slaves in 40-acre plots. (400)

Study Questions:

Why does the Civil War exert such a hold on the American imagination? (374)

What significant advantages did the North hold over the South on the eve of war? (376)

Why did Southerners seek to link secession to the American Revolution? (377)

How did the doctrine of states' rights hinder the Southern war effort? (378)

What made the Border States so economically and militarily valuable to the Confederacy? (379)

Why did Lincoln decide to back down and release the Confederates in the Trent Affair? (380)

Why did the First Battle of Bull Run take place before either army was adequately prepared? (381)

Why did the Peninsular Campaign fail? (382)

Why is the Civil War considered the first modern war? (383)

How did the actions of slaves push Lincoln toward emancipation? (384)

How did Lincoln expect the Emancipation Proclamation to benefit the Union War effort? (385)

Why did photography have a more powerful impact on the public than artists' depictions of battles? (386)

How did photography change the way Americans saw war? (387)

What steps did the Union take to provide funding for the war? (388)

What new opportunities did the war open up for women? (389)

What prompted the Lincoln administration to impose a draft in early 1862? (390)

How did Lincoln justify the suspension of habeas corpus? (391)

Why did residents of New York riot against the draft? (392)

Why did Lee decide to invade the North a second time? (393)

How were African American soldiers treated in the Union Army? (394)

What role did African American soldiers play in the Union war effort? (395)

Why did Lincoln initially agree to pay African American soldiers less than white soldiers? (396)

What impact did the Union blockade have on the Confederate war effort? (397)

What distinguished Grant's approach to war from his predecessors'? (398)

What steps did the Republican Party take to improve Lincoln's chances for victory in 1864? (399)

Why did Sherman deem it necessary to destroy so much property in Georgia? (400)

What conciliatory measures toward the Confederates did Grant adopt at Lee's surrender? (401)