

The War of the Union

- ❖ **What were the major strategies of the Civil War?**
- ❖ **How did the war affect the home front in the North and the South?**
- ❖ **What were the reasons for, the results of, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation?**

The End of the Waiting Game

- On both sides, people believed that fighting would be over in a little more than a month and that their daily lives would go on as usual.

Lincoln's Inauguration

- **Lincoln's pledge: would not interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it existed—no right**
- **Immediate question was secession, not slavery**
- William Seward: State Department
- Salmon Chase: Treasury Department
- Simon Cameron: War Department
- Edward Bates: attorney general

The Fall of Fort Sumter

- Lincoln initially firm and moderate
- **President Jefferson Davis decided to prohibit Lincoln from resupplying the fort**
 - Anderson surrenders
 - Militiamen summoned by Lincoln to quell rebel states
 - Proclaimed blockade of southern ports—confirmed war

Taking Sides

- **Lincoln's war proclamation swept four more states into the Confederacy**
 - **Virginia**--Richmond became new Southern capital, Unionists in Virginia form West Virginia
 - **Arkansas**
 - **Tennessee**
 - **North Carolina**
- **Slaves were scarce in these states and Union support was strong**
 - Unionists of western Virginia formed their own state under General McClellan
- **To hold onto Maryland, Lincoln took drastic measures**
 - Suspended habeas corpus
 - Threw pro-Confederate leaders in jail
- **Kentucky remained with the Union but extremely divided**
- **Missouri remained with the Union**
 - Battle of Pea Ridge: Unionists vs. Confederates
- **States seceding before Fort Sumter's surrender: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina**
- **States seceding after Fort Sumter's surrender: Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia**

- **Slaves states adhering to the Union: Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware**

Choosing Sides

- **Robert Lee's decision epitomized the agonizing choice facing many residents in the border states**
 - Although he did not see the good of secession, he could not fight his own homeland, Virginia.
 - He resigned
- **In every Confederate state except South Carolina, whole regiments were organized to fight for the Union**
- ❖ **Were there regiments of Confederate-supporters in the North?**

The Balance of Force

- **Confederate cause was doomed from the beginning due to sparse industrial development, smaller pool of able-bodied men, paucity of capital resources and warships, and spotty transportation network**
- **But still possible for south to win**

Economic Advantages

- **Union had more states, higher population. 4:1 imbalance of soldiers, favoring the Union**
- **Union states produced 97% of firearms and 96% of railroad equipment**
 - Union had more wagons, horses, ships, railroads
 - Union could easily claim control of Mississippi River with navy
- **Confederacy had geographic advantage**
 - Defensive war on its own territory
 - More experienced military leaders

The War's Early Course

- **First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) demonstrated futile optimism that war would be over quick—naïve**
 - Public pressured both sides to attack quickly and decisively
 - General McDowell (Union) versus General Beauregard (Confederate)
 - **Similar plans: tried to turn the other's left flank**
 - McDowell's troops panicked—frantic retreat—but Confederates were too exhausted to give chase
- **First Battle of Bull Run demonstrated that war would not be quick and decisive**

The War's Early Phase

- **Lincoln adopted Winfield Scott's three-pronged "anaconda" strategy**
 - **Army of Potomac to defend Washington DC and pressure Richmond**
 - **Navy blockade of southern ports**
 - **Divide Confederacy by invading the South along the main water routes: Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland rivers**
- **Confederate strategy was simpler**
 - Hoped that cotton-hungry British or French would support them
 - Hoped public sentiment in the North would force Lincoln to negotiate settlement

Naval Actions

- **Most important military actions involved naval war and blockade**
 - Only threat to blockade was Confederate ship *Virginia*, which was countered by Union *Monitor*
- **Union tightened grip on the South**
 - Seized islands and ports on Carolina coast
 - Extended southward

Forming Armies

- **Union Army**
 - By end of 1861, half million Federal troops had enlisted
 - Rapid mobilization left the army with large number of “political” officers, commissioned by state governors or elected by recruits
 - **19th century army organized along community and ethnic lines**
- **Confederate Army**
 - Veteran contracts ran out before war ended
 - **Confederate government turned to conscription**
 - all white male citizens age 18 to 35 were declared army members for three years
 - age limit was extended to 50 in 1862
 - **Two loopholes:**
 - Draftee might escape by providing substitute or paying \$500
 - Exemptions in work—key jobs in society
- **Conscription used in both north and south, both had loopholes**
- Widespread public opposition in North and South
 - Riots exposed social racial and ethnic tensions—mobs were furious at African Americans for causing the war
 - Mostly Irish poor working-class toughs

Confederate Diplomacy

- **Confederate diplomacy focused on gaining foreign supplies, diplomatic recognition, and perhaps even military intervention**
- **Union warship stopped British ship *Trent* and arrested two Confederate agents—protest in Britain threatened their neutrality**
 - Federal officials released the agents in response to British ultimatum
- **Confederate agents in Europe were far more successful in getting supplies than in gaining official government recognition of the Confederacy as a sovereign nation**
 - Sale of ships to Confederates—*Florida* and *Alabama*

The West and the Civil War

- **Western settlement continued, unabated**
 - Gold and silver
 - New transportation and communication networks emerged to support West
 - Dakota, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, Montana gained territory status
- **Texas was the only western state to join the Confederacy**
- Fighting in Kansas and Indian Territory (Oklahoma) was widespread

- **Lincoln's primary concerns in sending troops to the west:**
 - Protect gold and silver
 - Win western political support for the war and his presidency
- **Most intense fighting in the West occurred along the Kansas-Missouri border**
 - Disputes between pro and anti-slavery turned to warfare
 - **William Quantrill—most prominent Confederate leader in the area—opposed by Jayhawkers**
 - **Super violent**
- **Indian regiments fought on both sides**
 - “Five Civilized Tribes”—held black slaves and supported South
 - Cherokees split—divided loyalty

Actions in the Western Theater

- **General Ulysses Grant made the first Union thrust against the weak center of General Johnston's overextended lines**
 - Captured Fort Henry
 - Attacked nearby Fort Donelson
 - Confederates surrendered

Shiloh

- **General Johnston regrouped in northern Mississippi**
 - General Grant moved Union army along Tennessee River
 - **Grant's costly mistake:** exposed 42,000 troops and failed to dig defensive trenches
 - **Confederates struck suddenly at Shiloh**
 - **Union army was about to lose, but General Johnston was wounded**
- **Costliest battle in which Americans ever engaged until then**
- General Halleck was jealous of Grant and spread rumor that Grant was drinking

McClellan's Peninsular Campaign

- **McClellan appointed general in chief**
 - Sought to enter Richmond by side door, not directly as Lincoln suggested
 - McClellan waited to strike, failing to capitalize on advantages
- **President Davis** sent Stonewall Jackson into Shenandoah valley as a diversion
 - McDowell defended Washington DC
 - Jackson defended Richmond against McClellan
- **Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks)** –Union defeat was prevented
- **Robert Lee assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia**
 - Attacked Union lines east of Richmond but failed to dislodge Union forces
 - McClellan criticized Lincoln, Lincoln replaced him with General Halleck

Second Bull Run

- McClellan and Pope defended Washington
- Generals Lee and Stonewall Jackson attacked Pope before McClellan's Army of the Potomac reached Washington—split Union forces
- **At Second Battle of Bull Run, Pope assumed that he faced only Jackson, but Lee's main army had joined in—Pope was crushed and dispatched to Minnesota to fight Indians**

Antietam

- **Lee pushed into North, bold plan was discovered in cigar wrappings**
 - McClellan failed to take action promptly
 - McClellan attacked Lee at **Battle of Antietam—bloodiest day**
 - Confederates retreated
 - Lincoln was not pleased—battle was not truly decisive
 - McClellan was removed
- **Battle of Antietam was the turning point in the war**

Fredericksburg

- **Antietam was significant turning point**
 - **Raised North morale, emboldened Lincoln to issue Emancipation Proclamation, dashed Confederacy's hope for foreign recognition**
- **Lincoln's worst choice:** appointed Ambrose Burnside as fighting general
- **Burnside attacked Confederates in Fredericksburg, Virginia and got owned**
- **Year 1862 ended with discontent**
 - Union morale decreased, northern Democrats called for negotiation, Radical Republicans pressured Lincoln, criticism of Burnside
- **Lincoln signed Emancipation Proclamation in 1863**

Emancipation

- **Initial promise to restore union and maintain slavery was challenged—emancipation encouraged**
 - Racial prejudice of the North—uneasy about racial integration but still opposed slavery
 - Lincoln would have to justify emancipation as a military necessity

A Measure of War

- **Fugitive slaves were being declared as free**
- 1862: Lincoln signed acts to abolish slavery in Washington DC, abolish in territories without compensation, **Second Confiscation Act** liberated slaves of all persons aiding the rebellion, forbade army to return runaways to border states
- **Lincoln decided that emancipation of Confederate slaves would be required for several reasons:**
 - **Slave labor bolstered the Rebel war effort**
 - **North needed a boost in morale**
 - **Public opinion was swinging toward emancipation**
- **Primary Emancipation proclamation 1862**
 - **Objective was to restore Union**
 - Lincoln favored proposals to compensate slaveholders
 - Immediate emancipation

Reactions to Emancipation

- **Tennessee and Union-controlled parts of Virginia and Louisiana were exempted from Emancipation Proclamation but many slaves claimed freedom anyway**

Blacks in Military

- **General recruitment of blacks was authorized by War Department in 1863**
 - It changed a war to preserve the Union into a revolution to transform the social, economic, and racial status quo in the South
- **By end of the war, 180,000 African Americans had served in U.S. Colored Troops regiments**
 - 80% were former slaves
 - 38,000 died
- **Three major steps occurred in 1865 when both Missouri and Tennessee abolished slavery by state action**
 - They passed an abolition amendment
 - **Thirteenth Amendment became part of the Constitution**
 - **By then, slavery only existed in the border states of Kentucky and Delaware**

Women and the War

- **Women on both sides played a prominent role**
 - Sewed uniforms, composed songs, raised money
 - U.S. Sanitary Commission
 - Medical relief
 - Provided aid to slaves
- **The most famous nurses were Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton**
- **Departure of men for the battlefield forced women to assume public and private roles**
 - In the south, Women suddenly found themselves farmers, plantation managers, clerks, teachers
 - Some served as spies, some cooked meals the army
- **Number of widows increased**

Government During the War

- **Freeing 4 million slaves and loosening the restraints on female activity constituted a momentous social and economic revolution**
- **Even broader revolution began as power in Congress shifted from South to North**
 - Several projects that had been stalled by sectionalism were completed
 - New protective tariff was passed, transcontinental railroad was approved, homestead act, National Banking Act, **Morrill Land Grant Act provided federal aid to state colleges of “agriculture and mechanic arts”**, and the **Contract Labor Act** encouraged importation of immigrant labor

Union Finances

- **Congress focused on three options to finance the war: raising taxes, printing money, borrowing**
 - Taxes came from Morrill tariff on imports, excise taxes on manufactures, and income tax
 - **Internal Revenue Act created the Internal Revenue Service**
- **Taxes alone were not sufficient—resorted to printing money**
 - **Legal Tender Act of 1862:** authorized \$450 million in paper money—greenbacks
 - Greenbacks could not be exchanged for specie
 - Their value relied public trust in government
- **Nationwide campaign to sell bonds—generated \$2 billion**

- For many businessmen, war-related ventures brought quick riches
 - **Wartime business laid groundwork for postwar economic boom**

Confederate Finances

- **Disaster from the start**
 - Levied export and import duties—but exports and imports were too low to generate much revenue
 - Income tax of 0.5% led to chaos
 - Desperation Confederate Congress began taxing everything in 1863—enforcement was poor

Union Politics and Civil Liberties

- **Radical Republicans pushed for confiscation of plantations, immediate emancipation, vigorous prosecution**
- **Majority of Republicans supported Lincoln's cautious approach**
 - **Party was united on economic policy**
- **Copperheads:** extreme fringe of peace Republicans preferred end to fighting, even if it risked the Union
- By Habeas Corpus Act of 1863, Congress authorized president to suspend habeas corpus in times of crisis
- **Democratic national convention in 1864 called for an end to the war**
 - George McClellan was nominated but he distanced himself from peace platform
- **Radical Republicans tried to thwart Lincoln's election for a second term**
- **Lincoln promoted Andrew Johnson for vice-president—war Democrat**
- **Lincoln won**

Confederate Politics

- **Davis's greatest challenge came from the politicians who had embraced secession and then guarded states' rights against the central government of the Confederacy as zealously as they had against the Union**
 - Georgia and North Carolina
- **The states' rights advocates challenged legality of draft, taxes on produce, suspension of habeas corpus**
- Davis was stubborn

❖ **Did Lincoln intend the Emancipation Proclamation to be a military, diplomatic, or humanitarian gesture?**

The Civil War and the Environment

- **Devastated ecology of the south**
 - Hog and horse population was decimated
 - Landscape, bridges, levees, dams, fencing, more mosquitoes

The Faltering Confederacy

Chancellorsville

- **Lincoln's search for a capable general turned to Joseph Hooker**
 - He failed his leadership at Chancellorsville
 - Defeated by Robert Lee, who predicted his diversionary plans—**peak of Lee's career**
 - Stonewall Jackson died

Vicksburg

- **Vicksburg = Confederate stronghold**
 - Ulysses S. Grant planned to split the Confederate in two by capturing Mississippi
 - Seized and destroyed supplies
- Union victory

Gettysburg

- **Joseph Johnston was now in charge of western Confederate forces—wanted to lure Grant’s army into Tennessee and relieve siege of Vicksburg**
 - If he could win major battle in the North, northern public opinion may end the war
- **Union Commander George Meade got reinforcements—had advantage on higher ground**
- **Confederates failed—it was successfully split in two**
- **Gettysburg Address:** Lincoln expressed pain and sorrow of civil war

Chattanooga

- **Union General William Rosecrans took Chattanooga and pursued General Braxton Bragg**
- **Confederates had numerical advantage**
- Union command sent reinforcements—Grant replaced Rosecrans
- Union won—Grant’s genius confirmed

The Confederacy’s Defeat

- Spreading sense of hopelessness in South
- Union’s main targets: General Joseph Johnston in Georgia and Lee’s army in Virginia
- Grant and Sherman vs. Lee and Johnston
- **Grant’s military strategy to end it all:**
 - Find enemy, strike quickly, keep moving on
 - Brutal simplicity

Grant’s Pursuit of Lee

- Grant’s men suffered heavier casualties but Confederates were running out of replacements
- **Union army was massacred at Cold Harbor**—Grant admitted it was his greatest mistake
- Petersburg became Lee’s prison—he got owned
 - Grant cut railroad arteries

Sherman’s March

- **Sherman laid plans for a march through central Georgia, where no organized Confederate armies remained**
 - Intention was to whip the rebels and make them fearful
- Confederate General Hood lured Sherman to pursue—did not take the bait
- **Battle of Franklin:** Confederates epic failed—Hood failed
- **Battle of Nashville:** Confederates were finished off
- **Meanwhile, Sherman razed Georgia**
 - Destroyed livestock, food, railroads, mills, but not houses, few crimes
- **By 1865, defeat of the Confederacy was obvious**
 - Desire for negotiation—but Jefferson Davis refused surrender

- Lincoln prepared for second term
 - Longed for peace
 - Irony of war
 - Christian virtues of forgiveness

Appomattox

- Lee's army abandoned Richmond and Petersburg—but escape route cut off
- Confederacy was dead—Jefferson Davis was captured
- **Lee met with Grant at Appomattox Court House—Confederate armies officially surrendered**

A Modern War

- **Civil War was the first modern war**
 - Scope was unprecedented
 - 620,00 Americans died
 - **Disease was the greatest threat to soldiers, killing twice as many as in battle**
 - **Killing was distant, impersonal, and mechanical**
 - New weapons, observation balloons, ironclad ships, rifles
- **Inherent weaknesses of the Confederacy**
 - Lack of industry
 - Fractious relations between states
 - Faulty communication and coordination
 - Burden of slavery
 - Disparities in resources

Battles to Know

Bull Run

Antietam

Gettysburg

Sherman's March

Grant

Lee

Stonewall Jackson

Merrimack vs. Monitor