

# JCC: American Civil War STUDY GUIDE

*haydarpaşanun'22*

## AMERICAN CIVIL WAR STUDY GUIDE

### Letter From the Under-Secretary General and Head of Crisis

Distinguished participants of the American Civil War

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the fifth edition of HaydarpaşaMUN as the conference's Head of Crisis and your Under-Secretary-General for this committee. Probably this is my first and last letter under HaydarpaşaMUN's roof because of me being a senior, but it gives me more and more aspiration to be a part of this event. Our academic team and especially our assistants worked so hard to make this conference , particularly special and crisis committees, remarkable and enjoyable for you and your MUN calendar in 2022.

I can't wait to see you and your directives in committee and make this year's HaydarpaşaMUN experience amazing for you. If you have any questions regarding the committee, study guide ,procedure or anything about the committee please do not hesitate to contact me via email. I would be very honored to respond to all of your questions if you have any.

With my best regards,

Kaan Berker

Head of Crisis and your Under-Secretary General

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### Letter from the Academic Assistants

Distinguished delegates of the Joint Crisis American Civil War Committee;

It is our utmost honor to welcome you all to the fifth annual edition of HaydarpaşaMUN as the academic assistants of the American Civil War Committee. We strive to give you the best experience you have ever experienced before in a MUN organization so we are as excited and motivated as you are to be a participant in this conference. We as the academic team worked non stop and put in all we can this year to make this conference enjoyable and unforgettable for both you and us.

If you have any question in your head that you would like to ask us about the committee, procedure or study guide please do not hesitate to contact us via email. We would be very happy to provide you with any assistance and response to all of your questions if you have any.

With our best regards,

Emir Arda Benli Durrin İliman Emir Fikret Sati

Academic Assistants of the Joint Crisis American Civil War Committee

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## **Introduction to the Committee**

In 1860 US presidential elections, the Republican Party contestant Abraham Lincoln was elected president. Seeing and disturbed by this, 11 Southern States seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. 313131

## **Interstate Relations and Trade**

The United States Civil War is often analyzed in terms of domestic policy, economics, and social issues. What is often neglected is the impact foreign relations had on the war and the influence the war had on future foreign relations. The apprehension by European powers to enter the war impacted both the Union and Confederacy economically, and really aided the Union by remaining neutral. As a result the War depicted the importance of the United States in the global economy, and provided a glimpse of the potential power of a unified United States.

The Economic impacts of the war were detrimental to all involved. The economy in the United States was hurt due to the focus on the war and mass casualties. European powers felt the impact as well. It was an intriguing dilemma because Britain and France refused to support the Confederate South, yet they relied heavily on Southern agriculture. This caused these powers to implore the United States to resolve this as quickly as possible. Furthermore that stance was clouded further with the blockades set up by the Union on Southern ports to ensure that international involvement or trade would not aid the efforts of the South. This was not taken well by European powers or Southerners in the United States because both economies thrived off of this trade, which in turn crippled the Southern economy. This made neutrality harder for the European powers to accept, yet they did so to ensure that if the Union emerged victorious that they would still have a healthy relationship. In a sense Europe was trying to ensure that the relations were not ruined during the war, and viewed slavery as immoral, thus siding with the South which was not recognized as a nation was simply out of the question. Therefore neutrality in a military and economic sense was their only course of action.

The Civil War was an interesting period in terms of national security. When the United States was at war with itself foreign powers were apprehensive in terms of military action. The economic importance made European powers pause before picking a side. In addition the Union attempted to not only gain the support of these nations, but also took measures such as the blockade to ensure that these European powers could not unintentionally aid the Confederacy economically. Furthermore the success of the Union solidified the strength of the United States despite the unprecedented number of casualties sustained during the war. This victory gave another level of legitimacy to the United States

in the minds of foreign powers. This was further exemplified when the United States helped repel French influence in Mexico following the Civil War.

The Civil War is often viewed as a humanitarian war, however, if this was the case France and perhaps even England would have sided with the Union. Both had already outlawed slavery, and openly criticized the United States for failing to do so. However the economic ties to the agriculture in southern states kept these powers from backing the Union. Instead these powers chose neutrality to ensure positive relations with both sides.

A clash in American ideologies caused the Civil War. In addition to that there were other ideologies that influenced foreign relations during and after the war. The Monroe Doctrine serves as an example. The philosophy behind it led Lincoln to threaten war against any country that recognizes the Confederacy, and the United States then repelled France from Mexico following the War. The Doctrine kept European powers out of the war.

In addition to the Monroe doctrine lingering, the Union ideology did as well because many of the following politicians following the war were war heroes, generals and so on. Thus the war directly impacted foreign policy by propelling individuals into office.

## **Slavery**

By the time of the American Revolution (1775–1783), the status of enslaved people had been institutionalized as a racial caste associated with African ancestry. During and immediately following the Revolution, abolitionist laws were passed in most Northern states and a movement developed to abolish slavery. The role of slavery under the United States Constitution (1789) was the most contentious issue during its drafting. Although the creators of the Constitution never used the word "slavery", the final document, through the three-fifths clause, gave slave owners disproportionate political power by augmenting the congressional representation and the Electoral College votes of slaveholding states. All Northern states had abolished slavery in some way by 1805; sometimes, abolition was a gradual process, and a few hundred people were still enslaved in the Northern states as late as the 1840 Census. Some slaveowners, primarily in the Upper South, freed their slaves, and philanthropists and charitable groups bought and freed others. The Atlantic slave trade was outlawed by individual states beginning during the American Revolution. The import trade was banned by Congress in 1808, although smuggling was common thereafter. It has been estimated that about 30% of congressmen who were born before 1840 were, at some time in their lives, owners of slaves.



The rapid expansion of the cotton industry in the Deep South after the invention of the cotton gin greatly increased demand for slave labor, and the Southern states continued as slave societies. The United States became ever more polarized over the issue of slavery, split into slave and free states. Driven by labor demands from new cotton plantations in the Deep South, the Upper South sold more than a million slaves who were taken to the Deep South. The total slave population in the South eventually reached four million. As the United States expanded, the Southern states attempted to extend slavery into the new western territories to allow proslavery forces to maintain their power in the country. The new territories acquired by the Louisiana Purchase and the Mexican Cession were the subject of major political crises and compromises. By 1850, the newly rich, cotton-growing South was threatening to secede from the Union, and tensions continued to rise. Bloody fighting broke out over slavery in the Kansas Territory. Slavery was defended in the South as a "positive good", and the largest religious denominations split over the slavery issue into regional organizations of the North and South.

When Abraham Lincoln won the 1860 election on a platform of halting the expansion of slavery, seven slave states seceded to form the Confederacy. Shortly afterward, the Civil War began on April 12, 1861, when Confederate forces attacked the U.S. Army's Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. Four additional slave states then joined the confederacy after Lincoln, on April 15, called forth in response "the militia of the several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand, in order to suppress" the rebellion. During the war some jurisdictions abolished slavery and, due to Union measures such as the Confiscation Acts and the Emancipation Proclamation, the war effectively ended slavery in most places. After the Union victory, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified on December 6 1865, prohibiting "slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime."



## **The Confederacy**

The seven states (South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, adding Texas in March before Lincoln's inauguration) established The Confederacy in February 1861 expanding it in May-July with the addition of Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina. With the fighting beginning in April four more slave states were admitted to the Confederation.

Southern nationalism was ascending and pride supported the common goal. Confederate nationalism fueled men to fight for "The Southern Cause". During its existence, the Confederacy was preceded with war. This Southern Cause intended, cultural and financial dependence on the South's slavery-based economy. This ongoing tribulation promoted Southern traditions, policies and moral questions over way

of life and put hatred on the Northern. Not only did political parties split, but national churches and interstate families were divided along sectional lines as the war approached.

Southern Democrats had chosen John Breckinridge as their candidate during the U.S. presidential election of 1860, but no Southern state voted him unanimously, as all of the other states recorded at least some popular votes for one or more of the other three candidates (Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas and John Bell). Support for these candidates, collectively, ranged from significant to an outright majority, with extremes running from 25% in Texas to 81% in Missouri. There were minority views everywhere, especially in the upland and plateau areas of the South, being particularly concentrated in western Virginia and eastern Tennessee.

Many writers have evaluated the Civil War as an American tragedy, "Brothers' War", pitting "brother against brother, father against son, kin against kin of every degree".

## **The Union**

During the American Civil War, the Union, which was known as the North as well, referred to the United States governed by the then President Abraham Lincoln. It was challenged by the secessionist Confederate States of America (CSA), informally called "the Confederacy " or "the South " by the public. The Union was given this name because of its common purpose of preserving the United States as a constitutional union. "Union" is a term used in the U.S. Constitution referring to the founding formation of the people, and to the states in union. It was also used synonymous with "the northern states loyal to the United States government" in the context of the Civil War. In this sense, the Union consisted of 20 free states and five border states..The border states were slave states that did not secede from the United States and they were Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri and after its ascension to statehood in 1863 West Virginia. These states faced the brunt of damage and destruction of the war both by armies and civilians orchestrating raid parties across borders and assassinations. The border states were also not included in the area of effect of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. It was a n executive order whic has set the 3.5 million slaves in the South free which meant as long as they crossed into the Union territory the were free .It is seen as one of the greatest success of Abraham Lincoln. Because of the proclamation the Confederacy lost the bulk of its labor forces and helped the Union gain international public opinion strongly on their side. Some 186,000 Black Civil War soldiers would join the Union Army by the time the war ended in 1865. The Gettysburg Address after the bloody and gruesome battle fought there by Lincoln was really impactful in lifting up the spirits of the Union army during the war which seemed like it would never end at the time and also changed the Union we know today after Civil War has ended defying his prediction that "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here", the Address became the most quoted speech in American history but even Abraham Lincoln was not a perfect leader and made mistakes from time to time and one of the most notables among them was

the usage of a blockade against the South known as the Anaconda Plan. The plan itself was a success but because a blockade was an act of war it had to be conducted against a sovereign state which went against Lincoln's plans who saw the South as secession and the Confederate army as rebels and forced other international powers to proclaim neutrality and gave the South belligerency. The Union Army was a new formation comprising mostly state units, together with units from the regular U.S. Army and was belittled by the Prussian inspectors for not boasting a small but well trained professional army who were present at both sides of the war at that time. The border states were essential as a supply base for the invasion of the Confederacy, and Lincoln realized he could not win the war without control of them, especially Maryland, which lay north of the national capital of Washington, D.C. The Northeast and upper Midwest provided the industrial resources for a mechanized war producing large quantities of munitions and supplies, as well as financing for the war. The Northeast and Midwest provided soldiers, food, horses, financial support, and training camps. Army hospitals were set up across the Union. Most Northern states had Republican governors who energetically supported the war effort and suppressed anti-war subversion, particularly that which arose in 1863–64. The Democratic Party strongly supported the war at the beginning in 1861, but by 1862, was split between the War Democrats and the anti-war element known as Peace Democrats, led by the extremist "Copperheads" who believed that the war was unconstitutional and it was not worth the cost even if it were to result in a victory. The Democrats made major electoral gains in 1862 in state elections, most notably in New York. They lost ground in 1863, especially in Ohio. In 1864, the Republicans campaigned under the National Union Party banner, which attracted many War Democrats and soldiers and scored a landslide victory for Lincoln and his entire ticket against Democratic candidate George B. McClellan. The war years were quite prosperous except where serious fighting and guerrilla warfare ravaged the countryside. Prosperity was stimulated by heavy government spending and the creation of an entirely new national banking system. The Union states invested a great deal of money and effort in organizing psychological and social support for soldiers' wives, widows, and orphans, and for the soldiers themselves. Most soldiers were volunteers, although after 1862 many volunteered in order to escape the draft and to take advantage of generous cash bounties on offer from states and localities. Draft resistance was notable in some larger cities, especially in parts of New York City, with its massive anti-draft riots of July 1863 and in some remote districts such as the coal mining areas of Pennsylvania

## **State Crisis**

Manifest destiny, a cultural belief that American citizens were destined to settle across North America which was quite popular among the public in the 19th century, heightened the conflict over slavery, as each new territory admitted to the Union faced the problematic question of whether to allow or prohibit

the highly controversial institution. Between 1803 and 1854, the United States achieved a vast expansion of territory through, purchase, Louisiana and Florida Purchase, negotiation, Oregon Treaty, and conquest like the Mexican-American War. At first, the new states which were born out of these territories entering the union were divided equally and carefully between slave and free states as to not upset the balance. Pro- and anti-slavery forces collided over the territories west of the Mississippi River. The Mexican–American War and the outcomes that came along with it was a key territorial event that led up to the war. As the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo finalized the conquest of northern Mexico west to California and their admission to the Union as territories in 1848, slaveholding interests were looking forward to expanding into these territories and adding them to their sphere of influence and perhaps Cuba and Central America as well. Prophetically, Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that "Mexico will poison us", referring to the ensuing divisions around whether the newly conquered lands would be a slave state or a free state. Northern "free soil" interests vigorously fought to block any further expansion of slave territory. The Compromise of 1850 over California set the balance as a free-soil state with strict and cruel laws for fugitive slaves, a political settlement after four years of strife in the 1840s over the issue. But the states which were admitted following California were all free: Minnesota in 1858, Oregon in 1859, and finally Kansas in 1861. In the Southern slave states, the question of the expansion of slavery westward to the newly acquired territories became explosive again. Both the South and the North drew the same conclusion: "The one with the power to give answer to the question of slavery for the territories was going to be the one to determine the future of slavery itself." By 1860, four distinct ideologies had emerged to answer the question of how much control the federal government had in the territories, and they all claimed they were sanctioned by the U.S. Constitution, implicitly or explicitly. The first of these conservative theories, represented by the Constitutional Union Party, which was dissolved one year after its formation, argued that the Missouri Compromise, a federal legislation that blocked the North's attempts to ban slavery's expansion into the newly established states once and for all by admitting Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state in exchange for legislation which prohibited slavery in the remaining territories of the Louisiana Purchase,, apportionment of territory north for free soil and south for slavery should become an amendment in the United States Constitution. The Crittenden Compromise, an unsuccessful attempt to incorporate slavery into the Constitution and make it impossible for future congresses to end it, of 1860 was an expression of this view. The second ideology of Congressional preeminence, championed by Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Party, stood strong on the idea that the Constitution did not force legislators to a policy of balance between slave and free soil—that slavery could be excluded in a territory as it was done in the Northwest Ordinance, the first time of an incorporated organized territory in the U.S., of 1787 at the discretion of Congress; thus establishing the framework that Congress could restrict human bondage, but never create it. The ill-fated Wilmot Proviso, an unsuccessful proposal in the Congress to prohibit slavery in acquired territory from the war with Mexico. If the Wilmot Proviso was successful it would have effectively canceled out the 1820 Missouri Compromise, passing the House but failing in the Senate, where the South had greater



representation. The conflict over the Wilmot Proviso was one of the key events that laid the groundwork for the Civil War, announcing this position in 1846. The Proviso was a historic moment in national politics, as it was the first time slavery had become a major congressional issue based on sectionalism and not on party lines. Its bipartisan support by northern Democrats and Whigs, and bipartisan opposition by southerners was telling of the divisions among the country. Senator Stephen A. Douglas introduced the third philosophy, territorial sovereignty, which held that settlers in a territory had the same rights as states in the Union to authorize or prohibit slavery on a purely local basis. The Kansas–Nebraska Act, a territorial organic act that created the territories of Kansas and Nebraska was introduced with the intention of opening up new lands to develop and facilitate the construction of a transcontinental railroad, but it is best known for effectively repealing the Missouri Compromise, stoking national tensions over slavery, and contributing to a series of armed conflicts known as "**Bleeding Kansas**", of 1854 legislated this doctrine. Years of pro-slavery and anti-slavery violence and political turmoil occurred in the Kansas Territory; the U.S. territory of Kansas was admitted as a free state by the House in early 1860, but it was not approved by the Senate until the southern senators left the Senate in January 1861. Mississippi Senator Jefferson Davis promoted the fourth philosophy, state sovereignty, sometimes known as the "Calhoun theory," after South Carolina political thinker and statesman John C. Calhoun. State sovereignty would allow states to encourage the expansion of slavery as part of the federal union under the U.S. Constitution, rejecting the arguments for federal authority or self-government. "States' rights" was a philosophy developed and implemented to further slave state interests through federal authority. The "Southern desire for federal slave protection signified a call for an unparalleled expansion of Federal power," according to historian Thomas L. Krannawitter. These four doctrines were the primary views provided to the American public on slavery, territories, and immigration., and the U.S. Constitution before the 1860 presidential election.

## **Bleeding Kansas**

Bleeding Kansas also known as the Border War was a series of brutal small-scale civil wars in the U.S. territory Kansas, and in a small part of Western Missouri, between the years 1854 and 1859. It started from an ideological debate over the legality of slavery in the suggested state of Kansas.

The conflict was defined by years of vote rigging, raids, assaults and assassinations which took place in Kansas and Missouri, conducted by the pro-slavery group known as the "Border Ruffians" and anti-slavery group known as the "Free-Staters". As stated by the Kansapedia of the Kansas Historical Society, there have been 56 documented political killings during the conflict that took place, and the total might be in the numbers of 200. It has been called a tragic prelude to the American Civil War which followed it shortly after.

The issue focused on the question of if Kansas, upon getting admitted into statehood, would allow slavery, like its neighbor Missouri, or ban it and join the Union as a slave or a free state. The issue was of utmost importance because the two new senators of Kansas could have upset the balance of power in the U.S. Senate, which was already highly divided over the issue of slavery. The Kansas–Nebraska Act of 1854 called for popular sovereignty, which meant that rather than politicians in Washington, the decision on slavery would be decided by a popular vote of the territory's settlers. Existing racial tensions over slavery were swiftly brought to a head in Kansas.

Kansas suffered through a state-level civil war that would soon be continued on a national basis. There were two different capitals, two different constitutions, and two different legislatures one for the slavery supporters and one for the free soilers. Both sides looked for and received assistance from outside, the pro-slavery side from Washington; Presidents Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan openly advocated for the pro-slavery partisans. Both said that they reflected the will of Kansans. The pro-slavers used force and threats of violence, and the free-soilers responded in kind. After great uproar, as well as a congressional inquiry, it became evident that most Kansans wanted their state to be free. This, however, required Congressional approval, which Southerners vetoed.

Seven states, all of them Southern seceded from the Union to form the unrecognized secessionist government known as the Confederation when Abraham Lincoln was elected President in early 1861, breaking the Congressional legislative impasse. The House of Representatives had previously authorized Kansas's admission as a free state, but Southern senators were blocking it. When the senators of the seceding states withdrew or were ejected from Congress early in 1861, Kansas was incorporated to the Union as a free state within days, according to the Wyandotte Constitution. While pro-Confederate forces in Missouri managed to secure a pro-Confederate administration acknowledged by and inducted to the Confederacy, by the end of 1861, the state's Unionist government was firmly in charge. Without holding Missouri, Confederate forces were never able to seriously threaten the newly admitted free state government in Kansas.

Nonetheless, at the start of the American Civil War in 1861, new guerilla violence showed up again on the Kansas-Missouri border, which would occasionally continue until the war's end.

### **Comparison of The Union and The Confederation**

At first glance it seemed that the 23 states that remained in the Union after secession were more than a match for the 11 Southern states. Approximately 21 million people lived in the North, compared with some nine million in the South of whom about four million were slaves. In addition, the North was the

site of more than 100,000 manufacturing plants, against 18,000 south of the Potomac River, and more than 70 percent of the railroads were in the Union. Furthermore, the Federals had at their command a 30-to-1 superiority in arms production, a 2-to-1 edge in available manpower, and a great preponderance of commercial and financial resources. The Union also had a functioning government and a small but efficient regular army and navy. The Confederacy was not predestined to defeat, however. The Southern armies had the advantage of fighting on interior lines, and their military tradition had bulked large in the history of the United States before 1860. Moreover, the long Confederate coastline of 3,500 miles (5,600 km) seemed to defy blockade, and the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, hoped to receive decisive foreign aid and intervention. Confederate soldiers were fighting to achieve a separate and independent country based on what they called "Southern institutions," the chief of which was the institution of slavery. So the Southern cause was not a lost one; indeed, other countries—most notably the United States itself in the American Revolution against Britain—had won independence against equally heavy odds.

### **Civil War Tactics and Strategies**

Tactics is the military art of maneuvering troops on the field of battle to achieve victory in combat. 'Offensive tactics' seek success through attacking; 'defensive tactics' aim at defeating enemy attacks. In Civil War tactics, the principal combat arm was infantry. Its most common deployment was a long "line of battle," 2 ranks deep. More massed was the "column," varying from 1 to 10 or more companies wide and from 8 to 20 or more ranks deep. Less compact than column or line was "open-order" deployment: a strung-out, irregular single line.

Battle lines delivered the most firepower defensively and offensively. Offensive firepower alone would not ensure success. Attackers had to charge, and massed columns, with their greater depth, were often preferable to battle lines for making frontal assaults. Better yet were flank attacks, to "roll up" thin battle lines lengthwise. Offensive tacticians sought opportunity for such effective flank attacks; defensive tacticians countered by "refusing" these flanks on impassable barriers. In either posture, tacticians attempted to coordinate all their troops to deliver maximum force and firepower and to avoid being beaten "in detail". Throughout, they relied on open-order deployment to cover their front and flanks with skirmishers, who developed the enemy position and screened their own troops.

Open order was best suited for moving through the wooded countryside of America. That wooded terrain, so different from Europe's open fields, for which tactical doctrine was aimed, also affected tactical control. Army commanders, even corps commanders, could not control large, far-flung forces. Instead, army commanders concentrated on strategy. And corps commanders handled "grand tactics": the medium for translating theater strategy into battlefield tactics, the art of maneuvering large forces

just outside the battlefield and bringing them onto that field. Once on the field, corps commanders provided overall tactical direction, but their largest practical units of tactical maneuver were divisions. More often, brigades, even regiments, formed those maneuver elements. Essentially, brigades did the fighting in the Civil War.

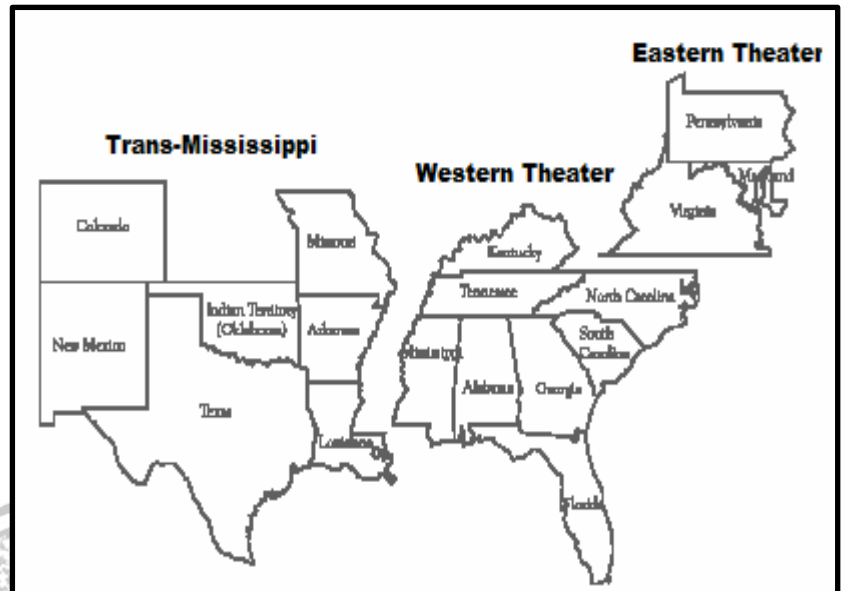
Besides affecting organization, difficult terrain helped relegate cavalry and artillery to lesser tactical roles. More influential there was the widespread use of long-range rifled shoulder arms. As recently as the Mexican War, when most infantry fired smoothbore muskets, cavalry and artillery had been key attacking arms. Attempting to continue such tactics in the Civil War proved disastrous, as infantry rifle power soon drove horsemen virtually off the battlefield and relegated artillery to defensive support. Rifle power devastated offensive infantry assaults, too, but senior commanders, who were so quick to understand its impact on cannon and cavalry, rarely grasped its effect on infantry. By 1864, infantry customarily did erect light field fortifications to strengthen its defensive battlefield positions and protect itself from enemy rifle power; but when attacking, whether against battle lines or fortifications, infantry continued suffering heavy casualties through clinging to tactical formations outmoded by technology. But if infantry was slow to learn, other arms swiftly found new tactical roles. The new mission of the artillery was to bolster the defensive, sometimes with 1 battery assigned to each infantry brigade, but more often with 1 battalion assigned to a Confederate infantry division and 1 brigade to a Federal infantry corps. With long-range shells and close-in canisters, artillery became crucial in repulsing enemy attacks. But long-range shelling to support ones own attack had minimal effect, and artillery assaults were soon abandoned as suicidal. Throughout, artillery depended almost entirely on direct fire against visible targets.

Cavalry, in the meantime, served most usefully in scouting for tactical intelligence and in screening such intelligence from the foe. By midwar, moreover, cavalry was using its mobility to seize key spots, where it dismounted and fought afoot. Armed with breech-loading carbines, including Federal repeaters by 1864-65, these foot cavalry fought well even against infantry. Only rarely did mounted cavalry battle with sabers and pistols. Rarer still were mounted pursuits of routed enemies.

Cavalry so infrequently undertook such pursuits chiefly because defeated armies were rarely routed. Size of armies, commitment to their respective causes by individual citizen-soldiers, difficult terrain, and impact of fortifications and technology all militate against the Napoleonic triumph, which could destroy an enemy army--and an enemy country--in just 1 battle. Raised in the aura of Napoleon, most Civil War commanders sought the Napoleonic victory, but few came close to achieving it. 60 years after Marengo and Austerlitz, warfare had so changed that victory in the Civil War would instead come through strategy. Yet within that domain of strategy, not just 1 battle but a series of them--and the tactics through which they were fought--were the crucial elements in deciding the outcome of the Civil War.

## Theaters of the Civil War

There were three Theaters of the Civil War, a phrase that describes the areas where the major battles of the Civil War took place. The military operations of the Civil War were conducted in the Eastern, Western and Trans-Mississippi theaters of war. Theaters of War are the areas of land, and water that is, or may become, directly involved in the military battles and conduct of the war.



**Three Theaters of the Civil War:** Map defines the areas between the Western Theater, the Eastern Theater and the Trans-Mississippi Theater of War. The majority of the battles of the Civil War were fought in Virginia in the Eastern Theater. The greatest number of battles, including skirmishes and small conflicts by states, were as follows:

Virginia: 2,154   Tennessee: 1,462   Missouri: 1,162   Mississippi: 772   Arkansas: 771

### The Eastern Theater

The Eastern Theater comprised the area east of the Appalachians in the locality of the rival capitals of Washington of the Union and Richmond of the Confederacy.

- The Eastern Theater included the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and the seaports of North Carolina
- The Eastern Theater was important because not only did it include the capitals it also covered densely populated and highly industrial regions
- The two major armies that fought in the Eastern Theater were the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia
- Generals who led the armies in the Eastern Theater of the Civil War were Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan for the North and Lee, Jackson, and Longstreet for the South.
- The major battles fought in the Eastern Theater of the Civil War included the Battle of Bull Run at Manassas, the Battle of Antietam, and the great Battle of Gettysburg.



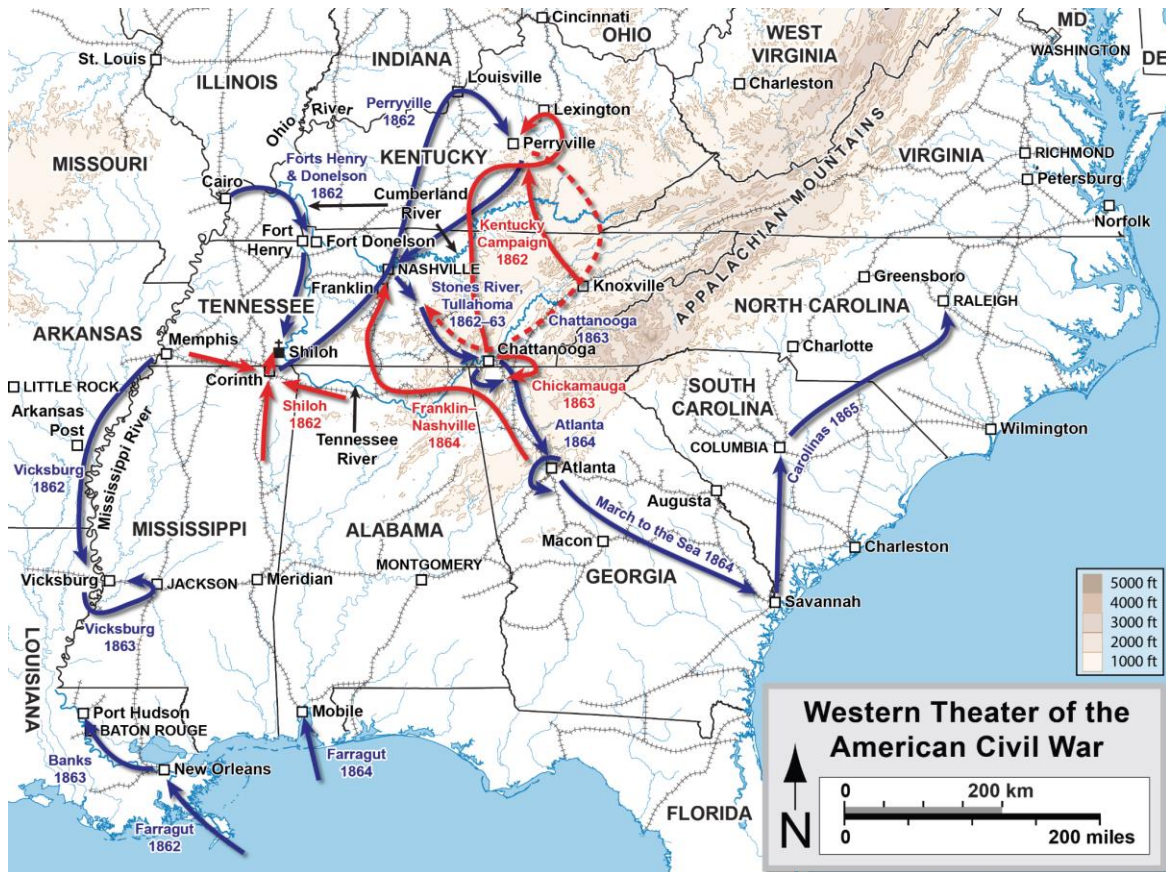
## The Western Theater

The Western Theater of the Civil War comprised the area west of the Appalachians and east of the Mississippi River.



- The Western Theater primarily took place in the states of Tennessee, Mississippi and Georgia
- The major battles fought in the Western Theater of the Civil War included the Battle of Shiloh, the Battle of New Orleans, the Battle of Stones River, Battle of Chickamauga and the Battle of Vicksburg.
- Generals who led the armies in the Western Theater Grant, Halleck, Sherman, Buell, and Rosecrans for the North and Johnston, P.G.T. Beauregard, and Braxton Bragg for the South.





### Trans-Mississippi theater of war

The Trans-Mississippi theater of the Civil war covered everything from the Mississippi River west to the Pacific Ocean.

- The Theater took place in the states of Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, the Indian Territory (Oklahoma), Louisiana, and Texas.
- The major battles fought in the Trans-Mississippi Theater included the battles of Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Westport and Wilson's Creek
- Over 200,000 men were engaged in the Trans-Mississippi theater of war

The Trans-Mississippi theater generally receives the least attention but it was extremely important. The Union forces split the Confederacy by taking control of the Mississippi River, which served as a natural divide, with the Confederate States of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas to the Southern states west of the river. Control of the Mississippi River dividing the far western states allowed the passage of





the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas. They focused their efforts on major ports and on keeping larger shipments of goods from making it through



The Anaconda Plan Map explains the nickname given to this military strategy. The adoption of the strategy was to crush the life out of the Confederacy, just as the lethal anaconda snake uses constriction to subdue their prey. The proposal was described as the means "to squeeze the South to military death". Its intention was to demoralize the South by starving them out using the blockade tactic forcing the Southerners to surrender and return to the Union. Elements of the Anaconda Plan were at first criticized as being too passive, but it reappeared in aggressive form when General William T. Sherman employed the destructive "scorched earth policy" during his March to the Sea following the capture of Atlanta.

#### The 4 Parts of the Anaconda Plan

**Part 1 of the Anaconda Plan:** To establish a naval blockade around the whole coast of the South in order to prevent the export of cotton, indigo, tobacco, and other cash crops from the South and to keep the South from importing essential war supplies and provisions

**Part 2 of the Anaconda Plan:** To divide the South by controlling the Mississippi River and cutting the South off from the west, as shown in the Map of the Civil War Trans-Mississippi and Western theaters of war

**Part 3 of the Anaconda Plan:** To further divide the South by capturing the Tennessee River Valley and marching through Georgia to the Atlantic coast

**Part 4 of the Anaconda Plan:** To capture Richmond, Virginia, located in the Eastern Theater of War and the home of a great arsenal and armory for the Confederate States Army.

As Richmond was also the capital of the Confederate States of America its capture would be a devastating psychological blow to the South



## The Political Course of the War

During the next four years after the southern secession and the eruption of the war, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis pursued similar policies to outmaneuver each other. In the early stage of the war, both presidents relied on volunteers to build up their army. However, both sides were not prepared to arm and equip hordes of young men effectively into the war. This led both sides to unwillingly restore conscription as the fighting progressed. -the Confederates first, in early 1862, and the Federal government more slowly, with the ineffective measure of late 1862 and a more rigid law in 1863.

As for economics, both governments pursued a necessarily laissez-faire policy, by showing little to no effort in controlling the prices, profits or wages. Both sides were ineffective in coping with the financing of the war, and did not develop a constructive taxation system until the end of the conflict. They heavily relied on borrowing, thus faced a shortage of funds and were forced to turn to the printing press to issue fiat money. The Confederacy printed over 1.554 million USD while the Union printed 432 million. This caused runaway inflation on both sides, experienced much more dramatically in the south with flour being sold at 1.000 USD by the end of the war. The poorly managed economic policies would affect public opinion and the army, as life conditions deteriorated and supplementation became harder and harder.

Both sides also shared similar approach to slavery. The Confederate constitution expressed its guarantee toward the institution of Slavery. On the Union side, Lincoln did not make any changes towards abolishment of slavery despite the pressure from abolitionists because he feared this might disrupt the loyalty of the four slave states which did not secede from the Union.-Maryland, Delaware,



Kentucky and Missouri. However, both sides gradually moved towards ending slavery. Lincoln saw that the emancipation of African Americans would deprive the Confederates of their productive labor force and increase the Union's manpower as blacks would be recruited to their army. It would also provide a favorable European opinion towards the Northern cause. In September 1862, Lincoln's preliminary proclamation of emancipation was issued, promising to free all slaves in enemy territory by 1863. As the Confederates remained obstinate, Lincoln then continued with his promised final proclamation. And then the conscription of African Americans to the army began. By the end of the war, 178,895 African Americans served in the Union's army.

The Confederacy on the other hand, though much stubbornly and slowly, drifted in the way of emancipation. But these changes only began to the end of the war, when the south found itself in desperate need for troops. Many military men including Robert E. Lee demanded the recruitment of African Americans. Finally in March 1865 the Confederates decided to raise the number of black regiments in the Confederate army. However, no African American actively served in the Confederate Army because surrender was at hand by the time of their recruitment. The Confederate government also proposed the emancipation of the slaves in exchange for diplomatic recognition from European countries in March 1865, though nothing came out of the proposal. All these actions taken by both the north and the south towards the end of the war show that they both realised slavery was doomed.

Both Lincoln and Davis faced problems of disloyalty on their own sides. On Lincoln's side, southern born northwestern settlers and Irish immigrants were hostile towards African Americans thus, the abolishment of slavery. Furthermore, many northerners became disaffected and tired of the insufferable consequences of war. On Davis's side, residents of the Southern hill country were hostile towards him since slavery never had much of a foothold there. In order to keep up the fight, both leaders had to strengthen their central authorities, but this led them to be attacked by state governors who were resented by the encroachment upon their authority and wanted to keep their local autonomy. When the congressional elections came in 1862, the extent of Northern dissatisfaction was indicated and Lincoln and his party sustained a severe rebuff at the polls and the Republican majority in the House of Representatives was reduced drastically. In the Confederacy, the elections of 1863 went so strongly against Davis's administration that he could only hold onto the majority by the continued support from senators and representatives of the upper south, which were under the control of the Federal army and were unable to hold new elections. In late August 1864, Lincoln was expecting a defeat from his opponent George B. McClellan. However, recent Federal victories, especially the fall of Atlanta, strengthened Lincoln and restored his popularity and he won the election. On the contrary, Davis was losing public support with each defeat.

## **Timeline**

### **1860**

**November 6:** Abraham Lincoln got elected as the President of United States from Republican Party

### **1861**

**February 9:** Confederate States of America is formed under the presidency of Jefferson Davis

**April 12:** Under the Leadership of General Pierre Beauregard Confederate states attacked Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. This event marked the beginning of the war.

**April 17** Virginia joined Confederate States within 5 weeks many states seceded from Union which contains Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina.

**April 19** President Lincoln established a blockade against Southern Ports

**July 4** President Lincoln in a speech to Congress mentioned the War and the Congress authorized a call for 500,000 men to the Army.

**July 21** Confederate General Thomas Jackson defeated an Union army which was commanded by General Irwin McDowell. In 25 miles Southwest of Washington.

**July 27** President Lincoln appointed George McClellan as Commander of the Department of the Potomac replacing McDowell.

**November 1** President Lincoln appoints McClellan as general-in-chief of all Union forces after the resignation of the aged Winfield Scott.

**November 8** - The beginning of an international diplomatic crisis for President Lincoln as two Confederate officials sailing toward England are arrested by the U.S. Navy. England demanded their release and threatened war. Lincoln eventually gave orders for their release in December. "One war at a time," Lincoln remarks.

### **1862**

**January 31** President Lincoln gave General Order No.1 and called all OF US's naval and land forces to a general advance on Confederate States

**February 6** General Ulysses S. Grant captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson

**February 20** President Lincoln's son Willie died of a fever.

**February 25** Nashville is first Confederate state capital to fall to Union troops in the Civil War

**March** Peninsular campaign of the Civil War starts.

**March 8-9** The Confederate Ironclad 'Merrimac' sinks two wooden Union ships then battles the Union Ironclad 'Monitor' to a draw

**April 6-7** Confederate states organize a surprise attack on Ulysses' army at Shiloh on Tennessee River The Battle resulted with with 13,000 Union killed and wounded and 10,000 Confederates

**April 24** 17 Union ships under the leadership of Admiral David Farragut move up the Mississippi River then take New Orleans, the South's greatest seaport.

**May 31** The Battle of Seven Pines Happened General Joseph E. Johnston's Army attacks McClellan's troops in front of Richmond at the result Confederate States were close to victory but Johnston got wounded badly

**June 1** General Robert Lee takes command, replacing the wounded Johnston

**June 25-July 1** The Seven Days Battles started with Lee's attack on McClellan near Richmond. resulting in very heavy losses for both armies. in the end McClellan withdrew back toward Washington.

**August 29-30** 75,000 Federals under General John Pope fought with 55,000 Confederates under General Stonewall Jackson and General James Longstreet this battle ended in favor of Confederate States.

**September 4-9** Lee marched to the North with 50,000 Confederates and headed for Harpers Ferry, located 50 miles northwest of Washington. The Union Army, which contains 90,000 soldiers, under the command of McClellan, pursued Lee.

**September 17** The bloodiest day in U.S. military history happened when General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Armies were stopped at Antietam in Maryland by McClellan and numerically superior Union forces.

**September 22** A Proclamation for freeing slaves established by President Lincoln.

**November 7** The president replaced McClellan with General Ambrose E. Burnside as the new Commander of the Army of the Potomac. Lincoln couldn't be more patient with McClellan's slowness to follow up on the success at Antietam

**December 13** Army of the Potomac under General Burnside suffers a costly defeat at Fredericksburg in Virginia with a loss of 12,653 men after 14 assaults on well prepared Rebels on Marye's Heights. Confederate losses were 5,309.

**1863**

**January 1** President Lincoln established the final Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in territories held by Confederates and emphasizes the enlisting of black soldiers in the Union Army.

**January 25** The president appointed General Joseph Hooker as Commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Burnside.

**January 29** General Grant is assigned in command of the Army of the West, with orders to capture Vicksburg.

**March 3** The U.S. Congress enacts a draft, which is for male citizens aged 20 to 45, but also exempts those who pay \$300 or provide a substitute.

**May 1-4** The Union Army under leadership of General Hooker is decisively defeated by Lee's much smaller forces at the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia, Confederate General Stonewall Jackson is mortally wounded by his own soldiers. Hooker retreats. Union losses are 17,000 killed, wounded and missing out of 130,000. The Confederates, 13,000 out of 60,000.

**May 10** Stonewall Jackson died from his Wounds.

**June 3** General Lee with 75,000 Confederates launches his second invasion of the North, heading into Pennsylvania which will soon lead to Gettysburg.

**June 28** President Lincoln assigned General George Meade as commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Hooker.

**July 1-3** The Battle of Gettysburg is one of the most famous battles in American history. The North wins a decisive victory, and the Union begins to win the Civil War. The Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania resulted in a large number of casualties.

**July 4** The Siege of Vicksburg is a battle that took place in the United States city of Vicksburg. After a six-week siege, General Ulysses Grant captures Vicksburg, the last Confederate bastion on the Mississippi River. The Confederacy is effectively split in two and cut off from its western soldiers in the Civil War now that the Union has control of the Mississippi.

**July 13-16** Arson and the murder of blacks by poor white immigrants are among the anti-draft riots in New York City. Returning Union soldiers from Gettysburg restore order.

**July 18** Colonel Robert G. Shaw's 'Negro troops' of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment attack Fort Wagner, South Carolina. Colonel Shaw is killed, along with half of the regiment's 600 soldiers.

**August 10** During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln meets with abolitionist Frederick Douglass to discuss equality for Union 'Negro troops.'

**August 21** William C. Quantrill, a Confederate, raids Lawrence, Kansas and kills 182 men.

**September 18-20** General Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee leads the Confederates to victory at Chickamauga.

**October 16** General Grant is appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to supervise all Civil War activities in the western theater.

**November 19** President Abraham Lincoln gives the worldly famous two-minute speech "Gettysburg Address," dedicating a part of the Gettysburg battlefield as a national cemetery.

**November 23-25** Chattanooga is a Union victory. General Grant defeats General Braxton Bragg's siege force.

**1864**



**March 9** General Grant is appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to command all of the United States' troops in the Civil War. Grant's successor as commander in the west is General William T. Sherman.

**May 4** In the Civil War, the opening of a large campaign involving all Union armies. General Grant leads a force of 120,000 men into Richmond, Virginia, where he would face General Lee's army of 64,000. The Conflicts of the Wilderness (May 5-6), Spotsylvania (May 8-12), and Cold Harbor (June 1-3) are the next major battles.

In the west, General Sherman leads a force of 100,000 men into Atlanta, where they would face the 60,000-strong Army of Tennessee led by Joseph E. Johnston.

**June 15** The Civil War's nine-month Siege of Petersburg begins with General Grant's men encircling Lee.

**September 2** General Sherman's army captures the city of Atlanta. With 62,000 men, General Sherman begins the Civil War's devastating "scorched earth doctrine" and the March to the Sea.

**November 8** During the Civil War, Democrat George B. McClellan is defeated and Abraham Lincoln is re-elected president.

**December 15-16** At Nashville, the Union triumphs. General Hood's 23,000-strong Rebel Army is annihilated at Nashville by 55,000 Union troops led by General George H. Thomas.

**December 21** During the Civil War, General Sherman's March to the Sea reaches Savannah, Georgia, leaving a 300-mile path of blazing ruin 60 miles wide from Atlanta to Savannah.

## 1865

**January 31** During the Civil War, Congress passes the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which abolishes slavery.

**February 3** President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens held a four-hour peace session at Hampton Roads, Virginia, in an attempt to stop the American Civil War.

**March 4** In the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated in Washington.

**March 25** General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia launches its final onslaught against General Grant's men at Petersburg.

**April 9** Following the Battle of Appomattox Court House in Virginia, General Robert E. Lee ceded his Confederate Forces to General Ulysses S. Grant.

**April 14** At Ford's Theatre, President Abraham Lincoln is killed by John Wilkes Booth. Andrew Johnson, the vice president, takes over as president.

**April 18** Near Durham, North Carolina, General Joseph E. Johnston capitulates to General Sherman.

**May 12-13** Palmito Ranch is a Confederate victory. The American Civil War's final significant battle.

The Civil War comes to a conclusion as all surviving Confederate forces surrender to the Union.

**Reconstruction of the South (1865-1877)** In the aftermath of the Civil War Federal forces occupy the South while state governments and economies are created and the South's infrastructure is restored.

*haydar yazman*