

AP US History

Chapter 13 - The Impending Crisis

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Key Concepts

What are this chapter's key concepts?

- **5.1.I.D** - Civil War → increased Westward migration due to promoting legislation
- **5.2.II.D** - Lincoln won w/o any Southern votes → majority of slave states seceded → Civil War
- **5.3.I.A** - Despite opposition on home fronts, both sides of Civil War underwent economic/social preparation to fight
- **5.3.I.B** - Lincoln began war w/ goal to preserve Union, but Emancipation Proclamation → Europe would not support Confederacy, Afr. Americans fought for Union
- **5.3.I.C** - Lincoln's powerful speeches (like Gettysburg Address) portrayed slavery as in violation of democracy
- **5.3.I.D** - Union won war due to ↑ leadership, strategy (including destruction of Southern infrastructure), resources,

The Secession Crisis

What caused several Southern states to secede and how did the North react?

Secession began in South Carolina and was sparked by Lincoln's election; six states followed, forming the Confederacy. Crittenden led the effort for compromise which was supported by Southern senators, but Northern Republicans would not sacrifice their ideals. The Civil War began after the South took over Fort Sumter, pitting the Union, advantaged in materials, population, and transportation, against the South, with a firmer commitment and the defensive ability of fighting on home territory.

Where did secession begin and what were initial reactions?

- SC (known for radical ideas) unanimously seceded in December 1860; MS, FL, AL, GA, LA, TX seceded by Lincoln's inauguration
 - February 1861: seven seceded states met in AL, formed Confederate States of America
 - Federal government indecisive: Buchanan told Congress that fed. govt. could not intervene in secession
- Seceded states took over federal property, justifying with anger/betrayal at Lincoln's election; Fort Sumter (SC)/Fort Pickens (FL), federal forts, not easily given up
 - Initial attacks on forts unsuccessful
 - Buchanan ordered fortifications in Jan. 1861, even exchanging shots
 - Neither side admitted beginning of war

Secession began in South Carolina, quickly spreading to six other Southern states, who soon formed the Confederacy. The federal government was initially powerless to respond: Buchanan felt Congress had no right. After some seceded states began to take over federal property, however, the Union retaliated by fortifying Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens and fighting back.

What attempts were made at compromise?

- Sen. John Crittenden of KY formed Crittenden Compromise, constitutional amendments allowing for permanent slavery, Fugitive Slave Act, reestablishment of MO Compromise
 - Southerners in Senate accepted; Republicans would not
- Lincoln snuck into DC for inauguration due to fear of attack, giving inaugural address reprimanding secession and promising preservation of federal property

Although the Crittenden Compromise aimed to give the South permanent slavery, formally establish the Fugitive Slave Act, and reinstate the Missouri Compromise and the Southern senators accepted it, the Republicans would not due to its fundamental disagreement with their party's ideals. Lincoln stood by his party at his inaugural address, promising that seceding states would be punished.

How did the Civil War begin at Fort Sumter?

- Sumter conditions quickly ↓ but Lincoln felt critical symbol of power of Union → sent relief supplies (w/o troops)
- Confederacy conflicted betw. cowardly decision of submitting to federal govt. and aggressive one of attacking Fort
 - Chose to attack under General Beauregard
 - Bombarded for 2 days → Major Robert Anderson forced to surrender, beginning Civil War on Apr. 14, 1861
- Lincoln felt secession infringed upon American liberty → mobilized North in conjunction w/ VA, AR, NC, TN seceding; border slave states pressured by DC to side w/ Union
- Central question: could war have been avoided? Sect. tensions had grown so large → something had to change
 - North/South felt civilizations were 100% incompatible → both sides supported war

The South chose to continue attacking Fort Sumter for fear of seeming cowardly; after they took it over and drove out the Union forces, Lincoln prepared the North for war as four more states seceded. The war began due to both the North and South feeling they were mutually incompatible.

What were the differences between the two sides of the war?

- North had material advantages: double pop., greater army/workforce, able to manufacture war materials (while South relied on Europe)
 - North had more reliable transportation system by rail w/ greater integration
- South had advantage of fighting war on home turf against North on hostile territory
 - Southern whites entirely committed to war while Northern far more divided
 - South believed English/French textile industries needed cotton → instant support

The North had material advantages on paper, with a greater population, larger army, more power to create war materials for themselves, and an integrated transportation network. However, the South generally fought defensively on their home territory, were far more committed to the war, and hoped for the support of Europe.

The Mobilization of the North

How did the North mobilize their troops for battle?

The North implemented critical economic changes under Republican dominance and, as a result, saw the growth of several industries and unions. However, these changes alone were often insufficient to finance the war and raise armies: Congress relied on loans from and conscriptions of the people themselves. After the war began, Lincoln shifted his view on slavery, siding with the growing radicalist movement pushing for immediate emancipation, eventually signing the Emancipation Proclamation and allowing Southern blacks to join the Union forces without ramification. Despite being free to join Union forces, these blacks were often assigned menial tasks but still took their contributions with pride. Finally, the war promoted the feminist movement, with countless women becoming nurses and feeling empowered by a newfound freedom associated with the emancipation of slavery.

What economic changes were implemented by the North given Republican power in Congress?

- Homestead Act of 1862 allowed prospective citizens to claim 160 acres of land, purchase cheaply if inhabited for 5 yrs.
- Morrill Land Grant Act gave public acreage to state govt. for public education → several state colleges/universities
- Tariff bills → raised duties to unprecedented levels → domestic industries protected from foreign competition
- Transcontinental railroad w/ two companies
 - Union Pacific Railroad Company to build westward from Omaha
 - Central Pacific Railroad Company to build eastward from CA
 - Two would meet in the middle, completing link
- National Bank Acts of 1863-1864 → national bank system
 - Existing banks to join if enough capital, willing to invest in govt. securities; allowed to issue U.S. Treasury notes

The Northern Republicans, with Southern competitors out of the way, made land more accessible both to the public and to state governments for personal use and education, raised duties to support domestic industries, formed two railroad companies to create a transcontinental railroad, and began a national banking system.

How did the North finance the war?

- Congress ↑ taxes on most goods/services, creating income tax in 1861; heavily opposed
- Paper currency equally controversial: no gold/silver to back
 - Fluctuated based on army's success → govt. used limited amounts
- Greatest source: loans from ppl. w/ Treasury convincing Americans to buy \$400m in bonds, paired w/ banks/large corporations assisting

Congress implemented some widely opposed changes of raised taxes and paper currency (used in limited amounts), but mainly relied on loans from the people through bonds as well as from banks.

How did the North begin to raise armies?

- 2 million men fought in the Union in total, but the U.S. federal army began at only 16k (mostly in the West to prevent native rebellions)
- Lincoln raised regular army but knew that state militia volunteers were critical
 - Authorized 500k volunteers in Congress: initially adequate but sunk with enthusiasm
- Forced to issue draft for any young adult male; could escape by paying \$300 or hiring someone else
 - Conscription odd to ppl. used to remote govt. → opposition from laborers, immigrants, Democrats often leading to violence
 - Only ≈ 46k were drafted but → increased voluntary enlistment
 - Irish workers led one of deadliest American riots in NYC in 1863, lynching blacks due to fear of war → more competition for jobs

The primary sources for Northern armies were volunteers from state militias and drafted men. The concept of drafting enraged Americans happy with a distant and remote government, sparking a riot led by Irish workers in NYC who opposed the war due to a fear of more African Americans threatening their jobs.

What was the political state of the North during the war?

- Lincoln initially seen as inexperienced politician easy to control, but quickly asserted dominance
 - Established cabinet made up of all Republican factions, many of whom opposed his presidency
 - Violated aspects of Constitution (saw as better than losing it all): declared war, grew army, established blockade w/o Congress
- Lincoln experienced great opposition from Peace Democrats fearing reduced influence of agricultural Northwest, states' rights
 - Retaliated by arresting dissenters with no right to be released even if arrested unlawfully; initially for border states but soon extended to all
 - Congressman Vallandigham of OH arrested, exiled to Confederacy after claiming war intended to free blacks but enslave whites
 - Ignored Taney's written demand for MD secessionist leader to be freed
- Lincoln built support w/ pro-war advertisements supported by photography group (led by Mathew Brady) to show terrible images of war
 - Images met some w/ revulsion but many w/ patriotism and a desire to preserve the Union

Lincoln asserted a dominant position without difficulty in the Senate, often freely violating the Constitution for the sake of the war. He was opposed by Peace Democrats arguing for states' rights, but persecuted those who spoke against him. To build popular support for the war, he created public advertisements as well as drafted photographers to take jarring images of the destruction of the battles.

What was the result of the election of 1864?

- Republicans lost heavily in 1862 midterms → party leaders created Union Party, linking Republicans w/ War Democrats: nominated Lincoln and TN's Andrew Johnson (War Democrat)
- Democrats selected George B. McClellan, Union general relieved by Lincoln; although McClellan disagreed w/ Democratic goal for a truce, party continued to argue
- Major Northern victories (capture of Atlanta) → Republicans empowered w/ large majority of electoral votes but only 10% greater popular vote

With the Republicans hurt in the 1862 midterms, they formed the Union Party to join forces with Democrats supporting the war. Lincoln was pitted against Peace Democrat McClellan, a former general. Lincoln won the election in large part due to luck: the election coincided with significant Northern victories in the battle.

How did emancipation play a central role in the Civil War?

- Republicans split across lines of slavery: radicals (like Thaddeus Stevens, Sumner, Wade) sought immediate abolishment while conservatives sought more gradual process
- Support grew for emancipation near beginning of war
 - Confiscation Act declared slaves used to fight for Confederacy as freed
 - Radicals pushed second Confiscation Act, declaring slaves of any person fighting for the Confederacy as freed and allowing Afr. Americans (including freed slaves) to fight for Union
 - Radicals gradually grew in Republican party → Lincoln became their leader
- Sept. 1862: after victory at Antietam, Lincoln announced intention for emancipation; signed Emancipation Proclamation on Jan 1st, 1863
 - Effectively freed all slaves in Confederacy (places not already controlled by Union, like border states, WV, southern LA, TN)
 - Immediate effect insignificant (territories still controlled by Confederacy), but established war as one also against slavery
- True liberating factor for slaves was war itself
 - Confederacy often took slaves from plantations and employed to build defenses → close to border → easily escaped
 - Masters immediately lost any right to them → flocked to Union Army, some joining and others looking to reach free states
- As war ended, MD and MO had already abolished, as had TN, AR, and LA; Thirteenth Amendment did final duty

Republicans were divided into radicals, who sought immediate emancipation, and conservatives, who sought a gradual freeing of slaves. Radicals grew in power as the war progressed, pushing for the Confiscation Act to immediately free almost all slaves, followed up by Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freeing all Confederate slaves. Slaves were most directly liberated not by the proclamation but by being allowed to enlist in the Union for the war itself.

How did African Americans fight for the Union?

- Emancipated Afr. Americans joined forces w/ free blacks, often facing obstacles
 - Initially excluded from military w/ only a few black regiments out of necessity
 - Emancipation Proclamation → black numbers swelled w/ active recruitment
- Some divided into fighting units (like Fifty-fourth MA Infantry w/ white commander Robert Gould Shaw)
- Most given non-fighting tasks like digging trenches → black mortality rate higher than white due to long hours, poor conditions, low pay
 - Black soldiers still proud of significant contribution to war in long-term
- Captured blacks in Confederacy either returned to original masters or executed

African Americans played a crucial part in supporting the Northern cause despite facing obstacles of initially being unable to even enlist. After the Emancipation Proclamation, although enlistment was widespread, blacks were generally assigned to menial and back-breaking tasks.

How did the Civil War promote economic development?

- Some slowing of industrial growth w/ markets cut off from Southern goods
- Econ. development sped up due in part to Republican dominance but also conditions of war itself
 - Coal (w/ ↑ production due to demand) and railroad industries (w/ standard gauge) forced to improve
 - Farms lost labor to armies → forced to mechanize agriculture
- Industrial workers suffered w/ ↑ prices (70% rise) but wages unable to meet (40% rise)
 - Liberal immigration → new workers keeping wage low
 - Mechanization eliminated skilled workers
 - Unions became far more widespread despite employer suppression

Although the cutoff of Southern raw materials hurt some industries, several grew significantly out of wartime need, like coal, railroads, and agricultural mechanization. However, industrial workers suffered greatly due to a decrease in purchasing power due to freer immigration laws and mechanization.

How did the war affect traditional gender roles?

- Women often took on foreign roles out of necessity, taking over male positions but most notably becoming nurses
 - Dorothea Dix led U.S. Sanitary Commission: org. of civilian volunteers, pulling female nurses into field hospitals
 - By 1900, nursing almost entirely female, caring for patients but performing other important tasks for hospital (like cooking/cleaning)
 - Male doctors often felt women too weak for role but Sanitary Commission claimed nursing to represent manifestation of key domestic aspects of home life
 - * Some stood up to male doctors, pushing incompetent ones aside
 - * Critical role → male complaints ignored
 - Nurses generally felt freed by war
 - Nursing changed medical profession w/ wounded soldiers assisted greatly; Commission also appointed women behind the scenes and spread knowledge about hygiene
- Feminists (like Cady Stanton/B. Anthony) founded Woman's Loyal League in 1863, fighting both for abolition of slavery and suffrage
 - Clara Barton (assisted w/ nursing, Red Cross) felt war pushed women's rights far further than peace ever would have

Several women felt liberated both during and after the war, becoming nurses on the battlefield under Dorothea Dix' U.S. Sanitary Commission despite the opposition of several men; they were critical to the health of soldiers. Feminists also capitalized on the movement to further their cause, pushing for both the abolition of slavery and for suffrage.