

# AP US History

## Chapter 14 - The Civil War

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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.
- **Morill 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.

## The Mobilization of the South

How did the South mobilize their society for battle?

Although the South instated a political system similar to the North simply with slavery and states' rights more deeply ingrained, their primary source of income came from unstable paper currency leading to inflation, and their primary source of troops was conscription. President Davis struggled to implement a centralized government but was successful in industrializing in the long-term. The war was devastating economically, cutting the South off from markets and leading to many shortages; socially, however, both women and slaves were given new hope.

What was the political structure of the Confederate Government?

- Confederate constitution very similar to U.S. but directly acknowledged state sovereignty (w/o secession), made abolishment impossible
- Nominated **Jefferson Davis** of MS as president, Alexander Stephens of GA as VP for 6 yrs.
  - Stephens had been against secession and Davis had been moderate: govt. remained moderate
  - Dominated by newer Western leaders rather than old aristocracy of East
- Davis was skilled admin. + dominant leader as own sec. of war, but rarely made national decisions
- Govt. not formally partisan, but great tension remained
  - Some whites ("back/upcountry" regions) and many African Americans who fought for Union or refused to assist govt.
  - As battle turned against Confederacy, more and more opposed war

**The Confederate government bore numerous similarities to the U.S. government, with a similar constitution apart from increased states' rights and permanent slavery as well as a president, Jefferson Davis (a moderate secessionist who rarely made national decisions), and a vice president, Alexander Stephens (an anti-secessionist). The new government was opposed by several African Americans and some whites, particularly those from the "backcountry" and "upcountry" regions.**

How did the South finance the war?

- Finances required implementing national revenue and banking system in society with few taxes and little capital (most wealth in slaves/land)
  - Only gold taken from federal mints in South, worth only  $\approx$  \$1m
- Initially tried to get funds from states w/o direct tax but few states would tax citizens  $\rightarrow$  paid w/ questionable notes/bonds; income tax relatively unsuccessful, too
- Borrowing equally unsuccessful: bonds so vast that public lost trust in govt, unable to borrow European money for cotton
- Paid primarily through paper currency, issuing more than double of Union's
  - Currency never uniform: govt., states, cities, private banks produced independent notes  $\rightarrow$  inflation w/ prices rising 9000%

**The Confederate government was faced with the challenging task of earning revenue and establishing banks in a land with little tax and little liquid capital. Attempts at taxing both through states and later through an income tax failed, and borrowing money from the public resulted in a loss of trust. Thus the majority of wealth came through paper currency, but the inconsistency of notes led to great inflation.**

How did the South rally troops for the war?

- Volunteers initially but numbers dwindled like in North  $\rightarrow$  1862 **Conscription Act** requiring 3 yrs. for all white males
  - Successful for some time, w/  $\approx$  500,000 men excluding slave men/women
  - Drafted allowed to find substitute but price high, one white man on each plantation w/  $> 20$  slaves exempt  $\rightarrow$  poorer whites opposed  $\rightarrow$  repealed in 1863
- Conscription  $\rightarrow$  less effective as North captured more land  $\rightarrow$  reduced population
  - Responded by drafting ages 17-50 (wider range than 18 to 35) but nation already too weak
  - Desertions increased  $\rightarrow$  turned to slave army, but war already near-over by implementation

**The South relied primarily on conscription; although the high price to resist the draft angered many poorer whites, the system was relatively successful for a time, forming a large army. As the North captured more and more land, the accessible population pool shrunk, reducing the effectiveness and forcing potential alternatives.**

How did the Confederate government address the conflict between states' rights and central power?

- ↑ White southerners dedicated to state rights → resisted any of Davis' efforts for national control (even if for sake of war)
  - Limited conscription, states tried to separate troops from federal army, hoarded supplies
- Confederate government did expand greatly, becoming larger than Union's govt.
  - Implemented "**food draft**," allowing soldiers to eat crops from farms along the way
  - Successfully mobilized slaves for labor
  - Created industrial regulations, took over railroads/shipping

**Although a majority of white Southerners opposed centralization and obstructed any efforts, the Confederate government made great strides, implementing several laws promoting the army and long-term industrialization.**

What were the economic effects of the war?

- War cut off planters from Northern markets → difficult to sell cotton, removed male workspace
  - Northern agriculture grew as a result while Southern declined
- Battles on Southern soil → railroad destroyed, farmland/plantations lost
- Significant shortages in most key goods after Northern naval blockade
  - Focused so much on cotton, export crops → not enough food for self-sufficiency
  - Women/slaves worked hard to keep farms functioning, but could not make up for reduced workforce
  - Specialized workers like doctors, blacksmiths, carpenters often drafted
- Great instability emerged w/ food riots (often led by women), large demonstrations against conscription, "food draft," taxation

**Economically, the war was devastating for the South: cut off from all surrounding markets due to the Northern blockade, the South lost their primary source of income and were unable to produce sufficient food for themselves. Furthermore, the drafting of white males led to a decrease in specialized workers. Society became greatly unstable with frequent riots.**

What were the social effects of the war?

- Southern women given far more responsibility
  - Slaveowners' wives managed workforces, farmers' wives managed/worked in fields, specialized workers' wives took up jobs as teachers/govt. workers
  - Women questioned Southern values dictating that certain social spheres were unsuited for women
  - Gender imbalance after war w/ women outnumbering men greatly → several unmarried/widowed, forced to work for themselves
- Slaves, despite suffering from tightened slave codes due to fear of rebellion, able to escape in large numbers to the Union
  - Those who felt hopeless resistant to owners due to weaker rule without patriarch owner

**In the South, women were given far more responsibility, taking on traditionally male jobs, both during and after the war due to a long-term gender imbalance; several Southern women began to question their true place in society. Slaves, too, were given far more hope, resisting their owners' rule and frequently escaping.**

## Strategy and Diplomacy

How did the North work to create military strategy and the South diplomatic strategy?

The North was commanded by Lincoln and later in the war, Ulysses S. Grant; the South's military strategy remained primarily under Davis' control. One advantage which the North was able to strategically leverage was their naval supremacy, allowing for a blockade which Southern forces were unable to outthink. Diplomatically, the South struggled to earn the support of European powers and were unable to truly leverage their cotton supplies. The West, too, was a region of great tension despite most all but Texas remaining in the Union, with bloody attacks in Kansas and Missouri.

- Lincoln commander in chief for North after experience in state militia during Black Hawk War
  - Aware of North's material advantages, exploited them; understood primary goal to destroy Southern armies
  - Struggled to recruit suitable commanders
    - \* Chief of staff initially Winfield Scott of Mexican War but retired
    - \* Replaced by George McClellan, Eastern army commander; poor strategy, arrogant → returned to field in early 1862
    - \* Henry W. Halleck finally appointed at end of 1862 but strategy also poor, leaving decisions to Lincoln
    - \* Finally found Ulysses S. Grant in March 1864, giving him relative freedom in decisions (but always consulted for major choices)
  - Lincoln/Grant's decisions constantly criticized by Committee on Conduct of the War, joining two houses of Congress
    - \* Northern generals always seen as too ruthless
    - \* Radicals claimed officers secretly supported slavery
- Southern commands rooted in Davis, trained/professional soldier
  - **Robert E. Lee** military adviser in early 1862, but wanted to keep full control → Lee commanded on field while Davis planned alone
  - **Braxton Bragg** adviser in Feb. 1864, but mostly technical advice
  - Finally created general in chief (Lee) in Feb. 1865 but wanted to keep all decisions to himself: not enough time for structure to solidify
- Northern/Southern commanders on lower levels very similar
  - Many graduates from West Point, Naval Academy at Annapolis → trained similarly, often friends w/ other side
  - Generally relied on basic battle tactics; best commanders saw beyond to destruction of resources
  - Amateur officers critical, too - economic/social leaders in communities → rallied up groups

**In the North, Lincoln was the commander in chief but struggled to find a suitable commander, with most making poor strategic decisions; he finally settled on Ulysses S. Grant in March 1864. Davis, more well-versed in war than Lincoln, left major decisions to himself, with most of his advisers giving very little true advice. Both Northern and Southern leaders on lower levels implemented very similar strategies due to shared educational backgrounds.**

Who were the primary war commanders on each side?

How did naval warfare play a part in the Civil War?

- Union dominated in naval power
  - Created naval blockade of coast
    - \* Navy kept large ships from entering but smaller ones could generally slip by for some time
    - \* Union retaliated by capturing ports themselves
  - Critical in West for providing troops w/ supplies via river; South had only land-based forts
- Confederates retaliated with newly developed weapons
  - **Iron warship** produced out of *Merrimac* (named *Virginia*, left behind by Union supporters after VA seceded)
    - \* Attacked wooden ships of Union effectively
    - \* Union retaliated with *Monitor*, unable to defeat *Virginia* but able to keep blockade
  - Developed small torpedo boats, submarines, never able to truly overcome

**The Union consistently dominated the Confederacy navally, creating a long-standing blockade and transporting supplies via river. However, the Confederacy attempted to fight back by outfitting an abandoned Union ship with iron (which was soon matched by the Union) and developing smaller innovations.**



How did the South attempt to rally support from European powers?

- Confederate Sec. of State Judah Benjamin generally stuck to mundane; Union counterpart **William Seward** vital to long-term diplomatic success
- England/France aristocrats both supported Confederacy for cotton, goal to weaken U.S., idyllic social order similar to own societies
  - France unwilling to truly take sides unless England did first
  - British liberals (Bright + Cobden) opposed due to opposition to slavery, mobilizing lower-class workers particularly after Emancipation Proclamation
- South hoped to focus on "**King Cotton Diplomacy**" to counter British abolitionist forces
  - Failed in that Britain had surplus → able to resist for some time; kept mills open w/ sources from Egypt/India
  - Most workers who lost jobs from countless mills closing still supported Union
  - Ultimately, South's consistent projection to lose → European support too risky
- Tensions still ran high betw. U.S. and GB
  - War began → GB then France declared neutral → U.S. angered by their regard of conflict as one betw. two nations of equal stature
  - Trent affair emerged when Bostonian Wilkes seized British ship carrying Confederate diplomats (Mason/Slidell), jailed in Boston
    - \* GB demanded release, repayment, formal apology
    - \* Lincoln/Seward aware of violation → stalled until most Americans forgot, finally subtly releasing/apologizing
  - GB sold six ships to South → US felt against neutrality, claiming British damage after war

**Although European powers fundamentally supported the Confederacy due to their dependence on cotton, competition with the US, and belief in a similar social order, both English and France were hesitant and the South's attempt to push the importance of cotton failed due to British surplus supplies and alternate sources. Regardless, tensions were still strong between Britain and the US, with political and naval disputes plaguing the Civil War period.**

How did the West get involved in the war?

- TX only Western state to join Confederacy, but several western states had many Southerners
- KS/MO had greatest fighting
  - **Quantrill** created Confederate band of teenage boys, killed all in path around KS-MO border (w/ slaughter of 150 in Lawrence, KS)
  - Unionists known as **Jayhawkers**: nearly as savage, generally avenging those targeted by Quantrill
  - No major battle but consistent region of tension
- Confederacy attempted to earn support of natives, who supported South due to poor treatment of U.S. govt. as well as many being slaveholders themselves; others hostile to slavery → divided
  - Led to Civil War w/in native territories as well as some groups allying w/ Union and others w/ Confederacy

Although the West had no organized battles and all but Texas remained in the Union, Kansas and Missouri were particularly tense due to the high populations of Southerners, with bands supporting each side ruthlessly murdering innocent inhabitants. Furthermore, Confederate forces attempted to enlist natives, but internal divisions made this force relatively ineffective.

## The Course of Battle

What was the play-by-play of the Civil War?

Marked by notable developments in technology, the Civil War was characterized by a series of bloody battles. The war began in the East with the First Battle of Bull Run, but remained a stalemate in Virginia for the following two years due to incompetent Northern generals and erroneous interpretations of the war as one of battles rather than one of depleting resources. Most of the Union progress was in the West, with Union forces able to take over the Mississippi River, New Orleans, and later the Tennessee River under Grant. 1863 marked the final attacks on Northern territory and further victories in the South. The stalemate finally concluded in Virginia under Grant in 1864 and 1865, whose siege on Petersburg drove Lee's forces from Richmond where they ultimately surrendered. Sherman took on the South, wreaking havoc on Atlanta and the surrounding regions. Johnston's forces finally surrendered in North Carolina, marking the end of the war with questions of industry and slavery still unanswered.

What was the Civil War by the numbers?

The Civil War saw 4 years of combat and 618,000 Americans dying, greater than all American wars combined pre-Vietnam, leading to times of great grief in the North and South alike.

What were the critical technologies employed in the Civil War?

- Unprecedented amount of technology → seen as first modern war
- **Repeating weapons** (Colt created pistol, Winchester rifle) and improved cannons/artillery → new strategies emerged
  - Former method of lines of soldiers attacking each other until one withdrew outdated and → complete slaughter for both sides
  - All should stay low and under cover → less organized, chaotic battlefields
  - Both sides began to form forts to defend from sieges (like those in Vicksburg, Petersburg, Richmond)
- Newer technologies like hot-air balloons for reconnaissance, ironclad ships, submarines had potential but not yet truly ready
- **Railroads and telegraph** most revolutionary
  - Rail travel → easy mobilization of troops but limited battles to around rail stations (regardless of strategical advantage)
  - Telegraph initially insignificant due to unskilled operators, but U.S. Military Telegraph Corps ↑ training
    - \* Troops on both sides learned to string wires along routes for easy communication betw. field commanders
    - \* Both sides learned to intercept messages

The first truly "modern" war, technology was central to the progress of the Civil War, from armaments like repeating weapons and cannons forcing new strategies to newer technologies like hot air balloons and submarines to truly revolutionary technologies like the railroad and the telegraph.

What marked the initial fights of the Civil War?

- First major battle in Northern VA w/ Union army of 30k under McDowell near Washington against slightly smaller Confed. army under **Beauregard** near Manassas
  - **McDowell** sought to get over with for potentially immediate end to war → marched troops to Manassas while Beauregard moved behind Bull Run stream, calling for reinforcements to equalize size
  - **First Battle of Bull Run** saw near-success by Union in dispersing forces but Southerners began counterattack
    - \* Panicked in hot weather, retreating without order but difficult due to obstacles of several civilian onlookers nearby
    - \* Confederates equally disordered → did not pursue
    - \* Represented major hit to Lincoln's confidence
- MO: rebels seeking to secede supported by governor → Nathaniel Lyon brought Union troops to take on; killed but weakened Confederacy, allowing Union dominance in majority of state
- McClellan met western Virginians → own state govt. loyal to Union, eventually becoming **West Virginia** (unimportant strategically but key symbolically)

**The first battle was in Northern Virginia with Union McDowell against Confederate Beauregard, facing off with armies of relatively equal size in the First Battle of Bull Run; Union forces nearly won but succumbed to the hot weather and were driven out. In Missouri, Union forces began to dominate the state, and McClellan formed West Virginia.**

What were the most important battles in the West?

- After First Battle of Bull Run, East remained stalemate for some time
- North's first goal in West to seize MS River → **Farragut** brought ironclads to Gulf of Mexico and surprised New Orleans from South → defenseless w/ easy win
  - South greatly weakened at having lost key river, largest city
- At TN's Fort Henry + Donelson, Albert Sidney Johnston's forces stretched, far from Southern power centers
  - Grant attacked Fort Henry w/ surprising ironclad boats over river → quick surrender
  - Donelson more challenging but finally surrendered on Feb. 16, 1862
- Grant then travelled over TN River, capturing railroad lines and ending at **Shiloh**, TN
  - Met w/ force equal in size led by Johnston/Beauregard, killing Johnston in first day at Battle of Shiloh but driven back to river
  - Grant returned w/ 25k extra reinforcements, forcing withdrawal; occupied central MS railroad hub, Corinth
- Braxton Bragg succeeded Johnston as Western commander, hoping to regain TN/KY, starting from Chattanooga
  - Faced Union army at Chattanooga aiming to capture area; maneuvered each other for several months
  - Met on Dec. 31st but in Battle of Murfreesboro, Bragg forced to withdraw

**In the West, the North easily seized New Orleans and the lower Mississippi River due to their surprise tactics. However, the more northern forces in Tennessee under Johnston put up more of a fight: Fort Henry and Donelson were taken over several days by Grant, who then travelled to Shiloh, initially poised to lose but surprising the Confederacy with reinforcements. Bragg succeeded Johnston after he had died at Shiloh, but quickly lost in a long battle around Chattanooga and was forced to withdraw.**

- McClellan led Union operations in 1862: controversial for indecisiveness, often losing out on key strategical plays
  - Sought to capture Confed. capital at **Richmond** but took circuitous route to bypass defenses (Peninsular campaign)
  - Brought 100k men; 30k left behind at Washington under McDowell initially but convinced Lincoln to send remainder of forces
  - **Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson** changed plans before Lincoln sent rest of forces, travelling north across Shenandoah, appearing to be approaching Washington
    - \* Lincoln sent 30k forces to take on Jackson but Union defeated in Valley campaign
  - Confederate troops under Joseph Johnston attacked McLennan's forces but initially unable to repel
    - \* Johnston replaced by Lee who returned Stonewall Jackson's troops, started Battle of Seven Days in attempt to cut McClellan off
    - \* McClellan reached prime position 25 mi from Richmond but too hesitant to take on → Lincoln recalled to Northern Virginia to join **John Pope's** forces
  - McClellan departed by water → Lee moved overland to attack Pope's forces
    - \* Aggressive Pope took on Lee's forces w/o backup, forcing army to retreat back to Washington in **Second Battle of Bull Run**
- Lincoln put Pope's forces in McClellan's hands as Lee began to head through western MD
  - McClellan got copy of Lee's orders, learning that Stonewall Jackson had broken off to attack Harpers Ferry, but too slow to attack before forces recombined
  - **Sharpsburg** saw bloodiest single-day battle w/ 6,000 killed, Confederate forces near breaking point but after Jackson's troops arrived, McClellan allowed easy retreat → soon removed permanently
- Ambrose E. Burnside, replacement, attempted to cross strongest defense to reach Richmond, engaging in hopeless battles → requested personally to be removed from power

**The attacks on Richmond, the Confederate capital, were unsuccessful primarily due to incompetent generals including the aggressive Pope and the hesitant McClellan, who gave up countless critical opportunities to excuses.**

How did the eastern front remain a stalemate?

Why did the war remain a relative stalemate on the Eastern front for so long?

- War remained undecided due to no single decisive battle: North blamed on timid/incompetent generals
- In truth, leaders had not realized that true way to win was by deterioration of resources, not winning battles
  - As North continued to build infrastructure, South food supplies dwindled leading to riots

**The war remained a stalemate primarily because it required the long-term deterioration of resources for either side to truly surrender.**

- **Joseph Hooker** took control of McClellan's Army of the Potomac in East but irresolute
  - Crossed Fredericksburg to approach Lee's army, but got scared at last moment and drew into defensive
  - Lee's army half the size of Hooker's but still took on in Battle of Chancellorsville; Jackson soon followed
    - \* Hooker barely escaped, but objectives defeated, not army
- In West, Union still far more successful
  - Grant attacked well-protected stronghold at Vicksburg (MS) despite marshy terrain, sieging and forcing to surrender after six weeks due to starving
  - Port Hudson, LA surrendered to Union force from New Orleans, now controlling whole Mississippi River and splitting Confederacy (TX/AR/LA cut off)
- Lee began to plan invasion of PN (during Vicksburg) to drive Union troops north from MS, win allegiance of Europe
  - June 1863: Lee into PN w/ Union army (first under Hooker, then **Meade**) paralleling motions to stay between Lee/Washington
  - Battle began under Meade at Gettysburg, w/ Lee outnumbered → failed on first day, also failing on second day after charging for nearly a mile under Union fire (Pickett's Charge); surrendered
  - **Gettysburg** represented final serious attack on Northern territory
- Turning point in TN after Union Rosencrans' forces pursued Bragg's retreating forces, meeting at GA border with Lee's ready to fight too
  - Battle of Chickamauga saw Confederates w/ more troops → Union retreated to Chattanooga
  - Bragg sieged Chattanooga, cutting off supplies but Grant returned for **Battle of Chattanooga**, driving back into GA and occupying eastern TN including **TN River**

1863 saw a continued stalemate in Virginia, with the indecisive Hooker leaving his troops open to a combined attack by Jackson and Lee in Chancellorsville. In the West, however, the Union was successful with Grant's Siege of Vicksburg and the capture of Port Hudson splitting the Confederacy into two. Lee's attack on Pennsylvania (defeated at Gettysburg) marked the final genuine attempt at taking over the North. A final turning point of the year occurred in Tennessee where Rosencrans and Grant were able to defeat Bragg at the Battle of Chattanooga to take over eastern Tennessee.

What were the significant events of 1863?



What were Grant and Sherman's key initial strategies in the final stages?

- Grant knew to exploit material advantage and incur casualties if reciprocated; led Army of Potomac to Richmond
  - Initially turned back by Lee in **Battle of the Wilderness**
  - Immediately resumed march, meeting again in **Battle of Spotsylvania Court House** w/ large losses for both
  - Cold Harbor saw loss once again to Lee: had lost far more men than Lee so far
  - Grant swapped strategy to seige **Petersburg**, rail center and cut off communications between Richmond and remainder of Confederacy
- Western army took on Atlanta and Joseph Johnston under **William Tecumseh Sherman**
  - Far less resistance w/ Johnston attempting to outmaneuver to delay attack; took on at battle of **Kennesaw Mountain** w/ win for Confederacy
  - Union forces continued to approach Atlanta, **John B. Hood** replaced Johnston but far too aggressive, taking on Union twice only to lose both and weaken themselves in process
  - Took Atlanta on September 2nd, burning the city
  - Hood attempted to draw out by staging approach to North; Sherman ignored and instead sent forces to take over **Nashville**

**In the final years of the Civil War, Grant and Sherman were the two key commanders. Grant initially went for Richmond but eventually restructured and sieged Petersburg over nine months (slightly south of Richmond) to cut off supplies to the capital. Sherman led forces to Atlanta, swiftly taking it over and burning it.**

How did Grant and Sherman wrap up the Civil War?

What was the impact of a Northern victory in the Civil War?

- Sherman underwent famous **March to the Sea** in late 1864 after taking over Georgia
  - Relied on land for sustenance and destroyed anything else, depriving region of resources, transportation
  - Took over Savannah (without destroying significant amounts), continuing into NC unopposed until a brief delay from Johnston's forces
- Grant continued at siege at Petersburg in April 1865, finally capturing rail junction linking to South
  - Lee saw no point in defending Richmond w/ key link destroyed → headed South to link up with Johnston in NC; Union met up with forces and blocked route
  - Lee agreed to meet Grant privately on April 9th, 1865 at the **Appomattox Court House**, surrendering forces; Johnston surrendered 9 days later in NC
- War had ended but Davis initially would not accept; soon captured during escape to GA

After capturing Atlanta, Sherman departed, travelling eastward and wreaking havoc on Southern resources. He then headed north and fought with Johnston's troops in North Carolina, but easily defeated them; Johnston later surrendered. After Grant successfully captured a critical rail junction near Petersburg, he cut off supplies from the South, driving Lee out of Richmond, soon allowing his Confederate forces to surrender. Davis himself would not surrender immediately until his capture soon after.

- Question of freed slaves (freedmen), future of South-North relations, and Southern industrialization remained unanswered at point of reunification
- North saw ↑ economy w/ expanded rail system while South had been depleted of its young male pop. → industry remained Northern
- African American slaves departed from masters, facing great future hardships but finally, 3.5m slaves were able to live freely and out of bondage

The Northern victory established Northern industrial and economic supremacy for many years to come; it also freed millions of slaves and allowed them to depart from their masters and live comparatively unrestrained lives.