

## Chapter 15 Outline - Transforming Fire: The Civil War, 1861–1865

- I. Introduction

Northerners and southerners supported the war for a variety of reasons, such as ending slavery, preserving the Union, defending states' rights, or protecting the Confederacy. Whatever the purpose of the war, it brought tremendous change to the United States as the conflict spawned new social and racial arrangements in the nation.

- II. America Goes to War, 1861–1862

- A. First Battle of Bull Run

Upon Lincoln's call for volunteers to restore the Union, four additional states from the Upper South seceded. Southerners faced the war with an optimism that grew stronger following the Confederate victory at Bull Run.

- B. Grand Strategy

Union strategy—the “Anaconda Plan”—called for a blockade of southern ports and the capture of the Mississippi. The Confederacy pursued an “offensive defensive” strategy—attack when possible; otherwise, prevent conquest.

In the West, the Civil War began almost thirty years of offensive warfare against Indians.

- C. Union Naval Campaign

Early in the war, Federal ships began to blockade the South, a tactic that enjoyed mixed results. Union coastal victories off South Carolina resulted in a stream of runaway slaves as planters abandoned their lands.

- D. War in the Far West

Southern control in Indian Territory ended with the Union victory at Elkhorn Tavern, Arkansas. Confederate forces also failed to take the New Mexico Territory.

- E. Grant's Tennessee Campaign and the Battle of Shiloh

The first great campaign of the war unfolded as Ulysses S. Grant led troops into Tennessee, capturing Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, which guarded the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. The shocking casualties of the two-day Battle of Shiloh revealed the true nature of the war.

- F. McClellan and the Peninsula Campaign

Slow to move, McClellan finally advanced on Richmond, moving within 7 miles of the Confederate capital. Lee moved in behind Union forces, threatening Washington, D.C. The Seven Days Battles followed, which forced McClellan to retreat.

- G. Confederate Offensive in Maryland and Kentucky

Following early southern victories, President Jefferson Davis ordered his armies to engage in offensive tactics. The attempt to lure Maryland and Kentucky into the Confederacy failed.

Confederate victory in the battle of Second Bull Run was followed by Confederate defeat at the Battle of Antietam. McClellan, again slow to move against Lee's retreating forces, was removed from command by Lincoln.

- III. War Transforms the South

- A. The Confederacy and Centralization

In the South, the tradition of localism and states' rights gave way to centralization as the Confederacy fought to preserve itself. When the

South failed to achieve a quick victory, the Confederacy resorted to conscription.

- B. Confederate Nationalism

Confederates created a culture and an ideology of nationalism.

- C. Southern Cities and Industry

Wartime needs led to a new bureaucracy and an emerging industrialism in the South.

- D. Changing Roles of Women

With men off to fight, women began to assume many of the responsibilities males had previously held.

- E. Human Suffering, Hoarding, and Inflation

The war caused economic dislocations in the South that resulted in great suffering for many people.

The Federal blockade created shortages of important commodities in the South, while Confederate financial policies generated intense price inflation.

- F. Inequities of the Confederate Draft

Wealthier southerners seemed immune to many of the problems that others faced, and anger over the elite's exemptions from conscription led to tensions in the South.

- IV. Wartime Northern Economy and Society

- A. Northern Business, Industry, and Agriculture

The war generally spurred economic activity in the North, but the initial loss of southern markets caused some disruptions for the Union.

Federal spending helped many businessmen and farmers because the government needed vast amounts of materiel to win the war. Fiscal policy, especially the sale of war bonds, also shaped the northern economy.

- B. The Quartermaster and Military-Government Mobilization

Government and business interests merged in the creation of the Quartermaster Department. Supplying food, clothing, horses, weapons, ammunition, etc. for the war, it grew to be the largest employer in the U.S.

- C. Northern Workers' Militancy

Inflation and a tight job market produced problems for the working class, difficulties that led to a growing interest in trade unionism.

- D. Economic Nationalism and Government-Business Partnership

Railroads and other companies with government contracts earned especially high profits. New land policies and high tariffs encouraged economic activity.

Through the Morrill Land Grant Act Congress authorized sales of large parcels of public lands, the proceeds to be used for public universities promoting education in agriculture, engineering, and military science. The Homestead Act of 1862 offered cheap land to people who would settle the West. A national banking system was created and higher tariffs were enacted.

- E. The Union Cause

Northerners rallied to the Union cause. While some northerners ostentatiously displayed their new wealth, others advanced more idealistic values.

- F. Northern Women on Home Front and Battlefield

Northern women assumed new roles during the war.

- G. Walt Whitman's War

In his poetry, Walt Whitman celebrated the sacrifices of common soldiers.

- V. The Advent of Emancipation

- A. Lincoln and Emancipation

Lincoln understood the political dangers of the slavery issue and at first shied away from advocating abolition. Eventually, he began suggesting that southerners gradually free their slaves. He also promoted a plan to colonize blacks outside the United States.

- B. Confiscation Acts

Radical Republicans demanded immediate emancipation. One of their first efforts to achieve it came with laws allowing the confiscation of slaves as "contraband."

- C. Emancipation Proclamations

In September 1862, Lincoln announced a plan to free slaves in the Confederate states. In his proclamation of January 1, 1863, all areas in the Confederacy that were under Union control were exempted, the border states included. This ambiguous proclamation provided Lincoln with some political benefits.

- D. African American Recruits

Because of the need for men, the Lincoln administration began to recruit northern and southern blacks for the Union Army.

In 1864, with thousands of blacks in the Union Army, Lincoln gave his support to a constitutional ban on slavery.

- E. Who Freed the Slaves?

Emancipation came as the result of two forces: one, Lincoln's policy; and two, the will and courage of slaves who fled for freedom.

- F. A Confederate Plan of Emancipation

Jefferson Davis proposed emancipation of the slaves in exchange for military service against the Union. Southern resistance to abolition proved powerful, however, and Davis could only make a limited effort to free the slaves.

- VI. The Soldiers' War

- A. Ordinary Soldiers and Ideology

Common soldiers fully understood the ideologies behind the war. Letters reveal that while "duty," "honor," "union," "freedom," "liberty," "states' rights," etc. were important, they also recognized slavery as being at the heart of the conflict.

- B. Hospitals and Camp Life

Soldiers endured unsanitary conditions, unsafe water supplies, and badly managed hospitals. In addition, they witnessed mass violence and bloodshed.

- C. The Rifled Musket

Development of the rifled musket and the "minie ball" made rifles accurate to 400 yards and useful up to 1,000 yards.

- D. The Black Soldier's Fight for Manhood

Thousands of blacks served with honor and distinction in the Union army, but discrimination persisted.

- VII. 1863: The Tide of Battle Turns

- A. Battle of Chancellorsville

On the battlefield, the southern army began the 1863 campaign with a victory at Chancellorsville, Virginia. However, the Confederate army suffered the loss of Stonewall Jackson.

- B. Siege of Vicksburg

This Confederate defeat divided the southern states in two and gave control of the Mississippi to the Union.

- C. Battle of Gettysburg

In July 1863, the Union army scored a major victory at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, inflicting heavy losses on Lee's army.

- VIII. Disunity, South, North, and West

- A. Union Occupation Zones

Three military-occupation zones were used by Union forces when they invaded: (1) garrisoned towns; (2) the Confederate frontier; and (3) the land between the two armies ("no man's-land").

- B. Disintegration of Confederate Unity

Planters, unable to adjust to changed circumstances, increasingly opposed the Confederate government.

- C. Food Riots in Southern Cities

Food riots occurred in several cities in 1863. Ordinary rural southerners resisted by refusing to cooperate with conscription, tax collection, and impressments of food. Meanwhile, Davis failed to communicate with the masses.

- D. Desertions from the Confederate Army

As conditions at home deteriorated, many southern soldiers reacted by deserting from the army.

- E. Antiwar Sentiment, South and North

From 1863 on, military defeats and social disruptions fueled a growing discontent among southerners with the war. For many people, the solution seemed to be simply to give up on the southern cause.

Opposition to the war in the North was less severe than in the South. Lincoln, unlike Davis, had the ability to stay in touch with ordinary citizens.

- F. Peace Democrats

Some northerners expressed unhappiness with the war, but much of the northern discord reflected political party differences rather than support for the Confederacy.

- G. New York City Draft Riots

One sharp statement of northern anger over the war came in the New York City draft riots. In theory aimed at conscription, these violent demonstrations revealed powerful underlying class and racial tensions.

- H. War Against Indians in the Far West

U.S. forces waged a ruthless war against Indians in the Great Plains and in the Southwest.

- I. Election of 1864

Although Lincoln feared that he would not be reelected, the fall of Atlanta and Union victories in the Shenandoah valley in early September led to a decisive victory for Lincoln in 1864. His reelection

caused further deterioration of southern morale.

- IX. 1864–1865: The Final Test of Wills

- A. Northern Diplomatic Strategy

Lincoln understood the importance of European relations, and he worked diligently to prevent European support of the Confederacy.

- B. Battlefield Stalemate and a Union Strategy for Victory

Grant proposed raids into the South on a massive scale to lay waste to all resources useful to the military and to the civilian population of the Confederacy.

- C. Fall of Atlanta

Sherman's occupation of Atlanta boosted northern morale and ensured Lincoln's reelection in 1864.

- D. Sherman's March to the Sea

Sherman adhered to a "burned earth" policy in his march to the sea.

- E. Virginia's Bloody Soil

During the spring and summer of 1864, Grant continually hurled Union forces against Lee's army in Virginia. Even though losses were appalling, these battles prepared the way for Union victory.

- F. Surrender at Appomattox

Lee could not stand up to the Union forces, leading him to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865. On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

- G. Financial Tally

The costs of the war ranged into the billions of dollars, while the social burden to the South remains incalculable.

- H. Death Toll and Its Impact

About 600,000 Americans died, which was more deaths than occurred in all other American wars combined prior to Vietnam. Still, the war left unresolved the crucial issue of the place of African Americans in the United States.