

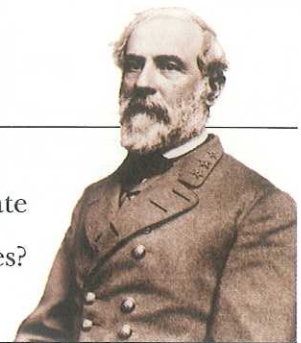
# 15



## BATTLE CRIES AND FREEDOM SONGS THE CIVIL WAR 1861–1865

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**WHAT WERE** the resource advantages  
of the North at the outcome of the war?



**WHAT WERE** the Confederate  
and Union military strategies?



**WHAT WAS** the Emancipation Proclamation?

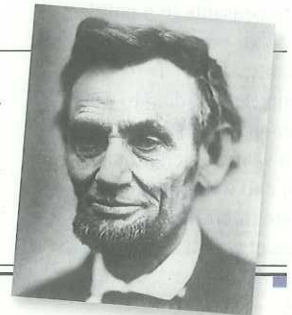
**WHAT IMPACT** did the war  
have on Northern political,  
economic, and social life?



**HOW DID** military reversals affect  
Confederate political and economic life  
and civilian morale?

**WHAT DID** the Civil War  
and its outcome mean  
for the nation and its citizens?

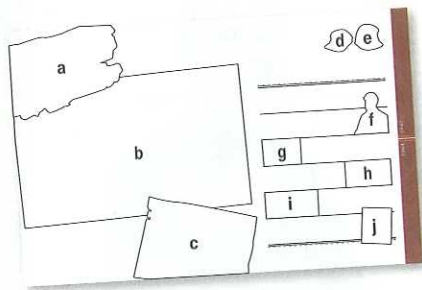
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## IMAGE KEY

for pages 378–379



- a. Federal flag that flew over Ft. Sumter.
- b. Photo of engineers of the 8th New York State Militia in front of a tent, 1861.
- c. Battle flag of the Second Battalion Hilliard's Alabama Legion. This flag was pierced 83 times during the charge up Snod Grass Hill, at Chickamauga, Georgia.
- d. Gray cap of a Confederate soldier from the American Civil War.
- e. Blue Union soldier hat with a bugle emblem embroidered on the front.
- f. Robert E. Lee (1807–1870). Commander in chief of the Confederate armies during the Civil War.
- g. American President Abraham Lincoln presents the Emancipation Proclamation to grateful black slaves and white peasants in a political cartoon about education, freedom, and equality.
- h. Nurse Ann Bell tending to wounded soldier in a Union hospital.
- i. Southern women incite their men to rebellion and war. The same women participate in bread riots during the hardships of war in two undated illustrations entitled "Sowing and Reaping."
- j. President Abraham Lincoln, Washington D.C., April 10, 1865.

July 14, 1861

Camp Clark, Washington, DC

My very dear Sarah:

The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days—perhaps tomorrow. And lest I should not be able to write you again I feel impelled to write a few lines that may fall under your eye when I am no more. Our movement may be one of a few days' duration and be full of pleasure. And it may be one of severe conflict and death to me. "Not my will but thine O God be done." If it is necessary that I should fall on the battle-field for my Country I am ready. I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the government and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution. And I am willing—perfectly willing—to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this government, and to pay that debt. But my dear wife, when I know that with my own joys I lay down nearly all of yours, and replace them in this life with cares and sorrows, when after having eaten for long years the bitter fruit of orphanage myself, I must offer it as the only sustenance to my dear little children, is it weak or dishonorable that while the banner of my purpose floats calmly and proudly in the breeze, underneath, my unbounded love for you my darling wife and children should struggle in fierce though useless contest with my love of country? . . .

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me with mighty cables that nothing but omnipotence can break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly with all those chains to the battle-field.

The memories of the blissful moments I have enjoyed with you come crowding over me, and I feel most deeply grateful to God and you, that I have enjoyed them for so long. And how hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes and hopes and future years, when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together, and see our boys grown up to honorable manhood around us. . . . If I do not [return], my dear Sarah, never forget how much I loved you, nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battle-field, it will whisper your name.

Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless, how foolish I have sometimes been! . . .

But, O Sarah, if the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they love, I shall be with you, in the gladdest days and the darkest nights . . . always, always, and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath[;] as the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by. Sarah do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again . . .

—Sullivan

Sullivan Ballou to Sarah Ballou, July 14, 1861. Geoffrey C. Ward, et al., *The Civil War: An Illustrated History* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990), 82–83.



SULLIVAN BALLOU'S letter to his wife on the eve of the First Battle of Bull Run typified the sentiments of the civilian armies raised by both North and South: a clear purpose of the importance of their mission, a sense of foreboding, an acknowledgment of the guiding hand of God, and words of love for family. He wrote this letter from his camp. A few days later, on July 21, Ballou was killed at the First Battle of Bull Run.

The Civil War preserved the Union, abolished slavery, and killed at least 620,000 soldiers—more than in all other wars the country fought, from the Revolution to the Korean conflict, combined. Union and freedom came at a dear price, we are still paying off its legacy.

When the war began, few Northerners linked the preservation of the Union with the abolition of slavery, but by 1863, Union and freedom had become inseparable Federal objectives. The Confederacy fought for independence and the preservation of slavery. The Confederate objectives dictated a defensive military strategy; the Union objectives dictated an offensive strategy.

At the end of the war's first year, the Confederacy's strong position east of the Appalachians belied its numerical and economic inferiority. By the end of 1862, however, Union officers had begun to expose Southern military shortcomings, and within a year, the trans-Mississippi portion of the Confederacy capitulated as dissent and despair mounted on the home front. Victory at Gettysburg, Sherman's demoralizing march through Georgia, and the relentless assaults of Ulysses S. Grant overwhelmed Confederate resistance and civilian hope.

Black Southerners seized the initiative in the war against slavery, especially after the Emancipation Proclamation, eventually joining Union forces in combat against their former masters. Soon, another war to secure the fruits of freedom would begin.

## MOBILIZATION, NORTH AND SOUTH

**N**either side was prepared for a major war. The Confederacy lacked a national army and navy. Each Southern state had a militia, but by the 1850s, these companies had become more social clubs than fighting units. The Union had a regular army of only sixteen thousand men, most of whom were stationed west of the Mississippi River.

Each government augmented these meager military reserves with thousands of new recruits and developed a bureaucracy to mount a war effort. At the same time, the administrations of Presidents Lincoln and Davis secured the loyalty of their civilian populations and devised military strategies for a war of indeterminate duration. How North and South went about these tasks reflected both the different objectives of the two sides and the distinctive personalities of their leaders, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis.

### WAR FEVER

The day after Major Robert Anderson surrendered Fort Sumter, President Lincoln moved to enlarge his small army by mobilizing state militias for ninety days. Despite the defection of Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee and about one-third of the officer corps in the regular army, Lincoln seemed likely to meet his target of 75,000 troops. Both North and South believed that the war would end quickly. William T. Sherman, however, who would become one of the Union's few great commanders, wrote in April 1861, "I think it is to be a long war—very long—much longer than any politician thinks."

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WHAT WERE the resource advantages of the North at the onset of the war?

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## CHRONOLOGY

<p><b>1861 April:</b> Confederates fire on Fort Sumter; Civil War Begins.</p> <p><b>July:</b> First Battle of Bull Run.</p> <p><b>1862 February:</b> Forts Henry and Donelson fall to Union Forces.</p> <p><b>March:</b> Peninsula Campaign Begins. Battle of Glorieta Pass, New Mexico.</p> <p><b>April:</b> Battle of Shiloh. New Orleans falls to Federal Forces.</p> <p><b>May:</b> Union captures Corinth, Mississippi.</p> <p><b>July:</b> Seven Days' Battles end. Congress passes the Confiscation Act.</p> <p><b>August:</b> Second Battle of Bull Run.</p> <p><b>September:</b> Battle of Antietam.</p> <p><b>December:</b> Battle of Fredericksburg.</p> <p><b>1863 January:</b> Emancipation Proclamation takes effect.</p> <p><b>May:</b> Battle of Chancellorsville; Stonewall Jackson is mortally wounded.</p> <p><b>July:</b> Battle of Gettysburg. Vicksburg falls to Union Forces.</p>	<p><b>September:</b> Battle of Chickamauga.</p> <p><b>November:</b> Battle of Chattanooga.</p> <p><b>1864 May:</b> Battle of the Wilderness.</p> <p><b>June:</b> Battle of Cold Harbor.</p> <p><b>September:</b> Sherman captures Atlanta.</p> <p><b>November:</b> President Lincoln is reelected. Sherman begins his march to the sea.</p> <p><b>1865 January:</b> Congress passes Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, outlawing slavery (ratified December 1865).</p> <p><b>February:</b> Charleston surrenders.</p> <p><b>March:</b> Confederate Congress authorizes enlistment of black soldiers.</p> <p><b>April:</b> Federal troops enter Richmond. Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House. Lincoln is assassinated.</p>	<p>New York Draft Riot occurs Black Troops of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment assault Fort Wagner outside Charleston.</p>
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**15-2**  
The "Cornerstone" Speech  
(1861)

Northerners closed ranks behind the president after the Confederacy's attack on Fort Sumter. Leading Democrat Stephen A. Douglas said, "There can be no neutrals in this war *"only patriots—or traitors."* American flags flew everywhere. The *New York Daily Tribune*, an abolitionist paper, made the objective of this patriotic fervor clear: "We mean to conquer [the Southern people]—not merely to defeat, but to conquer, to SUBJUGATE them . . . They must find poverty at their fire-sides, and see privation in the anxious eyes of mothers and rags of children."

Southerners were equally eager to support their new nation. Enlistment rallies, wild send-offs at train stations, and auctions and balls to raise money for the troops were staged throughout the Confederacy during the war's early months. As in the North, war fever fired hatred of the enemy. A Louisiana plantation overseer wrote:

My prayer Sincerely to God is that Every Black Republican . . .  
that is opposed to negro slavery . . . shal be trubled with pestilences  
& calamitys of all kinds . . . and O God I pray the to Direct a bullet  
or a bayonet to pirce the art of every northern Soldier that invades  
southern Soil.

Volunteers on both sides filled the quotas of both armies. Most soldiers were motivated by patriotism, a desire to defend their homes and loved ones, and a craving for glory and adventure. The initial enthusiasm, however, wore off quickly. After four months of war, a young Confederate soldier admitted, "I have seen quite enough of a Soldier's life to satisfy me that it is not what it is cracked up to be."

The South in particular faced a contradiction between its ideology and the demands of full-scale war. Southern leaders had been fighting for decades to defend states' rights against national authority. Now they had to forge the states of



the Confederacy into a nation. By early spring 1862, the Confederate government was compelled to order the first general draft in U.S. history, but the law allowed one white man on any plantation with more than twenty slaves to be excused from service to assure the security and productivity of large plantations. It led some Southerners to conclude that the struggle had become “a rich man’s war but a poor man’s fight.”

The initial enthusiasm also faded in the North. In March 1863, Congress passed a draft law that allowed a draftee to hire a substitute. This aroused resentment among working-class Northerners, but the North was less dependent on conscription than the South.

The armies of both sides included men from all walks of life. An undetermined number of women, typically disguised as men, also served in both armies. They joined for the same reasons as men: adventure, patriotism, and glory.

### THE NORTH’S ADVANTAGE IN RESOURCES

The resources of the North—including its population, industrial and agricultural capacity, and transportation network—greatly exceeded those of the South (see Figure 15–1). The 2.1 million men who fought for the Union represented roughly half the men of military age in the North. The 900,000 men who fought for the Confederacy, in contrast, represented 90 percent of its eligible population. Nearly 200,000 black men, most of them ex-slaves from the South, also took up arms for the Union.

The Union’s greater numbers left the South vulnerable to a war of attrition. At the beginning of the war, the North controlled 90 percent of the nation’s industrial capacity and had dozens of facilities for producing the tools to make war material. The South had no such factories and only one munitions plant, the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond. The North’s railroad system was more than twice the size of the South’s.

Thanks to the North’s abundance of resources, no soldier in any previous army had ever been outfitted as well as the blue-uniformed Union trooper. The official color of the Confederate uniform was gray, but most Southern soldiers did not wear distinguishable uniforms, especially toward the end of the war. They also often lacked proper shoes or any footwear at all. Still, the South never lost a battle because of insufficient supplies or inadequate weaponry. New foundries and manufacturing enterprises kept the Confederate armies equipped with the supplies they needed to keep fighting.

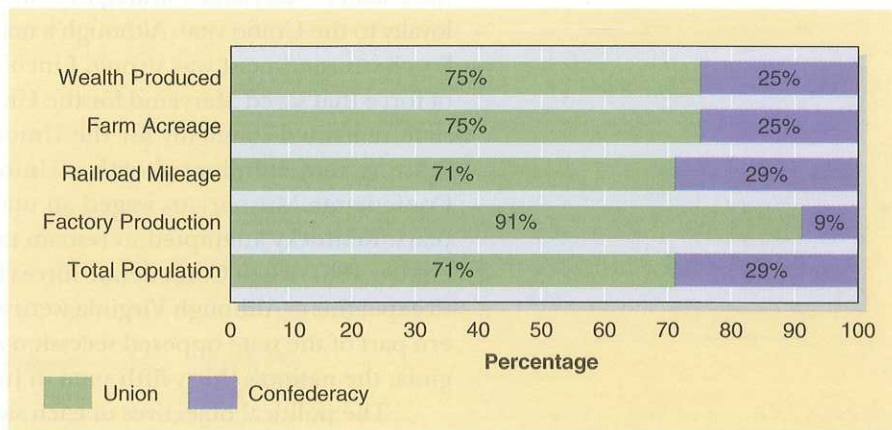
Unstable finances proved more of a handicap to the Confederacy than low industrial capacity. The Confederate economy—and its treasury—depended heavily on cotton exports, but a Union naval blockade and the ability of textile manufacturers in Europe to find new sources of supply restricted this crucial source of revenue. Because Southerners resisted taxation, the government sold interest-bearing bonds to raise money, but as Confederate fortunes declined, so did bond sales. The Confederacy financed more than 60 percent of the \$1.5 billion it spent on the war with printing-press money, and inflation spiraled out of control.

### QUICK REVIEW

#### Northern Advantages

- ◆ Twice the number of soldiers.
- ◆ North controlled 90 percent of nation's industrial capacity.
- ◆ Naval superiority.

**FIGURE 15–1**  
A Comparison of the Union and Confederate Control of Key Resources at the Outset of the Civil War.





The Federal government was more successful than the Confederate government at developing innovative ways to meet the great cost of the war. Its interest-bearing bonds and treasury notes accounted for 66 percent of the \$4 billion that the Union raised to wage the war. Like the Confederacy, the federal government issued paper money—derisively called “greenbacks”—that was not backed by gold or silver and it also levied the country’s first income tax, which citizens could pay in greenbacks, a move that bolstered the value and credibility of the paper currency. Ruinous inflation was thereby averted in the North.

### LEADERS, GOVERNMENTS, AND STRATEGIES

Leadership ability, like resources, played an important role in the war. Confederate president Jefferson Davis had to build a government from scratch during the war. Abraham Lincoln at least had the benefit of an established government, a standing army, healthy financial resources, and diplomatic relations with the nations of Europe.

Although Davis’s career qualified him for the task of running the Confederacy, colleagues found him aloof. He was inclined to equate compromise with weakness and interpreted any opposition as a personal attack.

Southerners viewed themselves as the genuine heirs of the American Revolution and the true defenders of the United States Constitution. If the South were to establish itself as a separate country, however, Southerners had to develop a distinctive idea based on Southern life. Slavery was distinctively Southern, but most white Southerners did not own slaves. Southerners had forcefully advanced the ideology of states’ rights during the 1840s and 1850s, but the primacy of state sovereignty over central authority was too a weak foundation on which to build a national consciousness. Although Southerners sought to protect their home and families, Davis found it difficult to build a loyal base of support.

Northerners also needed a convincing reason to fight. Lincoln and other Northern leaders secured support by convincing their compatriots of the importance of preserving the Union. The president viewed the conflict in global terms, its results affecting the hopes for democratic government around the world.

Lincoln handled disagreement better than Davis did. He defused tense situations with folksy humor, and his simple eloquence captured the imagination of ordinary people. Lincoln viewed himself as a man of the people and was not aloof, like Davis. But even if Jefferson Davis had been a more effective leader than Lincoln, it is unlikely that he could have overcome the odds against him. The key to Southern independence lay with its forces on the battlefield.

The secession of Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee left four border slave states—Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, and Missouri—hanging in the balance. Maryland’s strategic location north of Washington, D.C., rendered its loyalty to the Union vital. Although a majority of its citizens opposed secession, pro-Southern sentiment was strong. Lincoln therefore sent federal troops in a show of force that saved Maryland for the Union. Delaware, although nominally a slave state remained staunchly for the Union. Missourians settled their indecision in fighting that culminated with a Union victory in March 1862 although pro-Confederate Missourians waged an unsuccessful guerrilla war over the next two years. Kentucky attempted to remain neutral but became a battleground in September 1861, when Confederate forces invaded the state and Union forces moved to expel them. Although Virginia went with the Confederacy, counties in the western part of the state opposed secession and became the separate state of West Virginia, the nation’s thirty-fifth state in June 1863.

The political objectives of each side largely determined its military strategy. Southerners wanted independence; Northerners fought to preserve the Union.

#### QUICK REVIEW

##### Jefferson Davis and the Southern Cause

- ◆ Davis not a leader by personality.
- ◆ Southerners saw themselves as true heirs of the Revolution.
- ◆ Davis needed to provide Southerners with a vision of their future state.



15-4

Why They Fought (1861)



The North's goal required conquest. The Confederacy had only to fight a defensive battle in its own territory until growing Northern opposition to the war or a decisive Northern military mistake convinced the Union to give up.

But the South's strategy had two weaknesses. First, it demanded more patience than the South had shown in impulsively attacking Fort Sumter. Second, Southern resources might give out before Northern public opinion demanded peace. The question was what would break first: Northern support for the war or Southern ability to wage it?

## THE EARLY WAR, 1861–1862

The North's offensive strategy dictated the course of the war for the first two years. In the West, the Federal army's objectives were to hold Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee for the Union, to control the Mississippi River, and eventually to detach the area west of the Appalachians from the rest of the Confederacy. In the East, Union forces sought to capture Richmond, the Confederate capital. The U.S. Navy blockaded the Confederate coast and pushed into inland waterways to capture Southern ports. The Confederates defended strategic locations throughout their territory or abandoned them when prudence required. By the end of 1862, the result remained in the balance.

### FIRST BULL RUN

By July 1861, when the border states appeared more secure for the Union, President Lincoln ordered Union general Irvin McDowell to take Richmond (see Map 15–1 p. 386). Confronting McDowell 20 miles southwest of Washington at Manassas was a Confederate army under General P. G. T. Beauregard. McDowell and Beauregard's armies clashed on July 21 at the First Battle of Bull Run (known to the Confederacy as the First Battle of Manassas). The Union forces seemed on the verge of winning, but Beauregard's forces repulsed the assault. At the height of the battle, General Barnard Bee of South Carolina in exasperation called out to Colonel Thomas J. Jackson for assistance, shouting, "There stands Jackson—like a damned stone wall!" Somehow the rebuke became a shorthand for courage and steadfastness. Jackson's men henceforth called him "Stonewall."

Bull Run boosted Southerners' confidence and destroyed the widespread belief in the North that the war would be over quickly.

### THE WAR IN THE WEST

While Federal forces retreated in Virginia, they advanced in the West. Two Confederate forts, Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, guarded the strategic waterways that linked Tennessee and Kentucky to the Mississippi Valley. The forts also defended Nashville, the Tennessee state capital (see Map 15–2 p. 387). In February 1862, Union general Ulysses S. Grant coordinated a land and river campaign against the forts that caught the Southerners unprepared and outflanked. By February 16, both forts had fallen. The Union victory drove a wedge into Southern territory and closed the Confederacy's quickest path to the West from Virginia and the Carolinas. The Confederacy never recovered the strategic advantage in the West.

Grant next moved his main army south to prepare for an assault on the key Mississippi River port and rail center of Vicksburg. After blunting a surprise Confederate attack at Shiloh Church, Grant pushed the Southerners back to Corinth, Mississippi. Another important Federal success came when Admiral

#### WHAT WERE the

Confederate and Union military strategies?

#### QUICK REVIEW

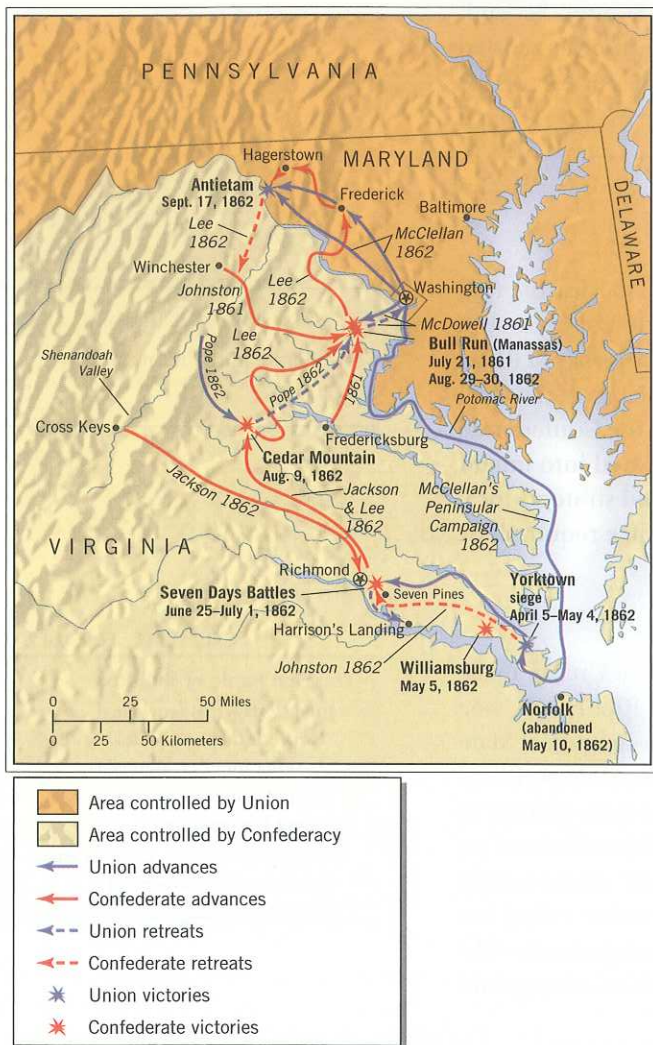
##### The First Battle of Bull Run

- ◆ July 21, 1861: Beauregard (Confederacy) and McDowell (Union) meet at Manassas.
- ◆ Confederate troops repulse a strong Union attack.
- ◆ Colonel Thomas J. Jackson earns his nickname "Stonewall."



## MAP EXPLORATION

To explore an interactive version of this map, go to <http://www.prenhall.com/goldfield2/map15.1>



MAP 15-1

**From First Bull Run to Antietam: The War in the East, 1861–1862** The early stages of the war demonstrated the strategies of both Confederate and Union forces. Federal troops stormed into Virginia hoping to capture Richmond and bring a quick end to the war. Through a combination of poor generalship and Confederate tenacity, they failed. Confederate troops hoped to defend their territory, prolong the war, and eventually win their independence as Northern patience evaporated. They proved successful initially, but, with the abandonment of the defensive strategy and the invasion of Maryland in the fall of 1862, the Confederates suffered a political and morale setback at Antietam.

**WHY DID** the South abandon its defensive strategy in the fall of 1862?

David G. Farragut captured New Orleans in April 1862. Two hundred miles of the Mississippi River, the nation's most vital commercial waterway, were now open to Union traffic. After Memphis fell to Union forces in June, Vicksburg remained the only major river town still in Confederate hands. The fall of New Orleans and Memphis underscored a major problem with the Confederates' defensive strategy: Their military reserves were stretched too thin to defend their vast territory.

## REASSESSING THE WAR: THE HUMAN TOLL

More American soldiers were lost at Shiloh than in all of the nation's wars combined up to that time. Each side suffered more than ten thousand casualties. By the time the smoke had cleared, the soldiers' initial bravado was replaced by the realization that death or capture was a likely outcome and that heroism, courage, and piety did not guarantee survival. A hunger for peace replaced the thirst for battle.

Kate Cumming, the nurse at the Confederate hospital in Corinth, wrote of soldiers brought from the battle "mutilated in every imaginable way." Piercing the air were the screams of men undergoing amputations, often with little or no anesthetic. Some pleaded with physicians to kill them and end their misery. Others bore the pain stoically and entrusted last words and letters to nurses, dying with the word "Mother" on their lips.

Women on both sides cared for the wounded and sick. In the North, members of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, a voluntary organization formed in 1861 and staffed mainly by women, attempted to upgrade hospital and medical care. But in the months after Shiloh and with the resumption of fighting in the East, the extent of casualties often overwhelmed the volunteers. And the bloodiest fighting lay ahead.

Even if a soldier escaped death on the battlefield and survived a hospital stay, he often died from disease. Roughly twice as many men died from disease than on the battlefield during the Civil War. Typhoid, appropriately known as camp fever, claimed the most lives.

Many soldiers turned to religion for consolation. Camp prayer meetings and revivals increased after Shiloh. Soldiers often gathered to sing hymns before retiring for the night. Stories circulated of a Bible that stopped a bullet. But veterans knew that a deck of cards did just as well, and neither Bibles nor cards offered protection against artillery.

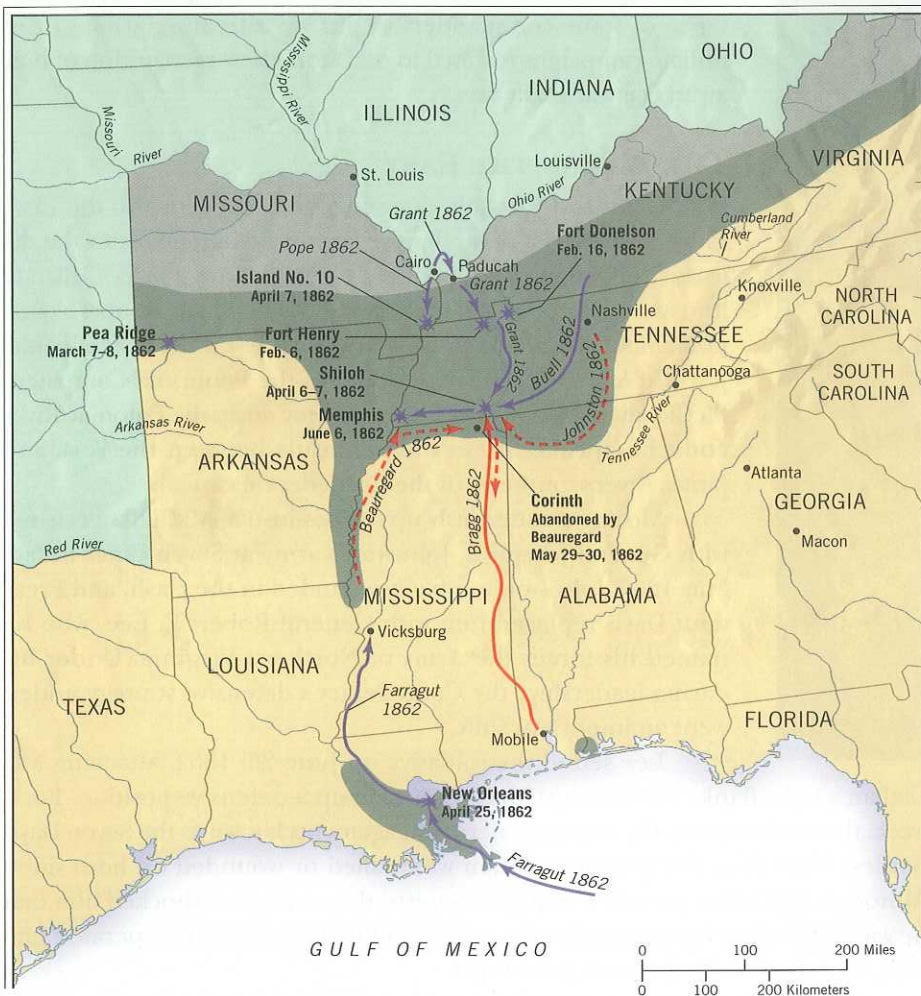
Soldiers responded in various ways to constant danger and fear. Some talked or yelled loudly. (The Confederate rebel yell probably relieved some of the tension of battle as well as frightened the enemy.) Others shook uncontrollably. A few soldiers could not wake up in the morning without being doused with cold water. Soldiers suffered from strained relations between officers and enlisted men, heavy chores, incessant drills and boredom. Women camp followers





## MAP EXPLORATION

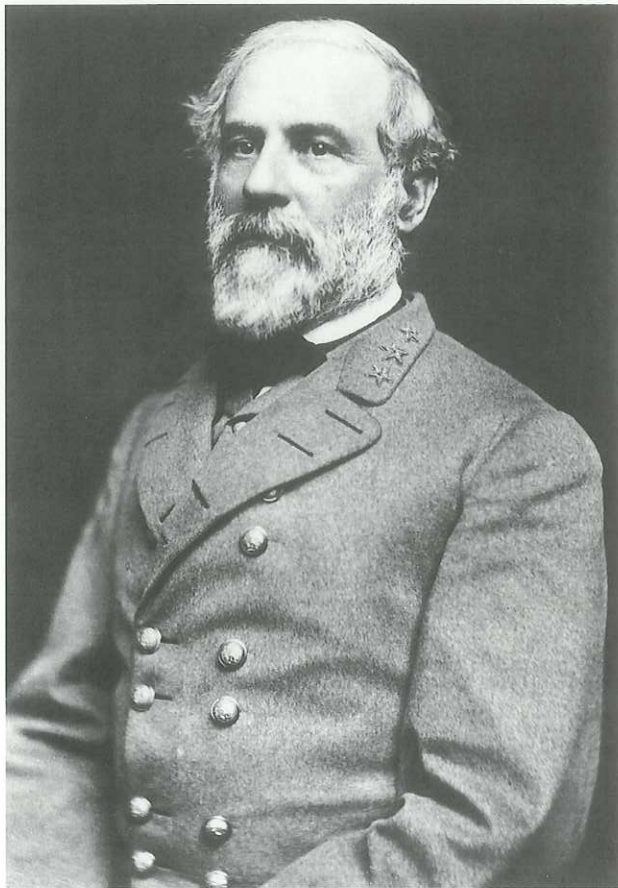
To explore an interactive version of this map, go to <http://www.prenhall.com/goldfield2/map15.2>



MAP 15-2

**The War in the West, 1861–1862** Because of the early Union emphasis on capturing Richmond, the war in the West seemed less important to Northerners. But, from a strategic standpoint, the victories at Forts Henry and Donelson, which drove a wedge into southern territory and closed the Confederacy's quickest path to the West from Virginia and the Carolinas, and the capture of New Orleans and its Mississippi River port, were crucial and set the stage for greater Federal success in the West in 1863.

BASED ON this map, what was the Union's overall strategy in these campaigns?



A career army officer who resigned his commission to serve his state and new country, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's quiet courage and sense of duty inspired his men.

Corbis/Bettman

cooked, did laundry, and provided sexual services for a price. Venereal disease was rampant.

By 1862, the war's carnage and brutality had dispelled any lingering notions of war as a chivalrous enterprise. The reluctance of some commanders to pursue retreating armies or to initiate campaigns resulted in part from their recognition of how awful the war really was.

### THE WAR IN THE EAST

With Grant and Farragut squeezing the Confederacy in the West, Lincoln ordered a new offensive against Richmond. After the defeat at Bull Run, he had appointed General George B. McClellan to lead what was now called the Army of the Potomac. A superb organizer, McClellan would prove overly cautious on the field of battle.

In March 1862, at the outset of the Peninsula Campaign, McClellan moved his 112,000-man army down the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay to the peninsula between the York and James Rivers southeast of the Confederate capital.

Moving ponderously up the peninsula, McClellan clashed with General Joseph E. Johnston's army at Seven Pines in late May 1862. Johnston was badly wounded in the clash, and President Davis replaced him with General Robert E. Lee, who renamed his forces the Army of Northern Virginia. Under his daring leadership, the Confederacy's defensive strategy underwent an important shift.

Lee seized the initiative on June 25, 1862, attacking McClellan's right flank. The nervous McClellan took up a defensive position. For a week, the armies sparred in a series of fierce engagements known as the Seven Days' Battles. More than thirty thousand men were killed or wounded on both sides. Although McClellan prevailed in these contests, the carnage so shocked him that he withdrew down the peninsula and away from Richmond. The exasperated Lincoln, replaced McClellan with John Pope.

Although Lee had lost one-fourth of his eighty thousand-man army, he remained convinced of the wisdom of his offensive-defensive strategy. Better coordination between his staff and field commanders, he believed, would have reduced his casualties and inflicted greater damage on the enemy.

Lee went to work to vindicate these tactics. After a series of inconclusive skirmishes, Union and Confederate armies gathered once more near Manassas Junction. The Second Battle of Bull Run was another disaster for the Union. Lee's generalship completely befuddled Pope and again saved Richmond. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia were developing a reputation for invincibility.

## TURNING POINTS, 1862–1863

WHAT WAS the  
Emancipation Proclamation?

The Confederate victories in the East masked the delicate condition of Southern fortunes. The longer the Confederacy held off Union offensives, the greater the likelihood of securing the South's independence. But the longer the war continued, the higher the probability that the Confederacy's shortcomings in men and resources would erode its ability to keep fighting. The Union was also choking the South's commercial link to Europe to which Davis looked for diplomatic recognition as well as trade.



But the most important arena of the war remained the battlefield. Having stymied the Union war machine, Lee contemplated a thrust into Northern territory to stoke Northerners' hostility to the war. President Lincoln also harbored a bold plan. During the spring and summer of 1862, he had concluded that emancipation of the Confederacy's slaves was essential for preserving the Union, but Lincoln was reluctant to take this step before the Union's fortunes on the battlefield improved. As the fall of 1862 approached, both Union and Confederate governments prepared for the most significant conflicts of the war to date.

## THE NAVAL WAR AND THE DIPLOMATIC WAR

The Union's naval strategy was to blockade the Southern coast and capture its key seaports and river towns. The intention was to prevent supplies from reaching the Confederacy and cash crops from leaving. Destroying the South's ability to carry on trade would also prevent the Confederacy from raising money to purchase goods to wage war.

With more than 3,000 miles of Confederate coastline to cover, the Union blockade was weak at first. As time passed and the number of ships in the Union navy grew, the blockade tightened. The skyrocketing prices of Southern staples on world markets by 1862 attested to the effectiveness of the Union strategy.

The Confederate naval strategy was to break the blockade and defend the South's rivers and seaports. Confederate blockade runners and privateers attacked Union merchant ships and disrupted Federal operations. Historians disagree about the effectiveness of the Union naval blockade, but any restriction to the flow of trade hurt the Southern cause.

Southerners, remembering the crucial role that French assistance had played in the American Revolution, thought that the recognition of their independence by overseas governments would legitimize their cause in the eyes of the world. Britain had no great love of the United States. If the country divided, it would pose less of a threat to British interests. The aristocratic pretensions of some Southerners also appealed to their British counterparts. British foreign policy, however, had been antislavery for half a century, and the slavery issue turned many Britons against the South. The Union cause had support in high ruling circles, especially the Royal Family, as well as from middle-class and working-class Britons.

Emperor Napoleon III of France, who had imperial designs on Mexico, favored the Confederacy. A restored Union, he thought, would pose a greater threat to his ambitions than a divided one. But Napoleon would not intervene in the Confederate cause without British support. He did, however, invade Mexico in 1863 and install Archduke Maximilian of Austria as emperor. This Mexican empire was short-lived. American pressure and foreign policy reverses in Europe forced the French to withdraw their troops in 1867. Insurgents led by Benito Juárez then captured and executed Maximilian and restored the Mexican republic.

The Russians were probably the staunchest supporters of the Union abroad. Tsar Alexander II saw the United States as a counterweight to British power.

Southerners were convinced that they could use cotton as a diplomatic bargaining chip. "You dare not to make war on cotton. . . . Cotton is King" declared South Carolina senator James H. Hammond in 1858. But King Cotton was no more successful at coercing the British—who had large cotton reserves and an alternate source of supply in Egypt—into granting recognition to the Confederacy than it was at stopping the North from going to war against the South.

Great Britain and France, however, did declare themselves neutral and allowed their merchants to sell arms and supplies to both sides. This policy benefited the Confederacy, with its limited arsenal, but the Confederacy's hopes for

## QUICK REVIEW

### The War at Sea

- ◆ Union naval blockade strengthened over time.
- ◆ Confederate ships had limited success running the blockade.
- ◆ Restriction of trade hurt the Southern cause.



diplomatic recognition depended on its ability to win its independence on the battlefield. After Lee's victories in Virginia in the spring of 1862 and his subsequent decision to invade the North, British intervention in the war grew more likely.

### ANTIETAM

Lee was convinced that the South could not sustain a prolonged conflict. If possible his army had to destroy Union forces quickly. He established camp at Frederick, Maryland in September 1862, scattering his army at various sites, convinced that McClellan and the Army of the Potomac would not attack him.

At this point, luck intervened for the North when a Union corporal found a copy of Lee's orders for the disposition of his army. But, "Little Mac" still moved so cautiously that Lee had time to retreat to defensive positions at Sharpsburg, Maryland, along Antietam Creek. There Lee's army of 50,000 men came to blows with McClellan's army of 75,000.

The Battle of Antietam saw the bloodiest single day of fighting in American history. About 2,100 Union soldiers and 2,700 Confederates died on the battlefield, and another 18,500, equally divided, were wounded. McClellan squandered his numerical superiority with timid attacks. The armies fought to a tactical draw, but the battle was a strategic defeat for the Confederacy.

Antietam marked a major turning point in the war. It kept Lee from directly threatening Northern industry and financial institutions. It prompted Britain and France to abandon plans to grant recognition to the Confederacy. And it provided Lincoln with the victory he needed to announce the abolition of slavery.

### EMANCIPATION

President Lincoln despised slavery, but he had always maintained that preserving the Union was his primary war goal. Lincoln realized that he had to stress union to keep the Northern public united in support of the war, but from the war's outset, pressure grew to declare emancipation.

Lincoln said in his inaugural address that he had "no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists." But pressure from Northern civilians, Union soldiers, and Congress for some form of emancipation mounted in the spring of 1862. In response, the Republican Congress prohibited slavery in the territories and abolished slavery in the District of Columbia. The act emancipating the district's slaves called for compensating slave owners and colonizing the freed slaves in black republics such as Haiti and Liberia. Then in July 1862, the **Confiscation Act** ordered the seizure of land from disloyal Southerners and the emancipation of their slaves.

Although support for emancipation had grown, it was still not favored by a majority in the North, especially not in the border states. But freeing the slaves would gain support for the Union cause abroad and it would weaken the Confederacy's ability to wage war by removing a crucial source of labor.

By mid-1862, Lincoln had resolved to act on his moral convictions and proclaim emancipation. Taking the advice of Secretary of State Seward, however, he decided to wait for a battlefield victory so that the measure would not appear an act of desperation. Antietam gave the president his opening, and on September 22, 1862, he announced his intention to issue the **Emancipation Proclamation**, to take effect January 1, 1863, in all states still in rebellion. The proclamation exempted slaves in the border states loyal to the Union and in areas under Federal occupation.

Southerners reacted with outrage, while Northerners generally approved. But the Emancipation Proclamation represented far more than its qualified words and phrases expressed. "A mighty *act*," Massachusetts governor John Andrew called it.



#### WHERE TO LEARN MORE

★ Antietam National Battlefield,  
Sharpsburg, Maryland  
[www.nps.gov/anti/](http://www.nps.gov/anti/)

**Confiscation Act** Second confiscation law passed by Congress, ordering the seizure of land from disloyal Southerners and the emancipation of their slaves.

**Emancipation Proclamation** Decree announced by President Abraham Lincoln in September 1862 and formally issued on January 1, 1863, freeing slaves in all Confederate states still in rebellion.



## ◆ AMERICAN VIEWS ◆

### A SOLDIER PROMOTES THE UNION CAUSE

**S**oldiers wrote their thoughts down in diaries, in letters to their families, and, as in the case here of D. Beardsley, from Tompkins County, New York, to newspapers. Morale faltered in both the civilian and military ranks on both sides during the Civil War as this excerpt indicates. At the same time, Beardsley is buoyed by the sense of mission brought about by Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect one month before this letter.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES have to balance civil liberties with the necessity of carrying on a war. What does this soldier think about where the balance ought to occur? The writer refers to "desertion" in the ranks. Why was there a morale problem in the Union armies in February 1863? How does this soldier hope the Emancipation Proclamation will affect the war effort in the North?

I having the honor of being a volunteer from old Tompkins County, and also fighting under the same banner and for the same principles that Washington did—still holding to my priviledges [sic] as a citizen of the United States, I think it will not be out of place for me to speak a few words through your columns, to the good people of my native county. . . .

If our Government would have no rebellion, she must pluck the tares of rebellion from the heart of the nation; and if we would have this rebellion crushed, we must cease to have traitors in power. Let that class in the Northern States, who would kiss the red hand of treason for a momentary peace, remember that the hand will be no less red by the kiss, or the blow no less sure by the pause; and I would humbly beg the people of the North, in the name of a soldier for the Union, that they will, in this dark and trying hour of our country's history, give us their undivided support, first, by stripping all power from the traitors at home, and then by their repentant prayers for our success in battles. . . . A few have deserted, and may God have mercy upon them. Let them go, their *blood* is altogether too poor to enrich the soil of worn out Virginia. We want the blood of patriots to make it bring forth the fruits of freedom. . . . We hope that in future the people and the army will become more pure, and work with a nobler purpose of heart. The first step toward this reformation has already been taken. We begin to see that all men have rights, whether white or black, and we hope that when the smoke of battle shall have cleared away, that the bright sun of peace will shine upon a truly free people.

Source: D. Beardsley, "Co. K, 137th Reg't, N.Y. Vols" that appeared in the *Ithaca Journal*, March 3, 1863; dated February 16, 1863 and written from Acquia Landing, Virginia.

Lincoln and the Union war effort were now tied to the cause of freedom. The war had become a holy war of deliverance. Freedom and Union entwined in the public consciousness of the North. Emancipation also unified the Republican party and strengthened the president's hand in conducting the war. (See American Views: "A Soldier Promotes the Union Cause.")

As word of the Emancipation Proclamation raced through the slave grapevine, slaves rejoiced that their long-awaited day of jubilee had arrived. Southern masters fought to deter their slaves by punishing the families of black men who fled to Union lines and employing slavecatchers to reclaim runaways. But, slaveholders could not stem the tide of slaves fleeing toward the Union lines and freedom. The 1862 Confiscation Act included slaves with other Confederate property as the "contraband" of war and subject to confiscation, a term Union general Benjamin Butler had applied to escaped slaves as early as May 1861. As they helped the Union cause, contrabands also sought to help fellow slaves "steal" their freedom. The former slaves who arrived at Federal



#### Even before the Emancipation

Proclamation, slaves throughout the South “stole” their freedom. After the Proclamation, the trickle of black slaves abandoning their masters became a flood, as they sought freedom behind Union lines.

Theo Kaufman, “On to Liberty,” 1887, oil on canvas, 36” x 56”. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Erving and Joyce Wolf, 1982. (1982, 443.3) Photograph © 1982 The Metropolitan Museum of Art

camps after emancipation often encountered poor conditions but relished their freedom nonetheless. After 1863, ex-slaves served in increasing numbers in the Union army.

More than 80 percent of the roughly 180,000 black soldiers and 20,000 black sailors who fought for the Union were slaves and free black men from the South. For the typical black Southerner who joined the army, the passage from bondage to freedom came quickly. Making his escape from his master, he perhaps “stole” his family as well. He typically experienced his first days of freedom behind Union lines, where he may have learned to read and write. Finally, he put on the Federal uniform, experiencing as one Southern black volunteer commented, “the biggest thing that ever happened in my life.”

Although black troops fought as ably as their white comrades, they received lower pay than white soldiers and performed the most menial duties in camp. Abolitionists and black leaders in the North pressured President Lincoln for more equitable treatment of African-American recruits. When Frederick Douglass complained to Lincoln about the lower pay that black troops received, the president defended the practice. Despite discrimination, black soldiers fought valiantly at Port Hudson, Louisiana; near Charleston; and, late in the war, at the siege of Petersburg, Virginia. The most celebrated black encounter with Confederate troops occurred in July 1863 during a futile assault by the 54th Massachusetts Regiment on Fort Wagner outside Charleston. The Northern press, previously lukewarm toward black troops, heaped praise on the effort.



WHERE TO LEARN MORE

★ Gettysburg National Military Park,  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
[www.nps.gov/gett/](http://www.nps.gov/gett/)



## FROM FREDERICKSBURG TO GETTYSBURG

In late 1862, after Antietam, the president replaced McClellan with General Ambrose E. Burnside. Moving swiftly against Lee's dispersed army in northern Virginia, Burnside reached the Rappahannock River opposite Fredericksburg in November 1862 (see Map 15–3). On December 13, the Union forces launched a foolish frontal assault that the Confederates repelled, inflicting heavy Federal casualties. Burnside was relieved of his command, and Major General Joseph Hooker was installed in his place.

Hooker was as incompetent as Burnside. Between May 1 and May 4, Lee's army delivered a series of crushing attacks on Hooker's forces at Chancellorsville. Out-numbered two to one, Lee had pulled off another stunning victory but he had lost some thirteen thousand men and Stonewall Jackson. Nervous Confederate sentries mistakenly shot and wounded him as he returned from a reconnoitering mission, and he died a few days later. Jackson had helped Lee win some of the Confederacy's most stunning victories. Lee recognized the tragedy of Jackson's loss for himself and his country.

Chancellorsville thrust Lincoln into another bout of despair. "My God!" he exclaimed in agony, "What will the country say! What will the country say!" Meanwhile, Lee headed north once again.

President Lincoln sent the Union Army of the Potomac after Lee. But General Hooker dallied, and Lincoln replaced him with George Gordon Meade who set out after the Confederate army, which was encamped at Cashtown, Pennsylvania, 45 miles from Harrisburg. That the greatest battle of the war erupted at nearby Gettysburg was pure chance (see Map 15–4 on p. 394). During the first day of battle, July 1, the Confederates forced Union forces back from the town to a new position on Cemetery Hill. On the second day, they took several key locations along Cemetery Ridge before Federal forces pushed them back to the previous day's positions. On July 3, Lee made a fateful error. Believing that the center of Meade's line was weak, he ordered an all-out assault against it by General George Pickett. Meade was prepared for Lee's assault. As the Confederate infantry marched out with battle colors flying, the Union artillery and Federal riflemen tore apart the charging Southerners and half of Pickett's thirteen thousand-man division lay dead or wounded.

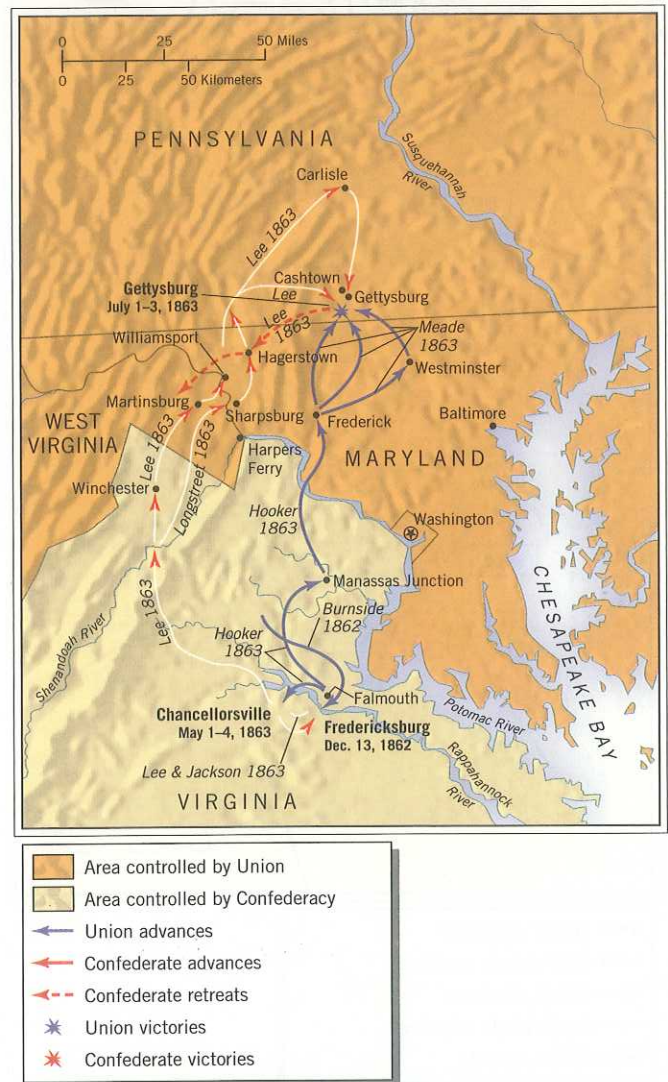
After the battle, Lee explained, "I believed my men were invincible." Meade allowed Lee to withdraw to Virginia. Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the war. The Union suffered 23,000 casualties; the Confederacy, 28,000.

## VICKSBURG, CHATTANOOGA, AND THE WEST

On July 4, one day after Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, the last major Confederate strong-hold on the Mississippi, surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant. Grant is often perceived, incorrectly, as a general who ground out victories through superior numbers, with little finesse or concern for his troops' safety. But in his

## MAP EXPLORATION

To explore an interactive version of this map, go to <http://www.prenhall.com/goldfield2/map15.3>

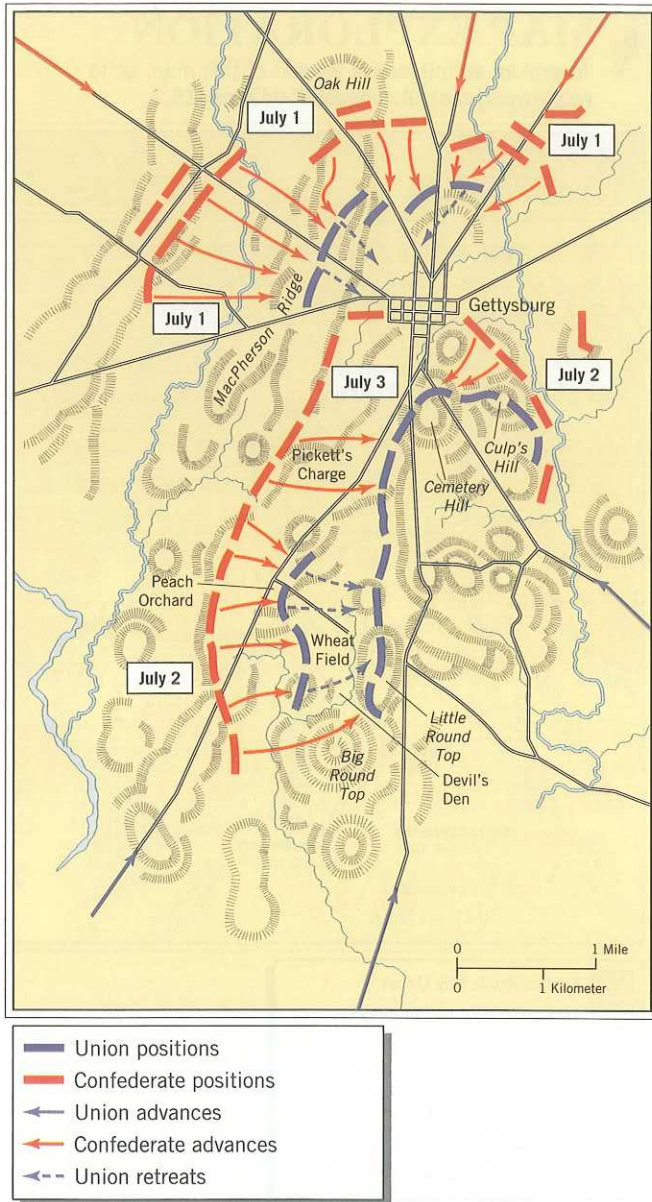


MAP 15-3

### From Fredericksburg to Gettysburg: The War in the East, December 1862–July 1863

By all logic, the increasingly outgunned and outfinanced Confederacy should have been showing signs of faltering by 1863. But bungling by Union generals at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville sustained Southern fortunes and encouraged Robert E. Lee to attempt another Northern invasion.

HOW WAS Robert E. Lee able to press on, outgunned and outfinanced, into 1863 and beyond?



MAP 15-4

**The Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863** In a war that lasted four years, it is difficult to point to the decisive battle, but clearly the outcome during those hot July days at Gettysburg set the tone for the rest of the war. The result was unclear until the final day of battle and, even then, it might have gone either way. Winning by a whisker was enough to propel Union armies to a string of victories over the next year, and throw Confederate forces back on their defenses among an increasingly despairing population. Gettysburg marked the last major Southern invasion of the North.

WHY WAS the Battle of Gettysburg so crucial?

campaigns in the West, he used his forces creatively, swiftly, and with a minimum loss of life.

Grant had devised a brilliant plan to take Vicksburg that called for rapid maneuvering and expert coordination (see Map 15-5). Grant had his twenty thousand Union troops ferried across the Mississippi from the Louisiana side south of Vicksburg. Then they moved northeastward, captured the Mississippi state capital at Jackson, and turned west toward Vicksburg. On May 22, 1863, Grant settled down in front of the city and cut it off completely. Their situation hopeless, General John Pemberton and his thirty thousand-man garrison surrendered on July 4.

As Grant was besieging Vicksburg in June 1863, Union general William S. Rosecrans advanced on Confederate general Braxton Bragg, whose army held Chattanooga, a "doorway" on the railroad that linked Richmond to the Lower South. The capture of the city would complete the uncoupling of the West from the eastern Confederacy.

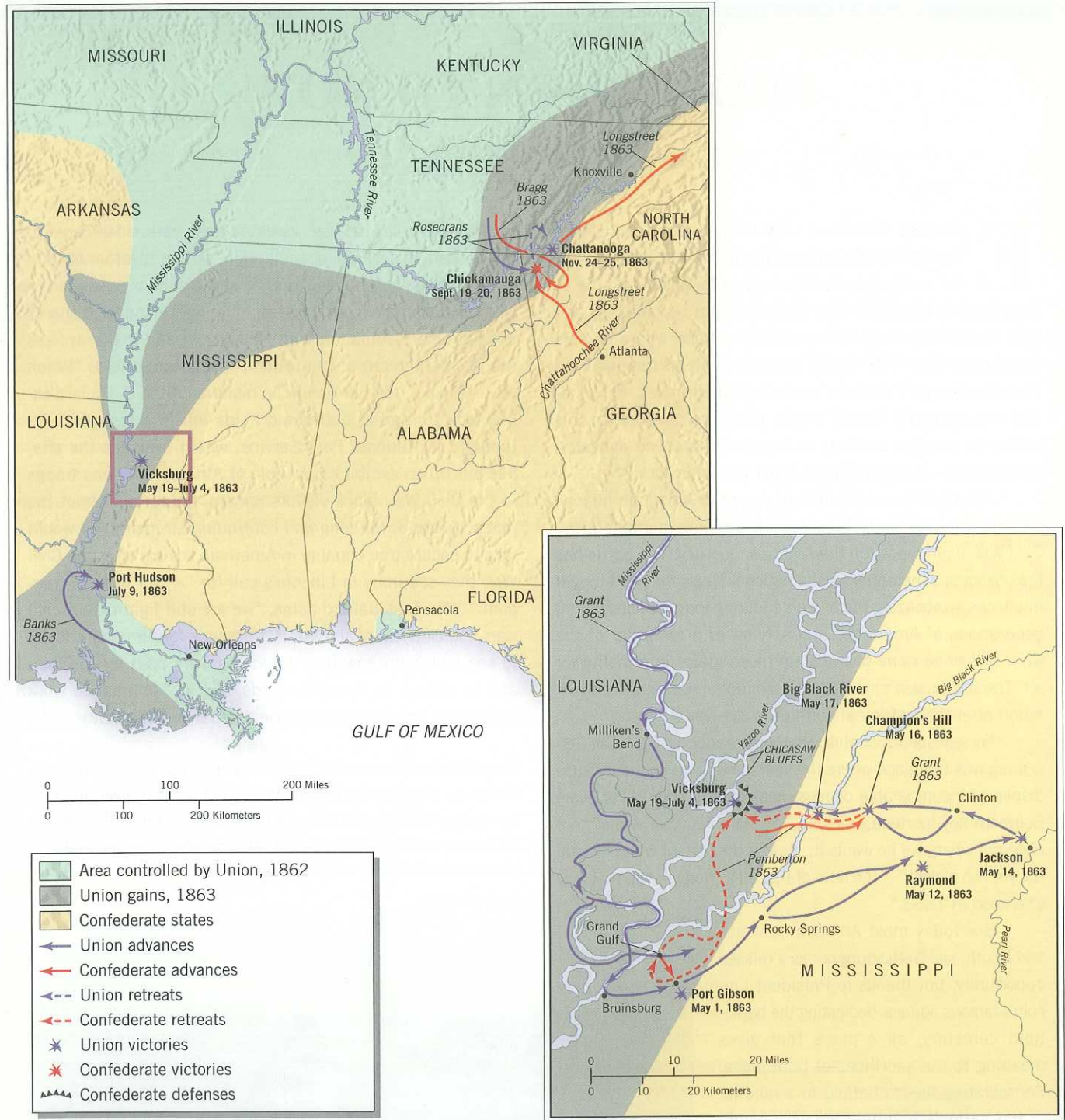
At Rosecrans's approach, Bragg abandoned Chattanooga and took up positions at nearby Chickamauga Creek. When the two armies clashed at Chickamauga on September 19, Bragg pushed Rosecrans back and bottled up Rosecrans in Chattanooga much as Grant had confined Pemberton at Vicksburg. Suddenly, the Union's strategy for the conquest of the western Confederacy seemed in jeopardy.

The Confederate position on the heights overlooking Chattanooga appeared impregnable. But Union generals Grant, Sherman, and Hooker broke the siege and forced Bragg's army to retreat into Georgia. The Union now dominated most of the West and faced an open road to the East.

The Confederacy's reverses at Vicksburg and Chattanooga mirrored its misfortunes beyond the Mississippi River. Texas was critical to Confederate fortunes, both as a source of supply for the East and as a base for the conquest of the Far West, but it was far from secure. Texas suffered from internal dissent and violence on its borders. For a time, it maintained commercial contact with the rest of the Confederacy through Matamoros, Mexico. But by 1864, with the Union in control of the Mississippi, Texas had lost its strategic importance. The Confederacy's transcontinental aspirations died early in the war. In March 1862, a Confederate army seeking to conquer the Southwest was overwhelmed by Union forces at the Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico. The Southwest from New Mexico to California would remain firmly in Union hands.

Native American tribes in the Trans-Mississippi West spent much of the Civil War battling Federal troops for territory and resources. Three regiments of Cherokee Indians, however, fought for the South at the Battle of Pea Ridge in 1862. The Union won the battle and with it control of Missouri and northern Arkansas. Most battles between pro-Union and pro-Southern Native Americans occurred in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).





MAP 15-5

**Vicksburg and Chattanooga: The War in the West, 1863** Devising a brilliant strategy, Union General Ulysses S. Grant took the last major Mississippi River stronghold from Confederate hands on July 4, 1863, dealing a significant economic and morale blow to southern forces. Coupled with the defeat at Gettysburg a day earlier, the fall of Vicksburg portended a bitter finale to hopes for Southern independence. Grant completed his domination of the West by joining forces with several Union generals to capture Chattanooga and push Confederate forces into Georgia, setting the stage for the capture of that key Southern state by the Federals in 1864.

BASED ON this map, how was Grant able to take the last major Mississippi stronghold from Confederate hands?



## FROM THEN TO NOW

### Gettysburg

Each year more than 1.8 million visitors track across Pennsylvania's rolling hills to retrace the steps of the competing armies as they fought the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. The fascination has become big business at the Gettysburg National Military Park, where tourists spend more than \$40 million annually on items ranging from Pickett's Charge T-shirts to ersatz battlefield relics. For a nation not ordinarily fixated on the past, the devotion to this battle—to which a majority of Americans have no ancestral connections—is extraordinary. What accounts for it?

The Civil War was a defining event in American history, and the Battle of Gettysburg was the defining moment of the Civil War, a guidepost on the American journey. The battle has thus become a metaphor for the national ideals the war brought into focus symbolizing them in an enduring form for subsequent generations of Americans and serving as a reminder of the work still to be done to translate those ideals into reality for all. The battle also emerged as a symbol of national reconciliation after the fratricidal conflict of the war.

For generations of white Southerners after the Civil War, Gettysburg was the place where the young men of a doomed cause displayed incomparable courage against long odds. "For every Southern boy fourteen years old," William Faulkner wrote, "not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it's still not yet two o'clock"—the hour of Pickett's charge—"on that July afternoon in 1863."

But today most Americans, North and South, see Gettysburg not as a missed opportunity, but thanks to President Lincoln's famous address dedicating the battlefield cemetery, as a place that gives meaning to the sacrifices of both sides. Consecrating the battlefield to a renewal of the nation's founding ideals, Lincoln asked his listeners to

highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

In the years after the war, veterans from both sides came to the battlefield seeking reconciliation, posing together for pictures and shaking hands. Tourists strike similar poses today.

African Americans, however, have not by and large shared the national fascination with Gettysburg and make up less than three percent of the visitors to the battlefield. "When you're black," African-American historian Allan B. Ballard explained, "the great battlefield holds mixed messages." Although the National Park Service, which oversees the site, has put up an exhibit on the role of African-American troops in the Civil War, black visitors remain ambivalent about the place. Aware of the long and continuing struggle they would face to secure true equality in American society after the Civil War, they see irony in Lincoln's call for "a new birth of freedom." Yet, if, as Ballard notes, "we are still fighting our civil wars," at Gettysburg at least, it is possible for Americans today to see and learn how their freedoms were paid for in blood and to reflect, in Lincoln's words, on the "unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

**These Union and Confederate dead** at Gettysburg represent the cost of the war, the price of freedom. President Lincoln transformed the battleground from a killing field to a noble symbol of sacrifice for American ideals. Gettysburg continues to occupy a special place in our nation's history and in the memory of its citizens.

Corbis/Bettman





## WAR TRANSFORMS THE NORTH

Union successes by 1863 profoundly affected both sides. For the North, hopes of victory and reunion increased. The Federal government expanded its bureaucracy to wage war efficiently, and a Republican-dominated Congress broadened Federal power. The Lincoln administration successfully weathered dissent thanks to the president's political skill, the desire of the Republicans to remain in power, and the Union's improving military fortunes. Boosted by Federal economic legislation and wartime demand, the Northern economy boomed. Women entered the work force in growing numbers, but labor unrest and class and racial tensions suggested that prosperity had a price.

### WARTIME LEGISLATION AND POLITICS

Before the Civil War, the Federal government rarely affected citizens' lives directly. But mobilizing for war required a strong central government. With the departure of the South from the Union, Republicans dominated all branches of the Federal administration. This left them in a position to test the constitutional limits of federal authority.

President Lincoln began almost immediately to use executive authority to suppress opposition to the war effort in the North. Within the first few weeks of the conflict, he ordered the seizure of telegrams to intercept seditious messages to the South. He also suspended the writ of habeas corpus, the constitutional requirement that protects a defendant against illegal imprisonment. Suspending it allowed authorities to hold suspects indefinitely and was permitted by the Constitution "when in cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety" require it.

Executive sanctions fell particularly hard on the Democratic party. "Disloyalty" was difficult to define in the midst of war. Though many Democrats opposed secession and supported the Union, they challenged the president on the conduct of the war, on emancipation, and on Lincoln's coolness toward peace initiatives. A few had ties with Confederate agents. Republicans called these dissenters "**Copper-heads**," after the poisonous snake.

Despite the suspension of habeas corpus, Lincoln compiled a fairly good record for upholding basic American civil liberties. The administration made no attempt to control the news or subvert the electoral process. In the off-year election in 1862, Republicans retained control of Congress but lost several seats to Democrats. In the presidential election of 1864, Lincoln won reelection in a hard-fought contest.

While fellow Republicans sometimes chastised the president for violating civil liberties, mismanaging military assignments, or moving too slowly on emancipation, they rarely threatened to disrupt the party. Lincoln also found support from Republican governors and state governments.

But dissent in the Republican party did affect national policy. **Radical Republicans** hounded Lincoln, establishing the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War to examine and monitor military policy. They also pressed Lincoln for quicker action on emancipation, but they supported the president on most crucial matters.

Lincoln likewise supported his party on an array of initiatives in Congress. Turning to the settlement of the West, they passed the **Homestead Act** in May 1862, which granted 160 acres of land free to any settler in the territories who agreed to improve the land within five years of the grant. The act was a boon for railroad companies.

Other legislation to boost the nation's economy and the fortunes of individual manufacturers and farmers included the **Land Grant College Act** of 1862,

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**WHAT IMPACT** did the war have on Northern political, economic, and social life?

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**Copper-heads** A term Republicans applied to Northern dissenters and those suspected of aiding the Confederate cause during the Civil War.

**Radical Republicans** A shifting group of Republican congressmen, usually a substantial minority, who favored the abolition of slavery from the beginning of the Civil War and later advocated harsh treatment of the defeated South.

**Homestead Act** Law passed by Congress in May 1862 providing homesteads with 160 acres of free land in exchange for improving the land within five years of the grant.

**Land Grant College Act** Law passed by Congress in July 1862 awarding proceeds from the sale of public lands to the states for the establishment of agricultural and mechanical colleges.



a protective tariff that same year, and the National Banking Act of 1863. The Land Grant Act awarded the proceeds from the sale of public lands to the states for the establishment of colleges offering instruction in “agriculture and mechanical arts.” The tariff legislation protected Northern industry from foreign competition while raising revenue for the Union. The National Banking Act of 1863 replaced the bank notes of individual states, which were often backed by flimsy reserves and subject to wild fluctuations in value, with a uniform national currency and brought order to a chaotic monetary system.

However, the expansion of government into some quarters, such as the draft laws, was not welcomed.

### QUICK REVIEW

#### The Draft Riots

- ◆ 1863: Congress passed national conscription law.
- ◆ New York, July 1863: mostly Irish mob burns federal marshal's headquarters.
- ◆ Racial and class antagonisms fueled riot.

### CONSCRIPTION AND THE DRAFT RIOTS

Congress passed the first national conscription law in 1863. Almost immediately, evasion, obstruction, and weak enforcement threatened to undermine it. As military authorities began arresting draft dodgers and deserters, secret societies formed to harbor draftees and instruct them on evasion. Conflicts between citizens and federal officials over the draft sometimes erupted in violence. The worst draft riot occurred in New York City in July 1863, when a mostly Irish mob protesting conscription burned the federal marshal's headquarters. Racial and class antagonisms quickly joined antidraft anger as the mob went on a rampage through the city's streets, fighting police, plundering houses of the wealthy, and crying, “Down with the rich!” Racial antagonisms contributed to the violence. The mob lynched two black men and burned the Colored Orphan Asylum. More than one hundred lives were lost in the riot, which was finally quelled by army units fresh from Gettysburg, and the draft resumed a month later.

### THE NORTHERN ECONOMY

“The North,” one historian has said, “was fighting the South with one hand and getting rich with the other behind its back.” After an initial downturn during the uncertain months preceding the war, the Northern economy picked up quickly. High tariffs and massive federal spending soon made up for the loss of Southern markets and the closing of the Mississippi River. Profits skyrocketed for some businesses like the railroads. New industries boomed, and new inventions increased manufacturing efficiency as in the sewing machine industry, which was first commercialized in the 1850s. Technological advances greatly increased the output of the North's garment factories.

Despite the loss of manpower to the demands of industry and the military, the productivity of Northern agriculture grew during the war. As machines replaced men on the farm, the manufacturers of farm machinery became wealthy. Crop failures in Europe dramatically increased the demand for American grain.

Working people should have benefited from wartime prosperity, with men off to war, immigration down, and labor in short supply. Although wages increased, prices rose more. Declining real wages led to exploitation, especially of women in garment factories. The trade union movement, which suffered a serious setback in the depression of 1857, revived. Local unions of shoemakers, carpenters, and miners emerged in 1862 across the North, and so did a few national organizations. By 1865, more than 200,000 Northern workers belonged to a labor union.

Employers struck back at union organizing by hiring strikebreakers, usually black workers. Labor conflicts between striking white workers and black strikebreakers sparked riots in New York City and Cincinnati. The racial antagonism accounted in part for workers' opposition to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and for the continued strength of the Democratic party in Northern cities.



The promise of enormous profits bred greed and corruption as well as exploitation. Illicit trade between North and South was inevitable when cotton could be bought at 20 cents a pound in New Orleans and sold for \$1.90 a pound at Boston. Profiteers not only defied the government to trade with the enemy but also sometimes swindled the government outright, supplying defective clothing to soldiers at inflated prices.

Some Northerners viewed the spending spree uneasily. They were disturbed to see older men flaunting their wealth while young men were dying on the battlefield. “The lavish profusion in which the old southern cotton aristocracy used to indulge,” wrote an indignant reporter for the *New York World*, “is completely eclipsed by the dash, parade, and magnificence of the new northern shoddy aristocracy. . . .” Exploited workers likewise resented the “shoddy aristocracy.”

Comments like these hinted at the deep social and ethical problems that were emerging in Northern society and would become more pronounced in the decades after the Civil War. For the time being, the benefits of economic development for the Union cause outweighed its negative consequences. The thriving Northern economy fed, clothed, and armed the Union’s soldiers and kept most civilians employed providing Northern women with unprecedented opportunities.

### NORTHERN WOMEN AND THE WAR

More than 100,000 Northern women took jobs in factories, sewing rooms, and arsenals during the Civil War. They often performed tasks previously reserved for men, but at lower pay.

Women also served the war effort directly in another profession previously dominated by men—nursing. Physicians and officers, however, although they tolerated women nurses as nurturing morale boosters, thought little of their ability to provide medical care. Women sometimes challenged this condescending view, braving dismissal to confront the medical-military establishment head-on. Clara Barton, among the most notable nurses of the war, treated soldiers on the battlefield at great peril and to the consternation of officers.

But the war also left tens of thousands of women widowed and devastated. In a society that assumed that men supported women, the death of a husband could be a financial and psychological disaster. Many women were left to survive on meager pensions.

The new economic opportunities the war created for women left Northern society more open to a broader view of women’s roles. One indication of this change was the admission of women to eight previously all-male state universities after the war. Like the class and racial tensions that surfaced in Northern cities, the shifting role of women during the Civil War hinted at the promises and problems of postwar life. The changing scale and nature of the American economy, the expanded role of government, and the shift in class, racial, and gender relations are all trends that signaled what historians call the “modernization” of American society.

**Nurse Ann Bell** tends a fallen Union soldier. Although medical practices were primitive and many young men died from poorly treated wounds or disease, the U.S. Sanitary Commission attempted to improve care in Union hospitals during the war. The war helped open nursing as a respectable occupation for women.

Corbis/Bettman





**HOW DID** military reversals affect Confederate political and economic life and civilian morale?

## THE CONFEDERACY DISINTEGRATES

As battlefield losses mounted, the Confederacy disintegrated. Defeat dissolves the bonds that hold a small society like the Confederacy together and exposes the large and small divisions within it. After 1863, defeat infected Confederate politics, ruined the Southern economy, and eventually invaded the hearts and minds of the Southern people. The South pinned its waning hopes on its defensive military strategy. If it could prolong the conflict a little longer, perhaps a war-weary North would replace Lincoln and the Republicans in the 1864 elections with Democrats inclined to make peace.

### SOUTHERN POLITICS

Dissent plagued Southern politics. Residents of western Virginia declared themselves for the Union and formed the new state of West Virginia. Counties in north Alabama, in German-speaking districts in Texas, and throughout the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina contemplated similar action.

As the war turned against the Confederacy, Southerners increasingly turned against each other. States' rights, a major principle of the seceding states, proved an obstacle to the Davis administration's efforts to exert central authority. The governors of Georgia and North Carolina hoarded munitions, soldiers, supplies, food, and money. Even cooperative governors refused to allow state agents to collect taxes for the Confederacy.

Unlike Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis could not appeal to party loyalty to control dissent because the Confederacy had no parties. Davis's frigid personality, his insistence on attending to minute details, and his inability to accept even constructive criticism gracefully worsened political tensions within the Confederacy.

Parts of the South began clamoring for peace during the fateful summer of 1863. In North Carolina, Jonathan Worth heard calls for the overthrow of the Davis administration and a separate peace with the North. "Every man [I] met," he concluded "was for reconstruction on the basis of the old [U.S.] constitution." By November 1864, the Confederacy suffered as much from internal disaffection as from the attacks of Union armies.

Davis and other Confederate leaders might have averted some of these problems had they succeeded in building a strong sense of Confederate nationalism. Despite several strategies to do so—identifying the Confederacy's fight for independence with the American Revolution of 1776, for example, and casting the Confederacy as a bastion of freedom standing up to Lincoln's despotic abuse of executive authority, they failed. The diaries of Southern soldiers seldom reveal devotion to the Confederacy. In a devout society convinced it was fighting a holy war, some Southerners sought some moral failing to account for their mounting losses. Some identified slavery as the culprit.

### THE SOUTHERN ECONOMY

The South lost, according to one historian, "not because the government failed to mobilize the South's resources" but "because there was virtually nothing left to mobilize." By 1863, the Confederacy was having a difficult time feeding itself. Destruction of farms and growing Union control of waterways and rail lines restricted the distribution of food. Speculators made shortages worse. People ate rats and mules to supplement their meager diets. More than one-quarter of Alabama's population was receiving public welfare by the end of the war. "Deaths from starvation have absolutely occurred," a Confederate official in the state informed President Davis in 1864.



WHERE TO LEARN MORE

★ Museum of the Confederacy,  
Richmond, Virginia [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org)



Southern soldiers had marched off to war in neat uniforms, many leaving behind self-sustaining families. But during the winter of 1863–1864, women lined their clothes with rags and newspapers to keep warm. The women and children left alone on farms and plantations were vulnerable to stragglers and deserters from both armies. Southerners also feared that slaves would rise up against their masters. Most slaves, however, were more intent on escape than revenge. Some felt genuine affection for the families they served and stayed on with them even after the war.

As Confederate casualties mounted, more and more Southern women and children, like their Northern counterparts, faced the pain of grief. With little food, worthless money, and a husband or father gone forever, the future looked bleak.

### SOUTHERN WOMEN AND THE WAR

In the early days of the Civil War, Southern white women continued to live according to antebellum conventions. Magazine articles urged them to preserve themselves as models of purity for men debased by the violence of war. Women flooded newspapers and periodicals with patriotic verses and songs that stressed the need to suppress grief and fear for the good of the men at the front.

By the time of the Civil War, such emotional concealment had become second nature to Southern white women. They had long had to endure their anguish over their husbands' nocturnal visits to the slave quarters. They were used to the condescension of men who assumed them to be intellectually inferior. And they accepted in bitter, self-sacrificing silence the contradiction between the myth of the pampered leisure they were presumed to enjoy and the hard demands their lives actually entailed.

But as Confederate manpower and materiel needs became acute, some Southern women took on new productive responsibilities and began to fill positions vacated by men. They managed plantations. They worked in the fields alongside slaves and in factories to make uniforms and munitions. They taught school. A few, like Belle Boyd and Rose O'Neal Greenhow, spied for the Confederacy. And many, like their Northern counterparts, served as nurses. Eventually, battlefield reverses and economic collapse left women and men alike struggling simply to survive.

As the war dragged on and the Southern economy and the social order deteriorated, even the patriots suffered from resentment and doubt. By 1864, many women were helping their deserting husbands or relatives elude Confederate authorities. A North Carolina official explained that "desertion takes place because desertion is encouraged. . . . And though the ladies may not be willing to concede the fact, they are nevertheless responsible. . . ." Some religious women concluded that it was God, not the Yankees, who had destroyed the South for its failure to live up to its responsibilities to women and children.

## THE UNION PREVAILS, 1864–1865

**D**espite the Union's dominant position after Vicksburg and Gettysburg and the Confederacy's mounting problems, three obstacles to Union victory remained. Federal troops under General William T. Sherman controlled Chattanooga and the gateway to Georgia, but the Confederate Army of Tennessee, commanded by Joseph E. Johnston, still blocked Sherman's path to Atlanta. Robert E. Lee's formidable Army of Northern Virginia still protected Richmond. And the Confederacy still controlled the Shenandoah Valley, which fed



**Wartime food shortages**, skyrocketing inflation, and rumors of hoarding and price-gouging drove women in several Southern cities to protest violently. Demonstrations like the 1863 food riot shown here reflected a larger rending of Southern society as Confederate losses and casualties mounted on the battlefield. Some Southern women placed survival and providing for their families ahead of boosting morale and silently supporting a war effort that had taken their men away. Their defection hurt the Confederate cause.

Corbis/Bettman

### QUICK REVIEW

#### Confederate Women

- ◆ As war dragged on, Southern women took more active role at home and in the workplace.
- ◆ Some served as spies and nurses.
- ◆ Near the end of the war, many women helped their husbands desert.

**WHAT DID** the Civil War and its outcome mean for the nation and its citizens?



Lee's armies and supplied his cavalry with horses. In March 1864, Lincoln appointed General Ulysses S. Grant commander of all Union armies. Grant set about devising a strategy to overcome these obstacles.

### GRANT'S PLAN TO END THE WAR

Grant brought two innovations to the final campaign. First, he coordinated the Union war effort, directing the Union's armies in Virginia and the Lower South to attack at the same time, keeping steady pressure on all fronts. Second, Grant waged nonstop warfare, eliminating the long periods of rest that had intervened between battles.

Although Grant's strategy ultimately worked, several problems and miscalculations undermined its effectiveness. With Sherman advancing in Georgia, Grant's major focus was Lee's army in Virginia. But Grant underestimated Lee. The Confederate general thwarted him for almost a year and inflicted horrendous casualties on his army. Confederate forces under Jubal Early drove off Union forces from the Shenandoah Valley in June 1864, allowing the Confederates to maintain their supply lines. The incompetence of General Benjamin Butler, charged with advancing up the James River to Richmond in May 1864, further eroded Grant's plan. Grant also had to contend with disaffection in his officer corps. Many officers were loyal to General George McClellan, whom Lincoln had dismissed in 1862, and considered Grant a mediocrity who had triumphed in the West only because his opposition there had been third-rate.

Lee's only hope was to make the campaign so costly that Grant would abandon it before the Southerners ran out of supplies and troops. But Grant kept relentless pressure on Lee.

Grant and General George Meade began their campaign against Lee in May 1864, crossing the Rapidan River near Fredericksburg, Virginia, and marching toward an area known as the Wilderness (see Map 15–6). Lee attacked the Army of the Potomac, which outnumbered his 118,000 to 60,000, in the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5 and 6 before it could reach open ground. Much of the fighting involved hand-to-hand combat. Gunfire set the dry underbrush ablaze. Wounded soldiers burned to death. The toll was frightful—eighteen thousand casualties on the Union side, ten thousand on the Confederate side.

In the past, Union commanders would have pulled back after such an encounter, but Grant pushed on. Attacking the entrenched Confederate Army at Spotsylvania, his army suffered another eighteen thousand casualties to the Confederates' eleven thousand. Undeterred, Grant moved on toward Cold Harbor, where Lee's troops again awaited him in entrenched positions. Flinging his army against withering Confederate fire on June 3, Grant lost seven thousand men in eight minutes. In less than a month of fighting, the Army of the Potomac had lost 55,000 men. The slaughter undermined Grant's support in Northern public opinion and led peace advocates to renew their quest for a cease-fire.

Abandoning his march on Richmond from the north, Grant shifted his army south of the James River to approach the Confederate capital from the rear. On June 17, 1864, he surprised the Confederates with an attack on Petersburg, a critical rail junction 23 miles south of Richmond. It was a brilliant maneuver, but hesitant Union corps commanders gave Lee time to reinforce the town's defenders. Both armies dug in for a lengthy siege.

While Grant advanced on Lee in Virginia, Union forces under William T. Sherman in Georgia engaged in a deadly dance with the Army of Tennessee under the command of Joseph E. Johnston as they began the Atlanta Campaign,

#### QUICK REVIEW

##### Grant's Strategy

- ◆ Better coordination of Union effort and the application of steady pressure.
- ◆ The waging of nonstop warfare.
- ◆ Grant's plan worked in the long run, but at a high cost.



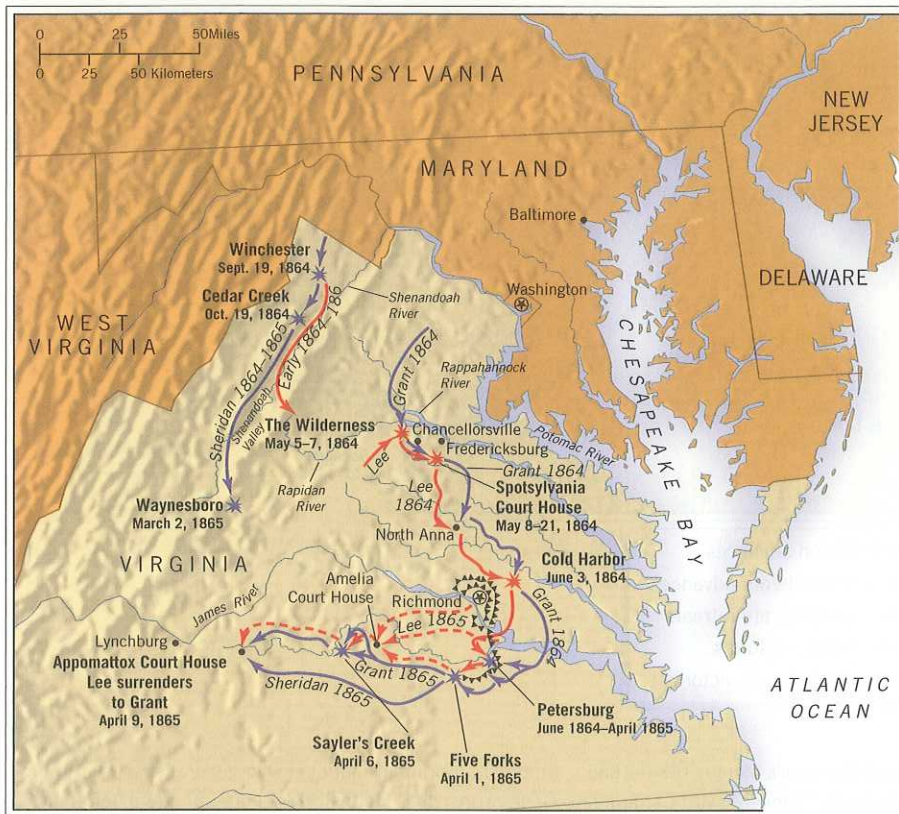
15-13  
General William Tecumseh  
Sherman on War (1864)





## MAP EXPLORATION

To explore an interactive version of this map, go to:  
<http://www.prenhall.com/goldfield2/map15.6>



- Area controlled by Union
- Area controlled by Confederacy
- Union advances
- Confederate advances
- Confederate retreats
- Fortifications
- Union victories
- Confederate victories

### MAP 15-6

**Grant and Lee in Virginia, 1864–1865** The engagements in Virginia from May 1864 to April 1865 between the two great generals for the Union and the Confederacy proved decisive in ending the Civil War. Although General Lee fared well enough in the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor campaigns, the sheer might and relentlessness of Grant and his army wore down the Confederate forces. When Petersburg fell after a prolonged siege on April 2, 1865, Richmond, Appomattox, and dreams of Southern independence soon fell as well.

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**WHAT HAPPENED** at Cold Harbor? What did this battle reveal about the Union's population advantage over the Confederacy?

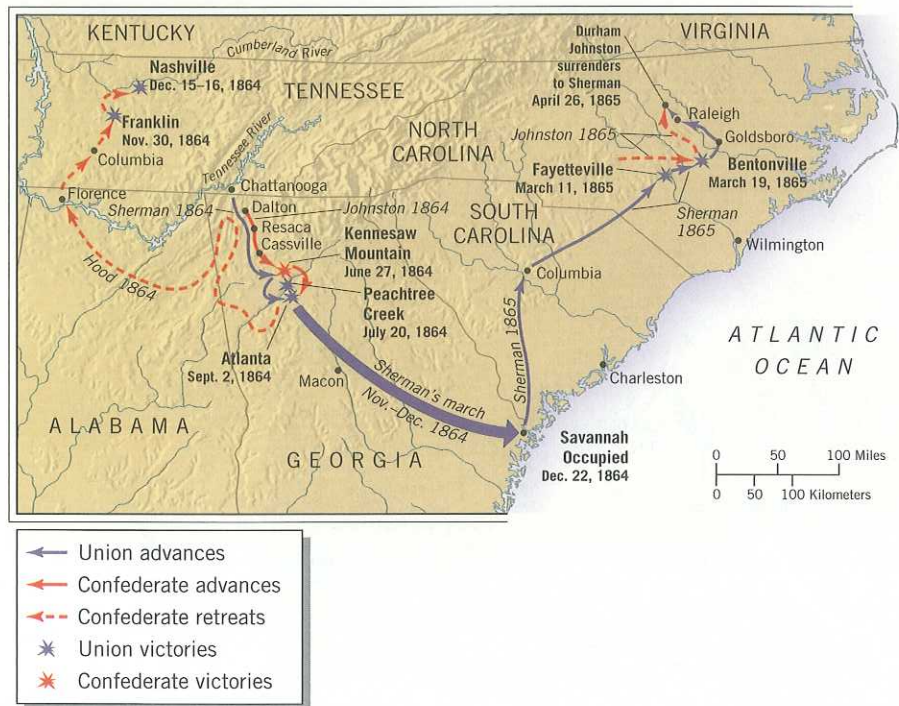
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a scheme to take Atlanta, Georgia (see Map 15–7 p. 404). Johnston shared Lee's belief that the Confederacy's best hope lay in a defensive strategy. Hoping to lure Sherman into a frontal assault, Johnston settled his forces early in May at Dalton, an important railroad junction in Georgia 25 miles south of Chattanooga and 75 miles north of Atlanta. Instead Sherman made a wide swing around the Confederates, prompting Johnston to abandon Dalton, rush south, and dig in again



## MAP EXPLORATION

To explore an interactive version of this map, go to:  
<http://www.prenhall.com/goldfield2/map15.7>



### MAP 15-7

**The Atlanta Campaign and Sherman's March, 1864–1865** Sherman, a brilliant tactician who generally refused to be goaded into a frontal assault, “danced” with Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston until an impatient Jefferson Davis replaced Johnston with John Bell Hood, and soon, Atlanta was in Federal hands. The fall of Atlanta opened the way to the rest of Georgia, a key supply state for the Confederacy. With orders not to harm the civilian population, Sherman's men took their wrath out on property as they made their way through Georgia and South Carolina.

**HOW WAS** Sherman's march to the sea the beginning of the end of the war? What affect did it have on Southern morale?

at Resaca to prevent Sherman from cutting the railroad. Again Sherman swung around without an assault, and again Johnston rushed south to cut him off, this time at Cassville.

This waltz continued for two months until Johnston had retreated to a strong defensive position on Kennesaw Mountain, barely 20 miles north of Atlanta. At this point, early in July, Sherman attacked with disastrous consequences. He resumed his maneuvering and by mid-July had forced Johnston into defensive positions on Peachtree Creek just north of Atlanta. President Davis then replaced Johnston with John Bell Hood of Texas.

In late July, Hood began a series of attacks on Sherman and was thrown back each time with heavy losses. Sherman's flanking maneuvers around the city in late August then left Hood with no choice but to abandon Atlanta and save his army. On the night of September 1, Hood evacuated the city, burning everything of military value.

The loss of Atlanta was a severe blow to the Confederacy and revived the morale of the war-weary North, helping assure Lincoln's reelection in November. The last hope of the Confederacy—that a peace candidate would replace Lincoln and end the war—had faded.



### THE ELECTION OF 1864 AND SHERMAN'S MARCH

Northern dismay over Grant's enormous losses and his failure to take Richmond raised the prospect of a Democratic election victory. Nominating George B. McClellan, former commander of the Union's armies, as their presidential candidate, the Democrats appealed to the voters as the party of peace. But the fall of Atlanta and the Union's suddenly improved military fortunes undermined Democratic prospects. In the voting on November 8, Lincoln captured 55 percent of the popular vote, losing only New Jersey, Delaware, and Kentucky. Republicans also retained control of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Republican victory reinforced the Union commitment to emancipation. A proposed constitutional amendment outlawing slavery everywhere in the United States, not just those areas still in rebellion, passed Congress and was ratified as the **Thirteenth Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution in 1865.

**Union Generals** (Ulysses Grant, George Meade) conduct a council of war near Massaponax Church, Virginia, May 21, 1864. General Grant is bending over a bench looking over General Meade's shoulder. They are surrounded by military officers.

Source: *Library of Congress*. Artist: *Mathew Brady*

**Thirteenth Amendment**  
Constitutional amendment ratified in 1865 that freed all slaves throughout the United States.



After Sherman took Atlanta, he proposed to break Confederate resistance once and for all by marching his army to the sea and destroying everything in its path. Sherman's March got under way on November 15. His force of sixty thousand men encountered little resistance, prompting North Carolina's governor, Zebulon Vance, to comment, "It shows what I have always believed, that the great *popular heart* is not now and never had been in this war!" Sherman entered Savannah on December 22, 1864. Just a few weeks earlier, Union forces in Tennessee had routed Hood's army at the Battle of Franklin and then crushed it entirely at the Battle of Nashville. Hood's defeat removed any threat to Sherman's rear.

In February 1865 Sherman headed for South Carolina where the Civil War had begun. "The truth is," Sherman wrote "the whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance on South Carolina." Sherman's troops wreaked greater destruction in South Carolina than they had in Georgia and burned the state capitol at Columbia. Sherman ordered black troops to be the first to take possession of Charleston.

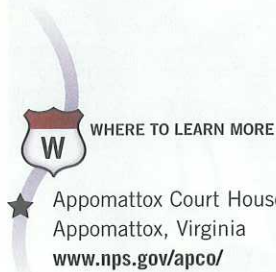
Sherman ended his march in Goldsboro, North Carolina, in March 1865. Behind the Union army lay a barren swath 425 miles long from Savannah to Goldsboro.

In a move reflecting their desperation in March 1865, Confederate leaders revived a proposal that they had previously rejected to arm and free slaves. The issue divided Confederate leaders. Confederate general Howell Cobb argued that "if slaves will make good soldiers, our whole theory of slavery is wrong." Others thought it was preferable to abandon slavery than to lose independence. Slaves themselves greeted the proposal with little enthusiasm.

On March 13, 1865, the Confederate Congress passed a bill to enlist black soldiers without a provision offering them freedom but President Davis and the War Office promised immediate freedom to slaves who enlisted. The war ended before the order could have any effect. The irony was that in the summer of 1864, a majority of Northerners probably would have accepted reunion without emancipation had the Confederacy abandoned its fight.

### THE ROAD TO APPOMATTOX AND THE DEATH OF LINCOLN

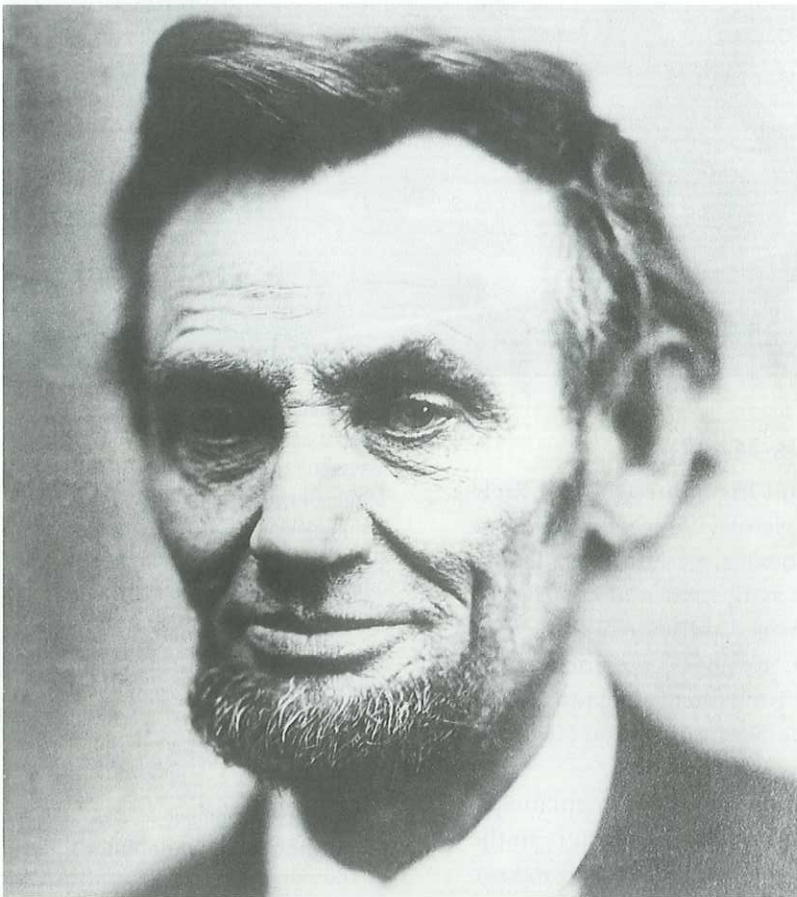
Lee's army remained the last obstacle to Union victory. On April 1, Lee was forced to abandon Petersburg and the defense of Richmond. He tried a daring run westward hoping to secure much-needed supplies and join Johnston's Army of Tennessee in North Carolina to continue the fight. While President Davis fled Richmond with his cabinet and headed toward North Carolina, Grant cut off Lee's escape at Appomattox Court House Virginia, on April 7. Convinced that further resistance was futile,



WHERE TO LEARN MORE

★ Appomattox Court House,  
Appomattox, Virginia  
[www.nps.gov/apco/](http://www.nps.gov/apco/)

This photograph of Abraham Lincoln was taken four days before John Wilkes Booth assassinated him in Ford's Theater.





he surrendered on April 9. Grant allowed Lee's men to go home unmolested and to take with them horses or mules "to put in a crop." Grant reported feeling "sad and depressed" at "the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly."

The fleeing Davis met Joseph E. Johnston at Greensboro, North Carolina, hoping to convince him to continue fighting, but Johnston surrendered to Sherman near Durham, North Carolina, on April 26. On May 10, Union cavalry captured Davis and his companions and within two weeks the Civil War came to an end.

Washington greeted the Confederate surrender at Appomattox with raucous rejoicing. On April 11, President Lincoln spoke briefly of his plans to reconstruct the South with the help of persons loyal to the Union, including recently freed slaves. At least one listener found the speech disappointing. Sometime actor and full-time Confederate patriot John Wilkes Booth muttered to a friend in the throng, "That means nigger citizenship. Now, by God . . . That is the last speech he will ever make."

On the evening of April 14, Good Friday, the president went to Ford's Theater in Washington to view a comedy, *Our American Cousin*. During the performance, Booth shot the president, wounding him mortally, then jumped from Lincoln's box to the stage shouting "Sic semper tyrannis" ("Thus ever to tyrants") and fled the theater. Union troops tracked him down to a barn in northern Virginia and killed him.

Southerners reacted to Lincoln's assassination with mixed emotions. Many saw in the death of the man they had regarded as their bitterest enemy for four years some slight hope of relief for the South's otherwise bleak prospects. But General Johnston and others like him understood Lincoln's influence with the radical elements in the Republican party who were pressing for harsh terms against the South. The president's death, Johnston wrote, was "the greatest possible calamity to the South."

## CONCLUSION

Just before the war, William Sherman had warned a friend from Virginia, "You people of the South don't know what you are doing. This country will be drenched in blood. . . ." He was right. More than 365,000 Union soldiers died during the war, 110,000 in battle, and more than 256,000 Confederate soldiers, 94,000 of them in battle. Total casualties on both sides, including wounded, were more than 1 million. Compounding the suffering of the individuals behind these gruesome statistics was the incalculable suffering—in terms of grief, fatherless children, women who never married, families never made whole—of the people close to them.

The war devastated the South. The region lost one-fourth of its white male population between the ages of 20 and 40, two-fifths of its livestock, and half its farm machinery. Union armies destroyed many of the South's railroads and shattered its industry. Between 1860 and 1870, the wealth of the South declined by 60 percent, and its share of the nation's total wealth dropped from more than 30 percent to 12 percent. The wealth of the North, in contrast, increased by half in the same period.

For black Southerners, emancipation was the war's most significant achievement. The issue that dominated the prewar sectional debate had vanished.

The Civil War stimulated other significant changes. It taught the effectiveness of centralized management, new financial techniques, and the coordination

WHERE TO LEARN MORE



Ford's Theatre National Historical Site, Washington, D.C.

[www.nps.gov/foth/index2.htm](http://www.nps.gov/foth/index2.htm)



# OVERVIEW

## MAJOR BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861–1865

Battle or Campaign	Date	Outcome and Consequences
First Bull Run	July 21, 1861	Confederate victory; destroyed the widespread belief in the North that the war would end quickly, fueled Confederate sense of superiority.
Forts Henry and Donelson	Feb. 6–16, 1862	Union victory; gave the North control of strategic river systems in the western Confederacy and closed an important link between the eastern and western Confederacy.
Shiloh Church	Apr. 6–7, 1862	Union victory; high casualties transformed attitudes about the war on both sides.
Seven Days' Battles	June 25–July 1, 1862	Standoff; halted Union General McClellan's advance on Richmond in the Peninsula Campaign.
Second Bull Run	Aug. 29–30, 1862	Confederate victory; reinforced Confederate general Robert E. Lee's reputation for invincibility.
Antietam	Sept. 17, 1862	Standoff; halted Lee's advance into the North, eliminated Confederacy's chance for diplomatic recognition, encouraged Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.
Fredericksburg	Dec. 13, 1862	Confederate victory; revived morale of Lee's army.
Chancellorsville	May 2–6, 1863	Confederate victory; Confederate General Stonewall Jackson killed, encouraged Lee to again invade North.
Gettysburg	July 1–3, 1863	Union victory; halted Confederate advance in the North, major psychological blow to Confederacy.
Vicksburg	Nov. 1862–July 1863	Union victory; closed the key Confederate port on the Mississippi, also dealt a severe blow to Confederate cause.
Chattanooga	Aug.–Nov. 1863	Union victory; solidified Union dominance in the West.
Wilderness and Cold Harbor	May and June 1864	Both Confederate victories inflicted huge losses on Grant's army, turned public opinion against Grant but failed to force him to withdraw.
Atlanta	May–September 1864	Union victory; Confederacy lost key rail depot and industrial center
Sherman's March	November 1864–March 1865	Nearly unopposed, Sherman's army cut a path of destruction through Georgia and South Carolina, breaking Southern morale.
Battles of Franklin and Nashville	November and December 1864	Union victories in Tennessee; effectively destroyed Army of Tennessee.
Siege of Petersburg	June 1864–April 1865	Long stalemate ended in Union victory; led to fall of Richmond and surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox Court House.



of production, marketing, and distribution. Entrepreneurs would apply these lessons to create the expanding corporations of the postwar American economy. By opening new opportunities to women in fields such as nursing and teaching, the war also helped lay the foundation for the woman suffrage movement of the 1870s and 1880s.

The war was not responsible for every postwar change in American society, and it left many features of American life intact. For example, the war did not soften class antagonisms. Capitalism, not labor, triumphed during the war and industrialists and entrepreneurs not working people, most benefited from its bonanza. Lincoln brutally suppressed strikes at defense plants and threw labor leaders into military prisons.

The war to end slavery did change some American racial attitudes, especially in the North. When Lincoln broadened the war's objectives to include the abolition of slavery, he connected the success of the Union to freedom for the slave. By the end of the war, perhaps a majority of Northerners supported granting freedmen the right to vote and to equal protection under the law, even if they believed (as many did) that black people were inferior to white people. The courage of black troops and the efforts of African American leaders to link the causes of reunion and freedom were influential in bringing about this shift.

Most white Southerners did not experience a similar enlightenment. They greeted the end of slavery with fear, anger, and regret. The freed slaves were living reminders of the South's defeat and the end of a way of life grounded in white supremacy.

If the Civil War resolved the sectional dispute of the 1850s by ending slavery and denying the right of the Southern states to secede, it created two new equally troubling problems: how to reunite South and North and how to deal with the legacy of slavery.

In November 1863, President Lincoln was asked to say a few words at the dedication of the federal cemetery at Gettysburg. There, surrounded by fresh graves, Lincoln bound the cause of the Union to that of the country's founders: "Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure." A Union victory, Lincoln hoped, would not only honor the past but also call forth a new nation, cleansed of its sins, to inspire oppressed peoples around the world. He called on the nation to resolve "that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." The two-minute Gettysburg Address captured what Union supporters were fighting and connected their sacrifices to the noble causes of freedom and democratic government. That would be both the hope and the challenge of the peace that followed a hard war.

## SUMMARY

**Mobilization, North and South** In the initial rush of enthusiasm, both the North and South believed the Civil War would be short. While neither side was well prepared, the North's resources for fighting a lengthy conflict greatly exceeded the South's. The North also had the leadership of Abraham Lincoln who eloquently





articulated the goal of preserving the Union. The Confederacy's tactic was to wage a defensive war and wear down Northern public opinion; sufficient patience and resources would be necessary for success.

**The Early War, 1861–1862** The North's offensive strategy dictated the course of the war for the first two years. The first battle of the war at Bull Run was a Confederate victory, but as Union forces retreated in the East, they had made some advances in the West under General Ulysses S. Grant. The carnage in 1862 at Shiloh blunted the initial enthusiasm of both sides with the realization that much bloody fighting lay ahead. A new Union offensive in Virginia aimed at the Confederate capital Richmond was halted by Robert E. Lee's generalship. By the end of 1862, the outcome of the war remained in the balance.

**Turning Points, 1862–1863** Could the South overcome its human and economic shortcomings by victory on the battlefield? Would the Confederacy gain a valuable ally in Great Britain or France? Diplomatic recognition never came; Lee was defeated at Antietam as he attempted a Northern invasion. Lincoln used this victory to issue the Emancipation Proclamation making the war to save the Union also a war free the slaves. Confederate defeats at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in July 1863 marked key turning points; Union forces were becoming dominate in the East and the West.

**War Transforms the North** Such a large-scale war called for a strong and active central government. Constitutional limitations were tested; new economic measures were passed; racial and ethnic tensions erupted in the New York draft riots. The thriving Northern economy fed, clothed, and armed the Union's soldiers and kept most civilians employed and well fed.

**The Confederacy Disintegrates** Battlefield losses increased discontent over the unequal sharing of hardships including the draft, food shortages, and inflation, but support for Lee and the Confederate army remained high. After 1864, President Davis could not keep the Confederacy from fracturing; with food scarce and money worthless, many, especially the South's women, wanted the war to end.

**The Union Prevails, 1864–1865** Lincoln's appointment of General Grant as commander of all Union armies meant that relentless pressure would now be on Lee and the Southern armies. After Union victories in Virginia, the capture of Atlanta, and Sherman's "march to the sea," the capture of the Confederate capital Richmond would result in Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The Union wave of victories had brought the reelection of Lincoln and the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment; joy over the war's end was tempered by the assassination of President Lincoln by a Southern sympathizer.

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## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did the Union and the Confederacy compare in terms of resources, leadership, and military strategies? How did these factors affect the course of the war?
2. Why were the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg turning points in the war?





3. How did the Emancipation Proclamation affect the Union and Confederate causes?
  4. What roles did women play in the North and in the South during the Civil War?
  5. What changes resulted from the Civil War?
  6. Why did Sullivan Ballou fight?
- 

## KEY TERMS

**Confiscation Act** (p. 390)

**Copper-heads** (p. 397)

**Emancipation Proclamation** (p. 390)






**Homestead Act** (p. 397)

**Land Grant College Act** (p. 397)

**Radical Republicans** (p. 397)

**Thirteenth Amendment** (p. 405)

## WHERE TO LEARN MORE

-  **Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia.** This museum has rotating exhibits on various aspects of the confederate effort during the Civil War, both on the home front and on the battlefield. The Confederate White House, which is open to the public, is next door to the museum. [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org)
-  **Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.** An excellent and balanced interpretation awaits the visitor at this national park. [www.nps.gov/gett/](http://www.nps.gov/gett/)
-  **Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Maryland.** Also an excellent and balanced interpretation at this battlefield site. [www.nps.gov/anti/](http://www.nps.gov/anti/)
-  **Ford's Theater National Historic Site, Washington, D.C.** The place where John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln not only depicts those events, including artifacts from the assassination, but also presents period plays. [www.nps.gov/foth/index2.htm](http://www.nps.gov/foth/index2.htm)
-  **Appomattox Court House, Appomattox, Virginia.** What historian Bruce Catton termed “a stillness at Appomattox” can be felt at the McLean house in this south-central Virginia town. The house is much as it was when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his forces to Union General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865. An almost reverential solitude covers the house and the well-maintained grounds today. [www.nps.org/apco/](http://www.nps.org/apco/)



For additional study resources for this chapter, go to:  
[www.prenhall.com/goldfield/chapter15](http://www.prenhall.com/goldfield/chapter15)

# VISUALIZING THE PAST

## The Civil War

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WHAT DID the photographer include that is missing from the illustrations? What did the illustrators include that is missing from the photograph? What did war look like to the civilian who saw only the illustrations? To the civilian who saw only the photograph? To the civilian who saw both?

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**T**wo new media drastically altered the ways in which people on the home front experienced war. One was photography. Mathew B. Brady and other pioneering photographers took thousands of pictures of battlefield scenes, which were then shown in weekly exhibits. For a small fee, the spectator could see photographs of battles fought just days before. The images themselves are of very good quality and quite large. The major drawback was technical. The photographer had to expose his glass plate to the light for a full minute, any movement during that time, created a blur. So, Brady's and other photographic images captured the look of the battlefield after the fighting was over.

The other new medium was the illustrated magazine. *Harper's Illustrated Weekly*, only a few years old at the outbreak of the war, was the biggest with a circulation running into the hundreds of thousands. Its illustrators drew battles as they were happening capturing the charges and the hand-to-hand fighting that the photographer could not. Below is a stereopticon photograph of a *Harper's* artist at Gettysburg, taken for the Brady Company. Viewers looked through a special device which fused the two images. As you examine the images included in this essay, consider these questions.

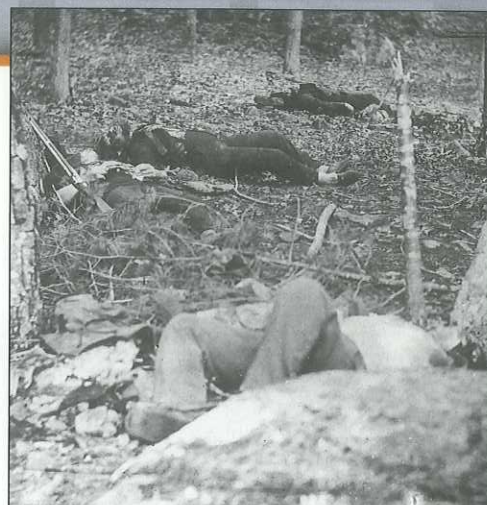
▼



Courtesy of Library of Congress

“Dead at Gettysburg,” a photograph taken for the Brady Company. The dead included ▶ both Union soldiers and a Confederate. For the vast majority of those paying admission to see this and other images, this was the first time they witnessed the carnage of battle.

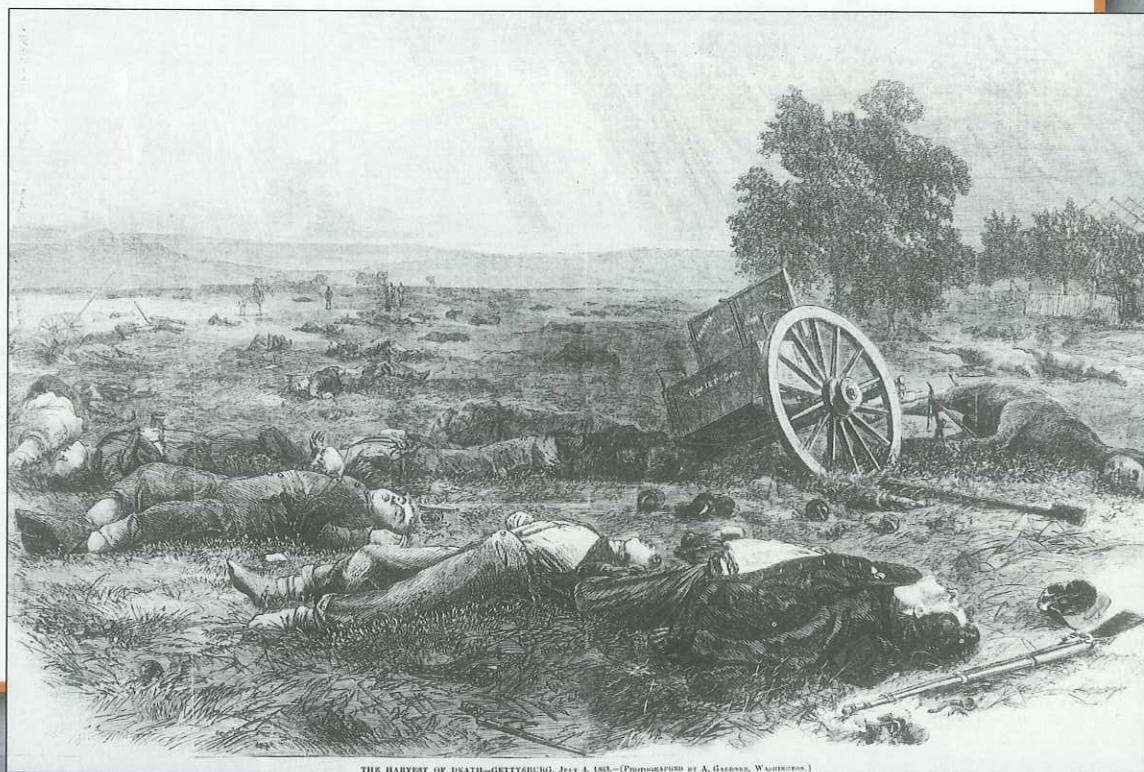
Courtesy of Library of Congress



◀ “The Battle of Gettysburg—Longstreet’s Attack Upon Our Left Center—Blue Ridge In the Distance” appeared in *Harper’s Weekly* for July 22, 1863. Note the use of “our” to describe the position of the Union troops. Note too that the viewer is positioned behind the Union lines.

American Antiquary Society

▶ “The Harvest of Death—Gettysburg, July 4, 1863” appeared in *Harper’s Weekly* for July 22, 1863. It shows only Union dead along with dead horses and overturned wagons. American Antiquary Society



THE HARVEST OF DEATH—GETTYSBURG, JULY 4, 1863.—[PHOTOGRAPH BY A. GARDNER, WASHINGTON.]

The war passed from words to stones which the white children began to hurl at the colored. Several colored children were hurt and, as they had not resented the rock throwing . . . , the white children became more aggressive and abusive.



Mississippi Freedman School, 1866. Noon at the primary school for Freedmen at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

