

## Chapter 16 The Civil War (1861–1865)

The Civil War bitterly divided the United States. Americans fought each other in a long, bloody war over slavery and the preservation of the Union. As you study this chapter, think about why people choose to go to war, how soldiers and ordinary citizens are affected by war, how a war is won, and what results from such bitter conflicts.

## Chapter 16

### Section 1: The War Begins

In this section you will learn how the Civil War began in the spring of 1861. Soldiers enlisted in the armies, and leaders began designing military strategies. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Fort Sumter

border states

cotton diplomacy

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- Why was Fort Sumter so important to both the North and the South?
- What was the strategic importance of the border states?
- What advantages and strategies did each side have as the war began?

## Chapter 16.1 Section Summary

By the time of President Abraham Lincoln's inauguration in March 1861, seven states had left the Union. In his inaugural speech, Lincoln promised that he would keep the Union together.

In April the Confederates attacked and captured **Fort Sumter** in South Carolina. Fort Sumter was the most important federal outpost in the South and controlled the entrance to Charleston harbor. After this attack, Lincoln declared that the South was in a state of rebellion.

The non-Confederate slave states now had to choose sides. The states of the Upper South—North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee—joined the Confederacy. Arkansas also joined the Confederacy. The Upper South provided soldiers and industrial resources to the Confederacy, which established its capital in Richmond, Virginia.

The **border states** of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri were slave states strategically located between the North and the South. All of the border states stayed in the Union. In addition, the western part of Virginia broke away from the Confederacy and became the state of West Virginia.

Neither side had a large army when the war began, and both sides called for volunteers. Civilians raised money for the war effort,

provided aid for soldiers and their families, and ran emergency hospitals.

The North and the South each had advantages. The North had a larger population, most of the nation's factories, more railways, and more money. The South had many talented military officers. Also, to win the war the South did not have to defeat the North; it simply had to defend itself.

To win the war, the Union planned a naval blockade and wanted to gain control of the Mississippi River. The Confederacy planned to defend the South until the Union tired of fighting. The South also used **cotton diplomacy** to try to win the support of Great Britain. This meant that Confederate leaders hoped to gain British support by emphasizing the importance of southern cotton to the British textile industry.

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### Section 2: The War in the East

In this section you will learn how the Civil War progressed in the East. Union and Confederate armies fought many battles, and both sides had victories and defeats. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

First Battle of Bull Run

Seven Days' Battles

Second Battle of Bull Run

Battle of Antietam

ironclads

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- What events occurred when the Union army tried to achieve its main goal in the East?
- How did Confederate strategy change once Robert E. Lee took command?
- How did the North and the South carry out the war at sea?

## Chapter 16.2 Section Summary

The first important battle of the Civil War happened in July 1861, when the Union tried to attack the southern capital. The Union army met the Confederate army near Richmond at the **First Battle of Bull Run**. The Confederates fought fiercely and drove the Union army back. This battle showed the North that it would not be able to win this war easily.

Union forces returned to Virginia in early 1862, and the armies fought again near Richmond. General Robert E. Lee commanded the Confederate army in Virginia. Lee was one of the war's most talented officers. In fact, President Lincoln had once asked Lee to command the Union forces.

During the summer of 1862, Lee strengthened his army's position in Virginia. In June his army attacked the Union in the **Seven Days' Battles**, which were five separate fights. The Confederates suffered more than 20,000 casualties, and the Union army suffered nearly 16,000. However, the Confederates forced the Union army out of the Richmond area.

The Union then directly attacked Richmond. At that **Second Battle of Bull Run** the Confederates were victorious. By the end of August, most Union troops had been pushed out of Virginia. Lee then

planned to attack territory in the North. In September the two armies fought at the **Battle of Antietam** Creek in Maryland. Lee lost nearly a third of his troops at Antietam, and his northward advance was stopped.

Meanwhile the Union controlled the sea. The Union navy blockaded the South and cut off trade. Although small, fast ships called blockade-runners brought important supplies to the South, trade still suffered there.

The Confederacy developed a new type of ship to challenge the Union at sea. These **ironclads** were heavily armored warships that were hard to damage. In March the Confederate ironclad *Virginia* and the Union ironclad *Monitor* met in battle. After hours of fighting, the *Virginia* withdrew. This victory saved the Union fleet and made sure that the Union blockade of the South would continue.

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### Section 3: The War in the West

In this section you will learn how the Union gained control of the Mississippi River and many regions in the West in 1862. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Battle of Shiloh

Siege of Vicksburg

Battle of Pea Ridge

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- Why did the Union want to control the Mississippi River?
- How did the Union pursue its goal of controlling the Mississippi, and what was the outcome?
- What fighting took place in the Far West?



### Chapter 16.3 Section Summary

In the West, Union leaders fought to gain control of the Mississippi River. Controlling this waterway would cut the Confederacy off from food sources in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Control of the Mississippi would also make it easier to attack the South's transportation network.

General Ulysses S. Grant led Union forces in the West. Grant was a determined and aggressive fighter, and in February 1862 he led the capture of two important forts in Tennessee. After the fall of Nashville, the Union controlled many important rivers and railroads in the South.

Grant continued moving his troops toward Mississippi. Just north of the border, the Confederates launched a surprise attack on the Union in the **Battle of Shiloh**. Although the Confederates pushed the Union back at first, more Union soldiers soon arrived and forced the Confederates to retreat.

The Union then turned toward the southern Mississippi River. The Union wanted control of New Orleans, but two forts guarded the city along the river. The Union was unable to destroy the forts, so its ships simply sailed past them. The Confederates shot at the ships, but

the Union navy successfully arrived in New Orleans and captured the city.

The Union navy next turned to Vicksburg, Mississippi. When Vicksburg would not surrender, Grant's army unsuccessfully attacked the city, then surrounded it. The **Siege of Vicksburg** lasted for six weeks. The city's food supplies ran out, and the Confederates surrendered. The Union then had complete control of the Mississippi River. This cut off Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas off from the rest of the South.

Fighting also took place in Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas, but Confederate attempts to control these areas failed. In March 1862 Union forces defeated the prosouthern Missourians in the **Battle of Pea Ridge** in northwestern Arkansas. Prosouthern units continued to attack Union forts in Missouri and Kansas throughout the rest of the war.

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### Section 4: Life during the War

In this section you will learn how the Civil War affected people other than soldiers throughout the North and the South. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Emancipation Proclamation

contrabands

54th Massachusetts Infantry

Copperheads

*habeas corpus*

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- What was the Emancipation Proclamation?
- How did African Americans and women contribute to the war effort?
- How did northerners and southerners criticize the war, and how did their governments respond to the criticism?

## Chapter 16.4 Section Summary

President Lincoln wanted to free all slaves. Since he did not have the constitutional right to do this, he issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**—an order that freed slaves in Confederate areas. Lincoln issued the order in September 1862, and it went into effect on January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation did not immediately free the slaves, for the Union could not force the South to obey. However, the proclamation did encourage slaves to leave southern plantations. Many African Americans and northerners celebrated the proclamation.

In July 1862 Congress gave African Americans the right to enlist in the army as laborers. Lincoln also said that **contrabands**, or slaves who had escaped past Union lines, in South Carolina could enlist in the Union army. By spring 1863, African Americans were fighting on the battlefield. The **54th Massachusetts Infantry** was made up mainly of free African Americans. This unit played an important role in the assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina. Despite these successes, African American soldiers faced strong prejudice in the army.

Many northerners turn against the war because of its length and the high number of casualties. Some northern Democrats, called

**Copperheads** by their enemies, sympathized with the South and opposed the abolition of slavery. Lincoln thought that the Copperheads's statements would hurt morale, so he suspended the constitutional right to *habeas corpus*. This right protects Americans against unlawful imprisonment. With this right suspended, Union authorities could put Copperheads in prison without evidence or a trial. In 1863 Lincoln also pushed a law through Congress that allowed men to be drafted into, or forced to enlist in, the army.

Meanwhile, the South faced its own problems. Prices rose dramatically, and there was a shortage of supplies. Food riots erupted in several cities in the spring of 1863. The South also started to draft soldiers.

The war affected the lives of most Americans. Women took on new roles as they worked in factories and fields, ran plantations, and served as nurses in hospitals and on the battlefield. Camp life for soldiers was very uncomfortable and unhealthy. Twice as many soldiers died of disease than in combat. Prisoners of war also suffered greatly.

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### Section 5: The Tide of the War Turns

In this section you will learn how the war began to turn against the South in 1863. As you study this material, pay attention to the following terms:

Battle of Gettysburg

Pickett's Charge

Gettysburg Address

total war

Appomattox Courthouse

You will also want to keep the following questions in mind as you review this material:

- Why was the Battle of Gettysburg important?
- How did the progress of the war affect the election of 1864?
- How did the war finally end, and what were some of its consequences?

## Chapter 16.5 Section Summary

In spring 1863 Lee decided to attack Union territory again, and his men entered southern Pennsylvania. The **Battle of Gettysburg** began in early July and lasted for several days. On July 3 Confederate general George Pickett led 15,000 men in **Pickett's Charge**, but half of these troops were killed or wounded. This great loss ended the Battle of Gettysburg and was a turning point in the war.

On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln expressed the Union's hopes for the future in a speech called the **Gettysburg Address**. Lincoln spoke of the bravery of the Union soldiers. He also promised that the North would win the war.

By early 1864 Grant and his soldiers were successfully fighting Lee's army in Virginia. However, Grant failed to capture Richmond. That spring another Union general, William Tecumseh Sherman, led 100,000 troops from Tennessee toward Atlanta, Georgia. This important railroad and industrial center fell in early September. Sherman's success helped Lincoln easily win re-election in the 1864 presidential race.

Sherman then turned toward the port town of Savannah, Georgia. On his march toward the sea, Grant practiced **total war**. This is a type of war in which armies destroy an area's ability to produce food and

other goods in order to make it difficult to fight back. Sherman destroyed everything that would help the South fight the war—railways, bridges, crops, livestock, and supplies.

By early April, Sherman was closing in on the last Confederate soldiers in North Carolina, and Grant had forced Lee to retreat from Petersburg, Virginia. Grant then surrounded Lee's army in the town of **Appomattox Courthouse**. The two generals met there on April 9, 1865, and Lee formally surrendered.

The Civil War had lasting effects. More than 600,000 Americans had died in the fighting. Bitterness over the war lasted for many years. The South's future was also uncertain when the war ended. Most former slaves had no homes or jobs, and the South's economy was ruined. Rebuilding the Union would be an enormous task.