The Civil War: 1861-1865

1. Facts of the Civil War aka “The Second American Revolution”
   1. Largest loss of human life in American wars: 750,000
   2. Most destructive war fought in Western Hemisphere
   3. Freed 4 million Africans from slavery – “a new birth of freedom”
   4. Transformed society
      1. Increased industrialization and modernization of the North
      2. Destroyed the south
2. Beginning of the War
   1. Lincoln takes office March 1861
      1. Inaugural address: accuses south of being aggressors by seceding
   2. Fort Sumter Apr 12, 1861
      1. Federal Fort in Charleston Harbor
      2. South Carolina Government cut off supplies and reinforcements to the fort
         1. Lincoln sends provisions to fort in an effort to let the south make the first move
         2. South opens up fire from the Charleston battery thus provoking the first attack of the war
   3. Executive Power
      1. Congress was not in session, thus Lincoln issues several executive orders right after the Fort Sumter incident:
         1. Calls for 75,000 troops
         2. Authorized spending
         3. Suspended the writ of habeas corpus
      2. Technically, all three were powers of the Legislative branch
   4. Further Secession
      1. Upper South Secedes after Lincoln’s actions toward the Fort Sumter incident
         1. Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas
      2. Western part of Va. Refuses to secede and thus becomes a separate state in the union in 1863 (West Virginia)
      3. Confederate capitol is moved to Richmond post Sumter
   5. Border States
      1. Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky all were slave holding states; however, there are various reasons for them not joining the Confederacy
         1. Maryland: Union used martial law to keep state under federal control
         2. Missouri: Union troop presence
            1. However, there were many Guerilla fighters for the South in Missouri
         3. Kentucky: neutrality vote
      2. Lincoln rejected initial calls for emancipation of slaves so as to not alienate
3. Strengths (S) and Weaknesses (W) of Each Side

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|  | United States | Confederate States |
| Military | -Had to fight an offensive war (W)  -High population of 22 million free whites (S)  -800,000 immigrants during the war helped to enhance population advantage (S)  -After emancipation, 180,000 African Americans fought for the Union Army  -Strong Navy (S) | -Had to fight a defensive war (S)  -Shorter distances to move troops and supplies (S)  -Coastline hard to blockade (S)  -Experienced military leaders and high morale for the cause (S)  -only 5.5 million free whites (W) |
| Economic | -Dominated the Economy (S):  -85% of factories  -70% of railroads  -65% of farmland  -More skilled | -Hoped that European demand for cotton would fuel financial aid from outsiders(S)  -Confederate government was always short on money  -Severe inflation from over production of currency |
| Political | -Fighting to preserve the Union  -Strong political parties and experienced politicians to back them (including Lincoln) | -Fighting for Independence  -States’ Rights Issue (W) – Confederacy needed a strong central government to win, which went against the political ideology of many southerners  -Some southern leaders even proposed seceding from the Confederacy because of the attempts at centralization of the Confederate Government (Ex. Georgia) |

1. 1861-1862
   1. War was originally expected to be short
      1. Lincoln’s first series of volunteers were only enlisted for 90 days
         1. “On to Richmond”
   2. First Battle of Bull Run (July 1861) (first major battle)
      1. 30,000 federal troops marched to attack at Bull Run Creek at Manassas Junction, Virginia
      2. Union almost wins, but General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson counterattacks to seal the Confederate Victory
   3. Union Strategy
      1. General Winfield Scott devises three part strategy
         1. US Navy to blockade Southern ports, cutting off essential supplies (out and in)
            1. Known as the Anaconda Plan
         2. Take Control of Mississippi, to divide the confederacy
         3. Raise a 500,000 strong army
   4. Peninsula Campaign
      1. General George McClellan, the commander of the Union army in the East
         1. Insisted troops get a long period of training before going into battle
         2. Many delays in invasions (McClellan considered himself a patient man)
      2. Invades Va. In 1862
      3. After five months, McClellan was forced to retreat due to the expert tactics of Robert E. Lee
      4. McClellan is then replaced by General John Pope once Lincoln was fed up with him
   5. Second Battle of Bull Run
      1. Lee took advantage of the change in leadership and struck Pope’s troops at Bull Run, pushing the Union back for a second time
   6. Antietam (September 1862)
      1. The Bloodiest Single Day of combat in the entire war – 22,000 dead in one day
      2. Lee went into Union territory to try to land a decisive victory and force the Union to recognize the South
      3. McClellan is reinstated as General
         1. McClellan learns of Lee’s battle plans by a fluke (an officer drops the orders), thus he is able to properly prepare for the battle
      4. The Confederate ARMY is sent into retreat, but McClellan doesn’t pursue, forcing Lincoln to replace him once again
         1. Lincoln will use the “Victory” (it was really a draw) to then write the Emancipation Proclamation
   7. Fredericksburg (December 1862)
      1. New Union General: Ambrose Burnside (where the term “sideburns” comes from)
         1. Very aggressive and arguable reckless
         2. Attacks Lee’s army at Fredericksburg, Va.
            1. Heavy losses for the union: 12,000 dead or wounded
            2. Confederates: 5,000
   8. Ironclads
      1. Anaconda Plan is put into jeopardy when Confederate ship Merrimac attacks and destroys several wooden union vessels
      2. Union ship Monitor engages Merrimac in a 5 hour duel.
         1. Battle is technically a draw; however, Union Monitor manages to stop the Merrimac from engaging and destroying any more Union vessels
      3. Turning point in Naval tactics as Ironclad ships replace old wooden ones
   9. Grant takes control in the West
      1. Ulysses S. Grant is put in control of the Western Mississippi campaign
      2. Captures Fort Henry and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River (a Branch of the Mississippi) in early 1862
         1. Victories for the Union open up the state of Mississippi for attack
      3. Confederates attack Grant at Shiloh, Tennessee
         1. Grant defeats Confederates at Shiloh, but to heavy losses on both sides (22,000 total)
      4. New Orleans (April 1862)
         1. Union General David Farragut captures New Orleans
2. Foreign Diplomacy for the Confederacy
   1. Confederacy wanted to encourage help from Britain or France to aid in the War effort due to their dependence of cotton for textile industry
      1. European powers found other means of obtaining cotton
         1. Egypt and India became prominent cotton producers
   2. Trent Affair (1861)
      1. James Mason and John Slidell were Confederate diplomats
         1. Sailing for England on a British boat called the Trent
         2. Union ship captures the Trent and takes the two men as prisoners of war
         3. Britain threatened war unless the two men were released
         4. Lincoln gave in to demands and let the men go
         5. Despite this, Britain and France never recognize the Confederacy as an official government
   3. Confederate Raider Ships
      1. Great Britain sold warships to the Confederacy
         1. Warships were used to raid and capture Union merchant vessels
         2. The Alabama, captured more than 60 vessels
3. The End of Slavery
   1. Slavery is slow to come to an end
      1. Lincoln, although outspoken in early career against slavery, didn’t take an immediate political stance against it. Due to:
         1. Keeping support of Border states
         2. Constitutional protections of Slavery
         3. The Racial Prejudice of many Northerners
         4. Fear of losing the 1864 election
   2. First Confiscation Act (August 1861)
      1. General Benjamin Butler refused to return captured slaves to Confederate owners, claiming “contraband of war”
         1. This was used as the legal basis for this act
         2. Allowed for captured or escaped slaves to be legally freed
            1. “contrabands” = escaped or freed slaves
   3. Second Confiscation Act (July 1862)
      1. Freed any persons enslaved by anyone engaged in rebellion against the US
      2. Also, allowed for the use of freed slaves in the military
   4. Emancipation Proclamation (September 22, 1862)
      1. By July 1862, Lincoln had already decided to free all enslaved persons as a “military necessity”, but he delayed announcing this until he could win conservative Northern support
      2. Antietam “Victory” gave Lincoln the support he needed, thus he announced the Executive Order
         1. After Jan. 1st, 1863 he issued the Emancipation Proclamation:
            1. “I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be, free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, shall recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons”
         2. Huge Expansion of Executive power
      3. Impacts
         1. Initially freed very few slaves since slavery in Border states was allowed to continue
         2. Main importance: purpose of the war became a reason to end slavery, rather than to stop secession
         3. Added weight to confiscation acts, thus increasing number of slaves who sought to flee to union lines
            1. As Union troops advanced, abolition quite literally advanced as well
      4. Freedmen in the War
         1. About ¼ of the slave population fled the south to seek protection of Union Armies
         2. About 200,000 total served in the Union Army and Navy (the “Army of Freedom”)
         3. 37,000 died
         4. Segregated into all black units
            1. Massachusetts 54th Regiment
   5. Thirteenth Amendment
      1. The US Constitution had phrases which legitimized slavery, thus the Emancipation Proclamation could never fully free slaves
      2. Lincoln played an active role in the political struggle to get the Thirteenth amendment to pass
         1. It doesn’t pass until a few months after his assassination
            1. “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction”
4. 1863-1865
   1. Confederate army is in desperate shape at the turn of 1863 due to the loss of the slave labor force and desertion by men tired of war
   2. Turning Points
      1. Vicksburg (Spring 1863)
         1. Vicksburg, Mississippi was the only city that stood between Grant and complete control of the Mississippi River
         2. Union army sieged the city of Vicksburg for 7 weeks (including a massive bombardment campaign on the city)
            1. Confederacy surrendered the city on July 4th (29,000 troops surrendered)
         3. By this victory, the Union now controlled the Mississippi river and cut the Confederacy in two
      2. Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863 – Bloodiest Battle of the War)
         1. Lee, in an attempt to regain control of the war in the East, made an offensive maneuver to capture a large Northern City
         2. Lee assaulted Union lines for 3 days
         3. “Pickett’s Charge” – a futile charge led by Confederate George Pickett
            1. 50,000 total casualties
         4. Lee retreats with a severely hampered army
         5. Lincoln delivers famous “Gettysburg Address”
   3. Grant as General in the East (spring 1864)
      1. Strategy: war of attrition
         1. Wear down Confederate’s armies and systematically destroy their vital lines of supply
         2. Grant’s armies suffered large losses at Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor; however, he slowly wore out the Confederate troops as well
         3. War shifted from a “war between gentlemen” to a modern “total” war involving civilians and soldiers
      2. Sherman’s March
         1. General William Tecumseh Sherman led a force of 100,000 men from Chattanooga to Georgia and then north into South Carolina
            1. Total War tactics of destroying everything in his path

Burned and destroyed anything that the enemy might use to aid in survival

Atlanta – taken in 1864

Savannah – taken in December 1864

Columbia – taken in February 1865

* + - * 1. Helped to break the spirit of the Confederacy
    1. The Election of 1864
       1. Democrats nominate George McClellan
          1. Platform of peace, which appealed to war weary voters
       2. Unionist party nominates Lincoln and Andrew Johnson (a war democrat) as his running mate
          1. Unionist party was a brief rename for the Republicans as they paired together with those called “War Democrats”
       3. Lincoln-Johnson won 212 electoral votes to 21; however, McClellan took 45% of the popular vote

1. The End of the War
   1. Fall of Richmond on April 3rd, 1865
   2. Surrender at Appomattox
      1. Confederate Gov’t tried to negotiate for peace (but still separate)
         1. Lincoln demanded unification
         2. Jefferson Davis demanded independence
      2. Lee Tried to retreat to the mountains but was cut off and forced to surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9th, 1865
   3. Assassination of Lincoln
      1. Lincoln urged that the south be treated with benevolence post war in his second inaugural address
      2. John Wilkes Booth, a confederate sympathizer, shot and killed Lincoln while he was in a performance in Ford’s theatre
         1. Co-conspirator also shot and wounded secretary of state, William Seward