

## **Major Themes to Consider:**

*Why the North Won the Civil War*

### **Military Leadership of the North and South**

- Having been trained similarly and in the same schools, the opposing generals differed only in mind and character (“west pointer’s fight”)
- Youth was on the Union side (healthier)
- Strategy was not emphasized in school
- Jomini wrote a book that many of the men studied from
  - He sought to formulate a set of basic rules of strategy for commanders, using the techniques of Napoleon (led to an old world fighting style which was unadaptable to the new world infantry)
- Jominian ideas had a huge influence on the Civil War
- The three great generals of the war: Lee, Grant, and Sherman
- McClellan failed to capitalize on many opportunities
  - He didn’t see the line between war and politics
- The Union focused on the idea of taking specific places
- The Confederacy focused on taking the offensive
- Lee was the best strategist and the best example of a Jominian in the war
- Lee never saw the link between war and statecraft
- Grant had no hesitation in situations and exemplified persistence
  - He noticed the link between government and war

### **Northern Diplomacy and European Neutrality**

- If after the summer of 1862 it was still within the power of the Old World to bring injury to the North, it was beyond its power to bring salvation to the South
- There were no inexpensive means available to Europe to achieve the liberation of the South against the North’s determination to hold it

### **Changes in technology and warfare**

- New guns (weapons outmatch tactics)
- Guerilla warfare (for the first time we see battles fought out of ranks)
- Automatic rifles become prevalent

### **Died of Democracy**

- The collapse of the Confederacy came not from deficient economic resources, insufficient manpower, defective strategy, or weak political leadership

- It came as a result of the Confederate troops wanting to maintain their democratic liberties in wartime
  - If they were fighting for freedom, they asked, why should they start abridging it?
- The Confederacy died of Democracy

## **Names and Terms:**

### **Abraham Lincoln**

- Lincoln snuck into the city in disguise on a night train to avoid assassination as he passed through the slave state of Maryland
- In his inaugural address he laid down several basic principles
  - No one could leave the Union since it was older than the Constitution
  - Acts of force or violence to support secession were insurrectionary
  - The government would “hold, occupy, and possess” federal property in the seceded states
- When Lincoln arrived in Washington early in 1861 many politicians saw him as a man whom the real leaders of the party would easily control
- Lincoln assembled his own cabinet representing every face of the Republican Party and every segment of Northern opinion
- Lincoln felt that it would be foolish to lose the whole by being afraid to disregard a part
- He sent troops into battle without asking Congress for a declaration of war.
- He increased the size of the regular army without receiving legislative authority
- Lincoln’s greatest issue was the widespread popular opposition to the war, mobilized by factions in the Democratic party
  - Lincoln ordered military arrests of civilian dissenters and suspended the right of habeas corpus
- In the election of 1864 Lincoln was nominated for another term by the Union party (Republicans had changed their name briefly) and Andrew Johnson for the vice presidency
- The Democrats nominated George B. McClellan, a celebrated former Union general who had been relieved of his command by Lincoln, and adopted a platform denouncing the war
- Lincoln was reelected comfortably
  - He carried every state besides Kentucky, New Jersey, and Delaware
- Had Union victories not occurred when they did, and had Lincoln not made special arrangements to allow Union troops to vote, the Democrats might’ve won

## Freeport Doctrine

- Stephen Douglas's doctrine that, in spite of the Dred Scott **decision**, slavery could be excluded from territories of the United States by local legislation.

## Harpers Ferry

- Abolitionist John Brown leads a small group on a raid against a federal armory in Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in an attempt to start an armed slave revolt and destroy the institution of slavery

## Confederacy

- By the time Lincoln took office six other states had also seceded
  - Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas
- These 7 seceded states formed the Confederate States of America
  - Buchanan stated that no state had the right to secede from the Union but suggested that the federal government had no authority to stop it
- The seceding states seized all of the infantry and materials within their region
  - They could not get to Fort Sumter (garrisoned by a small force under Major Robert Anderson) and Fort Pickens
- Lincoln began mobilizing the North for war and four more slave states seceded from the Union
  - Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina
- The Confederates had to rely on imports from Europe throughout the war
- Many Southerners believed that the dependence of the English and French textile industries on American cotton would require them to intervene on the side of the Confederacy
- In the beginning the South was fighting a defensive war and had the advantage of local support and familiarity with the territory
- In the North opinions about the war were divided whereas in the south it was not

## Jefferson Davis

- The constitutional convention at Montgomery named a provisional president and vice president
  - Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, who were later chosen by the general electorate, without opposition, for six-year terms
- Davis had been a modern secessionist before the war
- Stephens had argued against succession
- Davis was a prominent example of the Western new aristocrats instead of the old easterners
- Davis was an unsuccessful president

- He served as his own Secretary of War
  - He rarely provided genuinely national leadership

### Fort Sumter

- Lincoln does not reinforce or evacuate, just sends food
- For South, no action would damage sovereignty of Confederacy
- Jefferson Davis chooses to turn peaceful secession into war
  - Fires on Sumter April 12, 1861
- Fall of Sumter unites the North; volunteers rush to enlist
- It was a Union outpost in Charleston harbor
- Confederates were demanding surrender of Fort Sumter
- Buchanan refused to yield to the states of Fort Sumter
- Buchanan ordered an unarmed merchant ship to Fort Sumter with additional troops and supplies and the first shots of the war took place but neither side would concede that war had begun

### Anaconda Plan

- The Union's strategy to capture the South
  - They would blockade southern ports, divide the Confederacy into two in the west, and capture Richmond, the Confederacy's capital

### Bull Run

- On July 21, in the First Battle of Bull Run, or First Battle of Manassas, McDowell almost succeeded in dispersing the Confederate forces but the Southerners stopped a last strong Union assault and then began a savage counterattack
  - The Union troops were hot and tired and panicked
    - They broke ranks and retreated chaotically
- This loss by the Union was a severe blow and to them and to the president's confidence in his officers
  - It also established that this war would not be a quick one

### Stonewall Jackson

- McClellan marched with a portion of his army, leaving the rest to guard Washington
  - McClellan insisted that Washington was safe as long as he was threatening Richmond, and finally persuaded Lincoln to promise to send him extra men
    - Before Lincoln could do so, a Confederate army under Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson changed his plans
      - He staged a rapid march north through the Shenandoah Valley, as if he were planning to cross the Potomac and attack Washington
- Lincoln dispatched McDowell's corps to head off Jackson

- In the brilliant campaign, Jackson defeated two separate Union forces and slipped away before McDowell could catch him
- Johnston, badly wounded, was replaced by Robert E. Lee, who then recalled Stonewall Jackson from the Shenandoah Valley
  - With a combined force of 85,000 to face McClellan's 100,000, Lee launched a new offensive, known as the Battle of the Seven Days.
  - Lee wanted to cut McClellan off from his base on the York River and then destroy the isolated Union army
- Lee defeated the Union objectives at this Battle of Chancellorsville but had not destroyed the Union army
  - His ablest officer, Stonewall Jackson, was wounded and subsequently died of pneumonia

### George McClellan

- The most controversial general of the war
- He often appeared reluctant to send his troops to battle
- He often passed up opportunities and claimed that they weren't ready
- McClellan designed a campaign to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond
  - He chose a roundabout route that would circumvent the Confederate defenses
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- McClellan, after coming in contact with a set of plans for the Confederates, choked the offensive position and gave Lee time to pull most of his forces together behind Antietam Creek, near the town of Sharpsburg
  - On September 17, in the bloodiest single-day engagement in the war, McClellan's 87,000-man army repeatedly attacked Lee's force of 50,000, with enormous casualties on both sides
    - 6,000 soldiers died and 17,000 were injured
  - Later in the day, the last of Jackson's troops pulled up to reinforce, but McClellan allowed Lee to retreat into Virginia
    - Technically Antietam was a Union victory, but in reality it was an opportunity squandered
- In November, Lincoln removed McClellan from command for good, replacing him with Ambrose E. Burnside, who was a short-lived mediocrity

### Ulysses S. Grant

- Not until 1864 did Lincoln come across Ulysses S. Grant
  - Grant was given a free hand but always consulted Lincoln before taking large risks

- The Committee of the Conduct of War gave Grant Lincoln a hard time
  - It complained constantly of the insufficient ruthlessness of Northern generals, which Radicals on the committee attributed to a secret sympathy along the officers for slavery
    - The committee's efforts often seriously interfered with the conduct of war
- He marched to nearby Shiloh, Tennessee, where a force almost equal to his own, commanded by Albert Sidney Johnston and P. G. T. Beauregard, caught him by surprise
  - Grant was driven back to the river but the next day, reinforced by 25,000 troops, Grant recovered the lost ground and forced Beauregard to withdraw
- In the spring of 1863, Ulysses S. Grant was driving at Vicksburg, Mississippi, of the Confederacy's two remaining strongholds on the southern Mississippi River
  - Vicksburg was well protected by in May, Grant boldly moved men and supplies to an area south of the city, where the terrain was better
    - He then attacked Vicksburg from the rear
      - Six weeks later the residents of Vicksburg surrendered
      - At the same time the Confederate strong point on the river, Port Hudson, Louisiana, also surrendered
        - The Union had taken control of the whole length of the Mississippi
- Bragg started cutting off supplies to Chattanooga but Grant came to the rescue
  - In the Battle of Chattanooga, the reinforced Union army drove the Confederates back into Georgia
    - Union forces had now achieved their second objective: Tennessee
- By 1864, Grant had become general in chief of all the Union armies
  - Grant was the Godsend that Lincoln was waiting for
- In April 1865, Grant's army of the Potomac finally captured a vital railroad junction southwest of the town of Petersburg
  - Lee could no longer hope to defend Richmond
    - Lee began moving with his 25,000 men but the Union pursued him and blocked his escape
- Lee arranged to meet Grant at a private home in the small town of Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia

## Shiloh

- With 40,000 men, Grant now advanced South along the Tennessee River to seize control of railroad lines vital to the Confederacy
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### *Monitor & Merrimack*

- On March 8, 1862, the *Merrimack*, now renamed the *Virginia*, left Norfolk to attack a blockading squadron of wooden ships at nearby Hampton Roads
  - It destroyed two of the ships and scattered the rest
- It turns out that the Union had already built ironclads of their own
  - One of them was named the *Monitor*, and arrived off the coast of Virginia only a few hours after *Virginia's* dramatic foray.
    - The next day the two ships went to battle and neither ship was able to sink the other
  - The *Monitor*, however, put an end to the *Virginia's* raids and preserved the blockade

### **Robert E. Lee**

- Davis had no intention of sharing power even after he appointed Robert E. Lee to be his chief military adviser
- Johnston, badly wounded, was replaced by Robert E. Lee, who then recalled Stonewall Jackson from the Shenandoah Valley
- Lee moved north with the Army of Northern Virginia to strike Pope before McClellan could join him.
  - Pope attacked the approaching Confederates without waiting for the arrival of McClellan's troops
    - At the Second Battle of Bull Run, Lee threw back the assault and routed Pope's army, which fled to Washington
      - Lincoln removed Pope from command put McClellan in charge of the Union forces in the region
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- Later in the day, the last of Jackson's troops pulled up to reinforce, but McClellan allowed Lee to retreat into Virginia
- Lee had half of his army but divided it to make for a two-pronged approach at the Union army
- Lee defeated the Union objectives at this Battle of Chancellorsville but had not destroyed the Union army

- Lee led Pickett's Charge, a group of 15,000 Confederate soldiers who advanced for almost a mile while being swept by Union fire
  - Lee lost many lives and had lost a total of 1/3 of his army
  - On July 4th he withdrew from Gettysburg --- never again were the weakened Confederate forces able to seriously threaten Northern territory
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### Antietam

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### Emancipation Proclamation

- On January 1, 1863 Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared forever free slaves in all areas of the Confederacy except those already under Union control (Tennessee, West Virginia, and Louisiana)
  - This document clearly and irrevocably established that the war was being fought not only to preserve the Union but also to eliminate slavery
- Did not apply to areas occupied by Union or slaves in the Union
- Pretty much just freed slaves behind Confederate lines
- Emancipation discourages Britain from supporting the South

### Habeas Corpus

- Lincoln's greatest issue was the widespread popular opposition to the war, mobilized by factions in the Democratic party
  - Lincoln ordered military arrests of civilian dissenters and suspended the right of habeas corpus
  - In 1862, he proclaimed that all person who discouraged enlistments or engaged in disloyal practices were subject to martial law



- Davis denounces Lincoln and then suspends habeas corpus in the South

### Copperhead

- Northern Democrats advocating peace -- among arrest
- Clement L. Vallandigham, the most prominent Copperhead in the country, was seized by military authorities and exiled to the Confederacy after he made a speech claiming that the purpose of the war was to free the blacks and enslave the whites

### Fort Pillow

- During the Fort Pillow Massacre, on April 12, 1864, Confederate troops killed nearly 200 black troops fighting for the Union.
- The massacre became a rallying point for enslaved people fighting for their freedom, and it hardened the resolve of black Union soldiers, who used "Remember Fort Pillow!" as their battle cry.

### Clara Barton

- Clarissa Harlowe Barton was a pioneering American nurse who founded the American Red Cross.
- She was a hospital nurse in the American Civil War, a teacher, and patent clerk. Nursing education was not very formalized at that time and she did not attend nursing school, so she provided self-taught nursing care

### Gettysburg

- They made a move into Pennsylvania and the two armies finally encountered each other at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
  - From July 1-3 they fought the most celebrated battle of the Civil War
- The Union soldiers outnumbered the Confederates
  - Lee led Pickett's Charge, a group of 15,000 Confederate soldiers who advanced for almost a mile while being swept by Union fire
    - Lee lost many lives and had lost a total of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of his army
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### Chancellorsville

- At the last minute he lost his nerve and drew back to a defensive position in a desolate area of brush and scrub trees known as the Wilderness
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  - The Union had taken control of the whole length of the Mississippi
    - The Confederacy was now split in two

## Gettysburg Address

- On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered remarks, which later became known as the Gettysburg Address, at the official dedication ceremony for the National Cemetery of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, on the site of one of the bloodiest and most decisive battles of the Civil War.
- Though he was not the featured orator that day, Lincoln's brief address would be remembered as one of the most important speeches in American history.
- In it, he invoked the principles of human equality contained in the Declaration of Independence and connected the sacrifices of the Civil War with the desire for "a new birth of freedom," as well as the all-important preservation of the Union created in 1776 and its ideal of self-government.

## William Tecumseh Sherman

- In Georgia, Sherman was facing a less ferocious resistance
  - With 90,000 men he faced 60,000 Confederate forces under Johnston
    - As Sherman advanced, Johnston tried to delay him by maneuvering
      - The two armies fought at Kennesaw Mountain where Johnston scored an impressive victory
        - He was still unable to stop the Union advance toward Atlanta
        - Sherman took Atlanta and this electrified the North and rallied Republicans behind Lincoln
- Meanwhile, Sherman had left Atlanta to begin his infamous March to the Sea
  - Living off the land, destroying supplies it could not use, his army cut a sixty-mile wide swath of desolation across Georgia

- “War is all hell,” as Sherman felt that war should be avoided but that it should be made as horrible and costly as possible for the opponent
- He sought not only to deprive the Confederate army of materials and and railroad communications, but to break the will of the Southern people, by burning down towns and plantations along the route

### Appomattox Court House

- Lee arranged to meet Grant at a private home in the small town of Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia
- It was here on April 9, that he surrendered what was left of his forces

### Financing of the War and the Effects

#### UNION

- During the war the Republican party enacted an aggressively nationalistic program to promote economic development, particularly in the West
- **Homestead Act of 1862:** Permitted any citizen or prospective citizen to claim 160 acres of public land and to purchase it for a small fee after living on it for five years
- **Morrill Land Grant Act:** Transferred substantial public acreage to the state governments, which were to sell the land and use the proceeds to finance public education
  - This act led to the creation of many new state colleges and universities
- Congress also passed a series of tariff bills that by the end of the war had raised duties to the highest level in the nation’s history -- a great boon to domestic industries eager for protection from foreign competition
- Congress also moved to complete the dream of the transcontinental railroad
  - Union Pacific Railroad Company
  - Central Pacific Railroad Company
- **National Bank Act of 1863-1864:** Created a new national banking system
  - Existing or newly formed banks could join the system if they had enough capital and were willing to invest one-third of it in government securities
    - In return, they could issue U.S. Treasury notes as currency
- The government tried to finance the war in three ways:
  - Levying taxes, issuing paper currency, and borrowing
- In 1861 the government levied an income tax for the first time
- The new currency was not backed by gold or silver but by the good faith and credit of the government
- The largest source of financing for the war was loans from the American people
  - The Treasury persuaded ordinary citizens to buy over \$400 million worth of bonds -- the first example of mass financing of a war in American History

- Most loans came from banks and large financial interests
- Industrialization had already begun before the war so it is wrong to say that the war turned the north from an agrarian to industrial society
- The war sped economic development of the North
- Coal production increased 20%
- The war was a hard time for workers and led to the establishments of unions

## CONFEDERACY

- Financing the war was an impossible task
- It depended on a small and unstable banking system that had little capital to lend
- Liquid assets were scarce
- The Confederacy's only specie was \$1 million seized from the U.S. mint
- In 1863 Congress enacted an income tax which planters could pay "in kind" (as a percentage of their produce)
  - Taxation never provided the Confederacy with very much revenue; it produced only about 1 percent of the government's total income
  - Borrowing was not much more successful
  - The government was granting bonds in such various amounts that the public lost faith in them and stopped buying them, and efforts to borrow money in Europe using cotton as collateral fared no better
- The Confederacy was forced to pay for the war through paper currency
- By 1864 the Confederacy had issued \$1.5 billion in paper currency which was more than half of the Union
- The Confederacy, unlike the Union, did not issue uniform currency so the national government, states, cities, and private banks each had their own notes, producing widespread chaos and confusion
  - The result was inflation
  - Prices in the South rose 9000%
- In April 1862, Congress enacted the **Conscription Act**, which subjected all white males between the ages of 18 and 35 to military service for three years
  - The inflation led to many poor men questioning and disliking the option to buy your way out of service
    - You could also be exempt from service if you were a white man that owned 20 or more slaves on his plantation
      - "It's a white man's war but a poor man's fight"
    - By 1862 500,000 men were in the Confederate army
- As 1864 opened, the government faced a critical manpower shortage
  - They had trouble getting people and in 1864-1865 there were more than 100,000 desertions

- Congress then authorized the conscription of 300,000 slaves but the war ended before the government could attempt this experiment
- The war had a devastating effect on the economy of the south
- Production of all goods increased in the North during the war but declined by more than a third in the South
- A lot of the war was fought on Confederate soil
  - The southern land was destroyed
- Food production fell behind due to white men being at war
- Tradesmen and doctors were in short supply as they were called in for the war
- There were many riots
- The war was particularly significant for Southern women like the North
- Wives learned to plow farms and harvest crops
- Women became teachers, and nurses
- There were more women than men so the unmarried and widows were forced to find work therefore leading to more acceptable roles for women

### What Constitutes a Win?

- The Civil War started because of uncompromising differences between the free and slave states over the power of the national government to prohibit slavery in the territories that had not yet become states. When Abraham Lincoln won election in 1860 as the first Republican president on a platform pledging to keep slavery out of the territories, seven slave states in the deep South seceded and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. The incoming Lincoln administration and most of the Northern people refused to recognize the legitimacy of secession. They feared that it would discredit democracy and create a fatal precedent that would eventually fragment the no-longer United States into several small, squabbling countries.
- The South fought to defend slavery. The North's focus was not to end slavery but to preserve the union
  - After Emancipation Proclamation it shows that the North wanted slavery abolished and to preserve the Union
- All the material advantages lay with the North
  - Its population was more than twice the size as that of the South
- By 1862 the Union was capable of manufacturing almost all of its own war materials
- The Confederates had to rely on imports from Europe throughout the war
- North had better transportation systems
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