

OUTLINE

Chapter 14 A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War, 1861-1865

This chapter describes the military and domestic aspects of the Civil War. The focus is on how American society, North and South, was changed by the experience of war. The chapter also discusses the emancipation of the slaves.

INTRODUCTION

I. THE TWO COMBATANTS

II. THE COMING OF EMANCIPATION

III. THE SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTION

IV. THE CONFEDERATE NATION

V. TURNING POINTS

VI. REHEARSALS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

INTRODUCTION

STORY:

Marcus Spiegel, a German Jew who had emigrated to the United States in 1849, fought and died for the Union cause during the Civil War. Like Abraham Lincoln, Spiegel believed that the United States represented the best expression of freedom in the world and he was willing to give his life to preserve that form of government. And, like Lincoln, Spiegel eventually came to believe that defending freedom meant emancipating the slaves. According to Prof. Foner, “Marcus Spiegel’s changing views mirrored the transformation of a struggle to save the Union into a war to end slavery.”



Marcus M. Spiegel

THEMES:

1. The Civil War was America’s first modern war because it utilized advanced military technology and required the coordination organization of civilian and military resources.
2. Emancipation of the slaves resulted from military necessity and changing ideas about the meaning of freedom.
3. The federal government expanded in scope and power during the Civil War.
4. Social and economic turmoil in the South contributed to the failure of the Confederacy.

I. THE FIRST MODERN WAR

FOCUS QUESTION: Why is the Civil War considered to be the first modern war?

A. The Two Combatants

1. The North seemed to have the advantage, but Confederate soldiers were highly motivated fighters
2. On both sides, the outbreak of war stirred powerful feelings of patriotism

B. The Technology of War

1. Railroads were vital to the war effort
2. Introduction of the rifle changed the nature of combat
3. Modern warfare included P.O.W. camps and disease

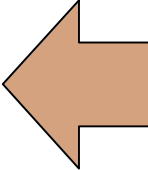
C. The Public and the War

1. Both sides were assisted by a vast propaganda effort to mobilize public opinion
2. The war was brought to the people via newspapers and photographs

D. Mobilizing Resources

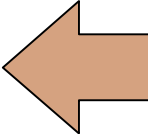
1. The outbreak of the war found both sides unprepared
2. Feeding and supplying armies was a

STUDY HINT



You should be able to identify the main advantages and disadvantages that the North and the South had.

STUDY HINT



You should know what features of the Civil War can be defined as modern war.

challenge for both sides

3. Despite the North's advantages, victory on the battlefield was elusive

E. The War Begins

1. In the East, most of the war's fighting took place in a narrow corridor between Washington and Richmond

2. First Battle of Bull Run shattered any illusions that war was romantic

3. George McClellan assumed command of the Union Army of the Potomac

F. The War in the East, 1862

1. General Lee blunted McClellan's attacks in Virginia and forced him to withdraw back to the vicinity of Washington

2. Successful on the defensive, Lee now launched an invasion of the North

- a. Antietam
- b. Union victory

3. Fredricksburg was a massacre

G. The War in the West

1. Ulysses S. Grant was the architect of early success in the West

2. In February 1862, Grant won the Union's first significant victory when he captured Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee

STUDY HINT

You don't need to know any of the battles of the Civil War except for the ones highlighted with the blue ID & S arrows.

II. THE COMING OF EMANCIPATION

FOCUS QUESTION: How did a war to preserve the Union become a war to end slavery?

A. Slavery and the War

1. In numbers, scale, and the economic power of the institution of slavery, American emancipation dwarfed that of any other country
2. At the outset of the war, Lincoln invoked time-honored Northern values to mobilize public support
3. Lincoln initially insisted that slavery was irrelevant to the conflict

B. The Unraveling of Slavery

1. Congress adopted a resolution proposed by Senator John C. Crittenden of Kentucky, which affirmed that the Union had no intention of interfering with slavery
2. The policy of ignoring slavery unraveled, and by the end of 1861, the military began treating escaped blacks as contraband of war
3. Blacks saw the outbreak of fighting as heralding the long-awaited end of bondage

C. Steps Toward Emancipation

1. Since slavery stood at the foundation of the southern economy, antislavery northerners insisted, emancipation was



STUDY HINT

You should be able to describe how the northern position changed during the war in favor of emancipation.

ID & S

contrabands

necessary to weaken the South's ability to sustain the war

2. Throughout these months, Lincoln struggled to retain control of the emancipation issue

D. Lincoln's Decision

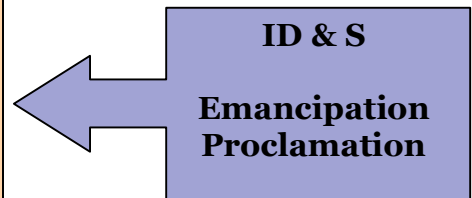
1. Sometime during the summer of 1862, Lincoln concluded that emancipation had become a political and military necessity
2. On September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation
3. The initial northern reaction was not encouraging

E. The Emancipation Proclamation

1. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863
2. Despite its limitations, the Proclamation set off scenes of jubilation among free blacks and abolitionists in the North and "contrabands" and slaves in the South
3. The Emancipation Proclamation not only altered the nature of the Civil War and the course of American history, but also represented a turning point in Lincoln's own thinking

F. Enlisting Black Troops

1. Of the Proclamation's provisions, few were more radical in their implications than the enrollment of blacks into military service



2. By the end of the war, over 180,000 black men had served in the Union army and 24,000 in the navy

3. Most black soldiers were emancipated slaves who joined the army in the South

G. The Black Soldier

1. For black soldiers, military service proved to be a liberating experience

a. At least 130 former soldiers served in political office after the Civil War

2. The Union navy treated black sailors generally the same as white sailors

3. Within the army, black soldiers received treatment anything but equal to white soldiers

4. Black soldiers played a crucial role not only in winning the Civil War, but in defining the war's consequences

III. THE SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTION

FOCUS QUESTION: How did the Civil War contribute to a stronger American nation-state?

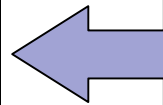
A. Liberty and Union

1. The Union's triumph consolidated the northern understanding of freedom as the national norm
2. Emancipation offered proof of the progressive nature and global significance of the country's history



B. Lincoln's Vision

1. To Lincoln, the American nation embodied a set of universal ideas, centered on political democracy and human liberty
2. The Gettysburg Address identified the nation's mission with the principle that "all men are created equal"



ID & S
Gettysburg Address

C. From Union to Nation

1. The war forged a new national self-consciousness, reflected in the increasing use of the word "nation"—a unified political entity—in place of the older "Union" of separate states



D. Liberty in Wartime

1. Lincoln consolidated executive power and twice suspended the writ of habeas corpus throughout the entire Union for those

accused of “disloyal activities”

2. After the war, the Court made it clear that the Constitution was not suspended in wartime

E. The North’s Transformation

1. The North experienced the war as a time of prosperity

G. Government and the Economy

1. Congress adopted policies that promoted economic growth and permanently altered the nation’s financial system

a. The Homestead Act

b. Land Grant College Act

2. Congress passed land grants for railroads

H. A New Financial System

1. The need to pay for the war produced dramatic changes in financial policy

a. increased tariff

b. new taxes on goods

c. first income tax

d. bonds

2. Wartime economic policies greatly benefited northern manufacturers, railroad men, and financiers

STUDY HINT

Your should be able to describe how the northern economy changed during the war.

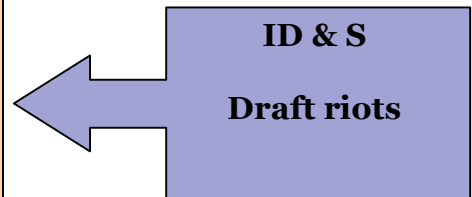
3. Taken together, the Union's economic policies vastly increased the power and size of the federal government

I. Women and the War

1. Women stepped into the workforce
2. Hundreds of thousands of northern women took part in humanitarian organizations
3. Northern women were brought into the public sphere and the war work offered them a taste of independence

J. The Divided North

1. Republicans labeled those opposed to the war Copperheads
2. The war heightened existing social tensions and created new ones
 - a. Draft riots
 - b. Labor movement



IV. THE CONFEDERATE NATION

FOCUS QUESTION: How did the war affect the society and economy of the Confederacy?

A. Leadership and Government

1. Jefferson Davis proved unable to communicate effectively the war's meaning to ordinary men and women
2. Under Davis, the Confederate nation became far more centralized than the Old South had been
 - a. King Cotton Diplomacy

B. The Inner Civil War

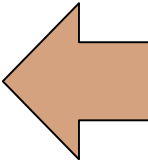
1. Social change and internal turmoil engulfed much of the Confederacy
 - a. The draft

C. Economic Problems

1. Unlike the North, the South's economy was in crisis during the war
2. Numerous yeoman families, many of whom had gone to war to preserve their economic independence, sank into poverty and debt
3. By the war's end, over 100,000 Southern men had deserted



STUDY HINTS



You should be able to describe the economic and social problems experienced by the Confederacy.

D. Southern Unionists

1. Southerners loyal to the Union made a significant contribution to northern victory
2. Elizabeth Van Lew provided vital information to Union Forces

E. Women and the Confederacy

1. Even more than in the North, the war placed unprecedented burdens on southern white women
2. The growing disaffection of southern white women contributed to the decline in homefront morale and encouraged desertion from the army

F. Black Soldiers for the Confederacy

1. A shortage of manpower led the South to arm slaves to fight
2. The war ended before the recruitment of black soldiers actually began

V. TURNING POINTS

FOCUS QUESTION: What were the military and political turning points of the war?

A. Gettysburg and Vicksburg

1. Lee advanced onto Northern soil, but was held back by Union forces under the command of General George Meade

a. Pickett's charge

2. General Grant secured a Union victory at Vicksburg

B. 1864

1. Grant, in 1864, began a war of attrition against Lee's army in Virginia

2. At the end of six weeks of fighting, Grant's casualties stood at 60,000—almost the size of Lee's entire army—while Lee had lost 25,000 men

3. General William T. Sherman entered Atlanta, seizing Georgia's main railroad center

ID & S

Battle of
Gettysburg

VI. REHEARSALS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

FOCUS QUESTION: What were the most important wartime “rehearsals for Reconstruction”?

A. The Sea Island Experiment

1. The Union occupied the Sea Islands in November 1861
2. Women took the lead as teachers in educating the freed slaves of the islands
 - a. Charlotte Forten and Laura Towne
3. By 1865 black families were working for wages, acquiring education, and enjoying better shelter and clothing and a more varied diet than under slavery

B. Wartime Reconstruction in the West

1. After the capture of Vicksburg, the Union army established regulations for plantation labor
 - a. Freedmen signed labor contracts and were paid wages
2. Neither side was satisfied with the new labor system
3. At Davis Bend, Grant established a “negro paradise”

C. The Politics of Wartime Reconstruction

1. In 1863, Lincoln announced his Ten-Percent Plan of Reconstruction
 - a. No role for blacks
 - b. Leniency toward the South
2. Freed blacks in New Orleans complained about the Ten-Percent Plan and found sympathy from Radical Republicans
3. Wade-Davis Bill offered as an alternative plan
 - a. Lincoln pocket-vetoed the plan

D. Victory at Last

1. Sherman marched to the sea in November 1864
2. Thirteenth Amendment approved on January 31, 1865
3. On April 3, 1865, Grant took Richmond
4. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox on April 9
5. Lincoln fatally shot on April 12

E. The War in American Memory

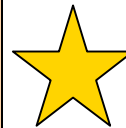
1. The Civil War laid the foundation for modern America
2. Poet Bret Harte gave blacks equality in

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Lincoln's Ten-Percent Plan

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Thirteenth Amendment



death

a. The work was to begin to give blacks equality in life