

CHAPTER FOURTEEN THE CIVIL WAR

Objectives

A thorough study of Chapter 14 should enable the student to understand

1. The reasons all attempts to reach a compromise in the time-honored way failed in 1860 and 1861.
2. The unique problems faced by newly inaugurated President Lincoln, and his use of executive powers to solve them up to July 4, 1861.
3. The many interpretations of the causes of the Civil War advanced by historians.
4. The ways in which the Confederate States of America compared with the United States in manpower, natural resources, finances, industrial potential, and public support.
5. The significant legislation enacted by Congress once southern members were no longer a factor.
6. The considerations involved in President Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, and its reception in the North, in the South, and in Europe.
7. The basic structure of the government of the Confederate States of America, how it differed from that of the United States, and how it dealt with the vital question of states' rights.
8. The efforts of Presidents Lincoln and Jefferson Davis to act as commander in chief under their respective constitutions.
9. How other nations, particularly England and France, viewed the struggle, and how their courses of action affected the outcome of the war.
10. How the American Civil War was part of a worldwide movement to create large, consolidated nations.

Main Themes

1. How the South came to attempt secession and how the government of the United States responded.
2. How both sides mobilized for war, and what that mobilization revealed about the nature and character of each.
3. How the North won the Civil War.

Pertinent Questions

THE SECESSION CRISIS (368-371)

1. On what constitutional interpretation was the concept of secession based? Which states were the first to secede, and what was the reaction of the United States government to this?
2. What compromises were proposed to bring these states back into the Union, and why did they fail?
3. What was Abraham Lincoln's opinion on the legality of secession, and how was that opinion reflected in his action concerning Fort Sumter?

4. Lincoln's decision to resupply Fort Sumter presented the South with what dilemma? How did the Confederates react? Faced with this action on the part of the South, what did Lincoln do, and how did the other slave states respond?
5. How have historians answered the question "Was the Civil War inevitable?" Who are the historians answering this question, and what evidence do they present to support their answers?
6. What advantages did the Union have in the Civil War? What were the advantages of the Confederacy?

THE MOBILIZATION OF THE NORTH (371-379)

7. How did the Republican Party act to expand the American economy during the war? To which prewar party was their program similar? Why were they able to enact it, whereas the previous party had not been?
8. How did the Union propose to finance the war? How successful was this plan? What was the effect on the economy?
9. How did the Union propose to raise troops? To what extent was it forced to use conscription? What was the reaction to this, and why was it so varied?
10. What were the characteristics of Lincoln as a leader? How were these characteristics reflected in his selection and use of his cabinet?
11. What was Lincoln's view of the extent of presidential war powers? Who were the opponents of the war, and how did Lincoln use these powers against them? What was the outcome?
12. For what reason was the "Union Party" created? Who were its candidates?
13. What were the two factions trying to control the Republican Party? What were their goals, and which did Lincoln support?
14. How was this split in the Republican Party revealed in the debate over what to do about slavery? What action did each faction propose? What did Lincoln do, and why?
15. What factors, other than political pressure, brought about the Emancipation Proclamation? What did the proclamation really accomplish? When did full emancipation really come?
16. What role did African Americans play in support of the Union cause?
17. What impact did the Civil War have on the northern industrial economy?
18. What impact did the Civil War have on women in the North? What part did women play in the war effort?

THE MOBILIZATION OF THE SOUTH (379-383)

19. Explain the origins of the Confederate government. How did its constitution differ from that of the United States? Who were chosen as its leaders, and what problems did they face?
20. How did the Confederacy attempt to finance the war? What problems did it face, and what were the results?
21. How did the Confederacy propose to raise troops for the war? How did these plans compare with those of the Union, and how successful were they? Why?
22. Why was states' rights the "great dividing force" in the Confederacy's war effort? What caused this division, and what was the effect?
23. How did the Civil War "transform" southern society? How was this transformation like that which took place in the North? How was it different?
24. What impact did the war have on the lives and circumstances of women? Of slaves?

STRATEGY AND DIPLOMACY (383-388)

25. Compare and contrast Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis—their backgrounds, abilities, and objectives. Why was Lincoln more successful at organizing a command system than Davis?
26. What role did Lincoln propose for the United States Navy? How did the Confederacy attempt to overcome this naval advantage, and what was the result?
27. What were the foreign-policy objectives of the Union and the Confederacy? How did each attempt to achieve these objectives, which was most successful, and why?
28. How did the West play a continuing political, diplomatic, and military part in the conflict?

THE COURSE OF BATTLE (388-399)

29. How did advances in the effectiveness of arms and artillery change the way soldiers in the field fought?
30. What major engagements were fought in 1861? What did they reveal about the possibility of an early end to the struggle and about the readiness of the two sides for a major conflict?
31. What was the Union plan for the conquest of the West? How did the Confederates propose to defend this area? How did the campaign advance, what battles took place, and which of the two armies more nearly achieved its objectives?
32. What was the Union plan on the Virginia front in 1862? Who was the general selected to carry this out? Who was the Confederate general he faced, and what was the relative strength of the two armies?
33. Outline the battles fought in the East in 1862. How did Lincoln's action toward his commanders affect the war effort? What were the relative positions of the two armies at the end of 1862? Which side had been more successful in achieving its objectives?
34. Why was 1863 the "Year of Decision"? What took place in 1863 to swing the advantage to the side of the Union? Where did these battles occur? Who were the generals involved? What did the battles accomplish? Why were they so important?
35. What was Grant's grand strategy for 1864? Who was to be in charge of the armies involved, and what were their objectives?
36. How was the Confederacy finally defeated? In what way did the Union forces destroy the South's will to carry on the fight?

WHERE HISTORIANS DISAGREE (372-373)

37. Explain the various interpretations that historians have advanced to explain why the Civil War took place.
38. How have these interpretations followed the general outlines laid down by Senator William H. Seward in 1858?

PATTERNS OF POPULAR CULTURE (384-385)

39. How did baseball become the "national pastime?"
40. What does the popularity of baseball indicate about America at the time of the Civil War?

AMERICA IN THE WORLD (380-381)

41. Explain the nineteenth century worldwide movement to create large, consolidated nations.
42. Explain how the American Civil War fit into this movement.

contributed to the outcome? Bring together these factors, and, after a careful analysis, determine why the North did win.

Chapter Self Test

After you have read the chapter in the text and done the exercises in the Study Guide, take the following self test to see if you understand the material you have covered. Answers appear at the end of the Study Guide.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Circle the letter of the response that best answers the question or completes the statement.

1. By the end of the 1850s the two-party system in the United States:
 - a. was the only thing holding the nation together.
 - b. still focused on the issues that had created the "second party system."
 - c. had reduced slavery to a minor issue.
 - d. accentuated rather than muted regional controversy.
2. The first seven southern states that seceded were:
 - a. in the lower South.
 - b. the states where the largest concentration of slaves were located.
 - c. the home of the most outspoken "fire eaters."
 - d. all of the above.
3. Which of the following stands did President Buchanan take after the first state seceded?
 - a. No state has the right to secede from the Union.
 - b. The federal government has no authority to stop a state from seceding from the nation.
 - c. Federal troops should be called out to stop secession.
 - d. Secession was a legal act.
 - e. Both a. and b.
 - f. Both a. and c.
4. Which of the following was true when the Civil War began?
 - a. All the important material advantages lay with the North.
 - b. The South had the active support of England.
 - c. Southern industry was sufficient to conduct a war.
 - d. The Union was prepared for a long war.
5. Which of the following was not an advantage enjoyed by the South at the outset of the war?
 - a. It would be fighting, for the most part, a defensive war.
 - b. Most of the white population of the South supported the war.
 - c. Northern opinion on the war was divided.
 - d. All of the above.
6. Which of the following was not enacted by the Republican Party during the Civil War?
 - a. A new National Bank Act.
 - b. Increased taxes on almost all goods and services.
 - c. Higher tariffs.

- d. Hard money policies requiring all payments in gold or silver.
7. In which of the following acts did Lincoln not "ignore" the Constitution?
- Sending troops into battle without asking for a declaration of war.
 - Increasing the size of the regular army.
 - Putting diplomatic pressure on England not to recognize the Confederacy.
 - Unilaterally proclaiming a naval blockade of the South.
8. During the Civil War northern women:
- did not become involved in the conflict.
 - tried to get the men they knew to stay home.
 - entered nursing, a field previously dominated by men.
 - did work at home but made no contribution to the needs of employers for additional labor.
9. The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves:
- in the North as well as the South.
 - in areas of the Confederacy except those already under Union control.
 - and offered compensation to the masters in slave states that remained loyal to the Union.
 - in the South but offered to return them to masters who declared their loyalty to the Union.
10. The Civil War was difficult on American workers because it:
- cut off immigration and they had to work harder.
 - drove prices up and cut purchasing power.
 - prevented mechanization, so they had to work longer hours.
 - removed almost all women from the workplace.
11. The Confederacy ultimately financed its war effort through:
- an income tax.
 - requisitions from the staples.
 - paper money.
 - tariffs on imported goods.
12. The greatest source of division in the South was:
- the doctrine of state's rights.
 - the difference of opinion over the war.
 - the question of whether to use slaves in combat.
 - over "King Cotton diplomacy."
13. The most concrete legacy of the Civil War for southern white women was the:
- recognition that women could do men's work and the opening of more employment opportunities.
 - elevation in status they enjoyed when the slaves were freed.
 - decimation of the male population and the creation of a major sexual imbalance in the region.
 - the loss of status when the slaves were freed.
14. In England, which of the following supported the South:
- Unenfranchised classes.
 - Ruling classes.
 - Liberals.

- d. English manufacturers.
15. The United States was upset when England declared neutrality because:
- it meant that England might aid the South.
 - it meant that the two sides in the conflict were of equal stature.
 - the South could easily get English loans.
 - such a declaration usually led to diplomatic recognition.
16. The first battle of the Civil War was:
- Shiloh.
 - the Seven Days.
 - First Bull Run.
 - Wilson's Creek.
17. The bloodiest engagement of the Civil War was fought at:
- Antietam.
 - Gettysburg.
 - Atlanta.
 - Chickamauga.
18. Sherman's march through Georgia was designed to:
- find supplies for the Union armies in Virginia.
 - free the slaves in central Georgia.
 - get Lincoln reelected.
 - break the will of the southern people.
19. "Cotton diplomacy:"
- enabled the South to get all the war material it needed from Europe.
 - worked for most of the war.
 - was a failure.
 - worked for the North.
20. In the Indian territory in the West the Civil War:
- was hardly felt.
 - was seen as a war between whites, and the Indians did not care who won.
 - resulted in something of a civil war all its own.
 - allowed the Indians to force the United States to give them better treaty terms.

TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

Read each statement carefully. Mark true statements "T" and false statements "F."

- The Crittenden Compromise failed because Republicans refused to give in on the question of the expansion of slavery.
- Many southerners believed that the dependence of English and French textile industries on American cotton would force those countries to intervene on the side of the Confederacy.
- The Republican Party did little to promote economic development during the war.
- The Union's largest source of financing for the war was taxes and tariffs.
- In both the North and South, the draft was accepted with little protest.

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6. In the North, there was little opposition to the war.
 7. Had the Union not taken Atlanta in September of 1864, Lincoln might have lost the presidency to McClellan.
 8. The Civil War transformed the North from an agrarian to an industrial society.
 9. The Confederate government was composed of the most radical southern secessionists.
 10. Despite many shortages, the South was at least able to grow enough food to meet its needs.
 11. Lincoln's handling of the war effort faced constant scrutiny from the congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War, which seriously interfered with his work.
 12. Although the war saw many technological advances, it was still possible for armies to fight much as they had for centuries.
 13. No European nation offered diplomatic recognition to the Confederacy.
 14. Though outmanned on the land, the Confederacy held the advantage at sea.
 15. After General McClellan allowed Lee to retreat into Virginia following Antietam Creek, Lincoln removed him from command.
 16. After the battle of Chattanooga, the Confederacy's only hope was to hold on and exhaust the northern will to fight.
 17. By sticking to the principles of states' Rights, the South was able to better defend its territory.
 18. Because of the way they had been treated by the United States, no Indian tribes supported the Union in the war.
 19. Robert E. Lee was the last Confederate commander in the East to surrender.
 20. Jefferson Davis was captured with Lee at Appomattox.