

# The Furnace of Civil War

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1861-1865

AP U.S. History

# Essential Question

- Why did the Civil War occur?
  - Many historians argue the Civil War was really a fight over states rights.
  - Others argue the idea of the Civil War being fought over state rights is merely an attempt by Southerners to sanitize their history. The real cause of the Civil War, according to many historians, was slavery.
  - Then again, many say the North dictated the history of the Civil War because they were the winners, so arguing that the Civil War was fought over slavery is just the North glorifying their role in the war.
  - Of course, others say economic differences between the North and South caused the war; or the breakdown of political institutions; or the ineptitude of a new generation of political leaders.
  - What do you think?



# Bull Run Ends the “Ninety-Day War”

The First Battle of Bull Run was fought 30 miles south of Washington on July 21, 1861.



One could argue victory at Bull Run worked against the South. The South grew really cocky about their win and Southern overconfidence reduced enlistments into the military.



My division stood like a stonewall against those inexperienced Union soldier-boys. The Yankees were running for their lives!

Click on the picture to view a cool animated map of the battle of Bull Run on the new-fangled internet.



The North, on the other hand, were hardened against the South and were more committed than ever of defeat the Confederacy.



# “Tardy George” McClellan & the Peninsula Campaign

Lincoln chose General George McClellan to lead the major Union army near Washington. McClellan was highly regarded as a brilliant commander, but he was overcautious to the point of never engaging with the enemy.

Lincoln is a baboon.



McClellan's got a case of the “slows.”



McClellan finally decided on a waterborne strategy to attack the capital of the Confederacy – Richmond, VA. Once again, the Confederacy's superior military commanders, such as “Stonewall” Jackson and Robert E. Lee, defeated the Army of the Potomac.

Ironically, if McClellan would have succeeded, the war would have ended and slavery would have survived. Instead, the Union strategy transitioned to destroying the South militarily and economically.

Click on the map below to learn more about the Peninsula Campaign.



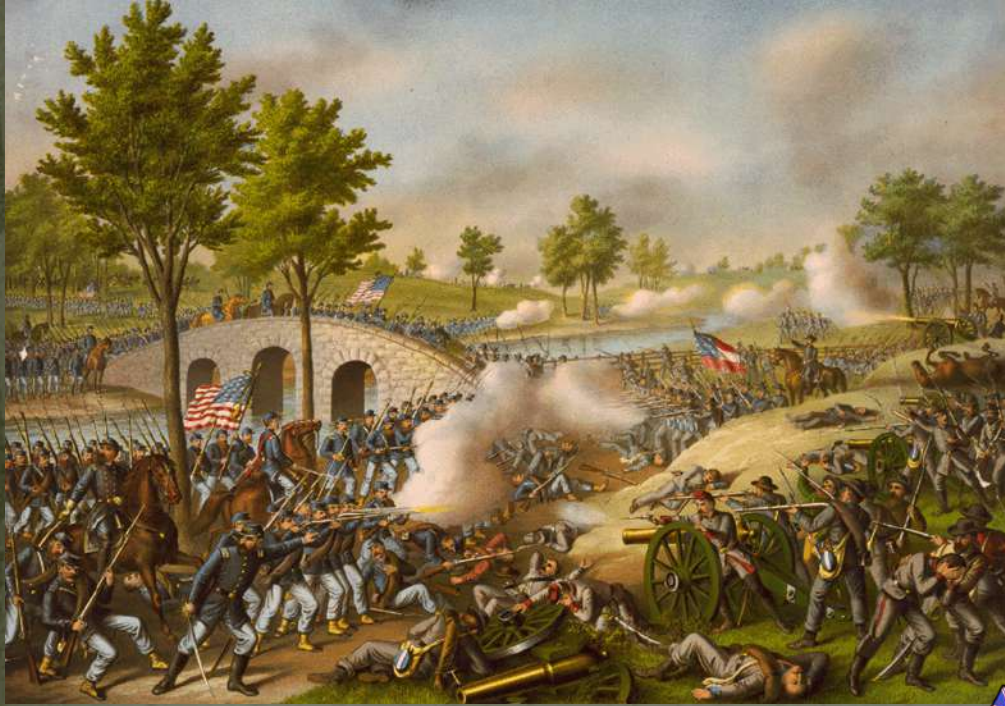






# The Pivotal Point: Antietam

Click on the images for a cool interactive maps and videos.



Antietam was one of the most crucial battles in the Civil War because it prevented British and French recognition of the Confederacy.



The old South will be destroyed and replaced with new ideas.



Darn



Lincoln needed what could be seen as a victory in order to issue his Emancipation Proclamation because anything else would look like he needed to call upon slaves to murder their masters so that the North could win the war.



# A Proclamation Without Emancipation



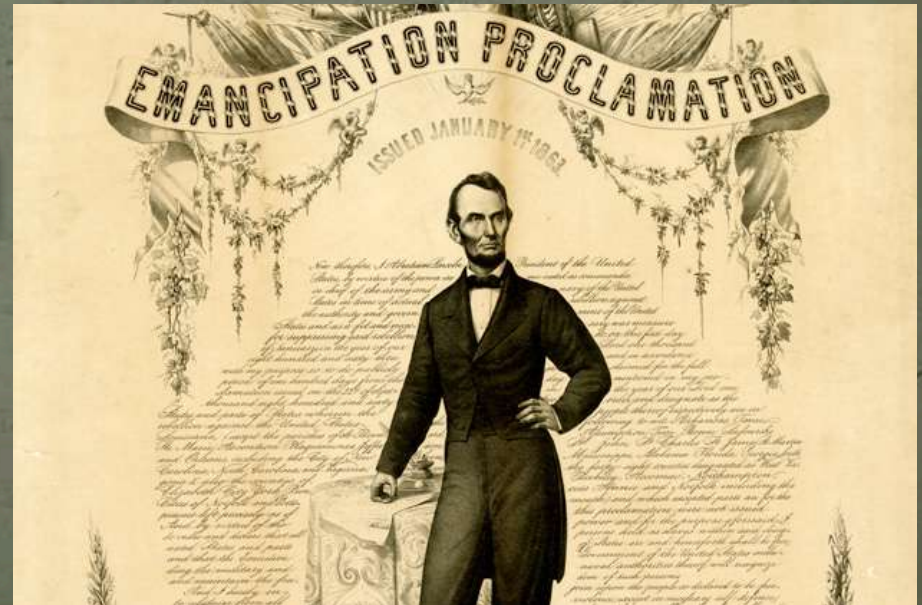
Grrrr!

Huzzah!



Reactions to the Emancipation Proclamation were mixed. Many northerners, especially the Irish and those living in Border States and the “Butternut” region, were unhappy with the change in why the war was being fought.

Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation did not free the slaves in the Border States, nor did it say slavery could not exist in states. Using his war powers, Lincoln confiscated “property” that was helping the rebellious states fight against the Union.





# Blacks Battle Bondage

## TO COLORED MEN!

### FREEDOM, Protection, Pay, and a Call to Military Duty!

On the 1st day of January, 1863, the President of the United States proclaimed Freedom to over **THREE MILLIONS OF SLAVES**. This decree is to be enforced by all the power of the Nation. On the 21st of July last he issued the following order:

#### PROTECTION OF COLORED TROOPS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, July 31.

General Order, No. 232.

"The following order of the President is published for the information and government of all concerned:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, July 30.

"It is the duty of every Government to give protection to its citizens, of whatever class, color, or condition, and especially to those who are duly organized as soldiers in the public service. The law of nations, and the usages and customs of war, as carried on by civilized powers, permit no distinction as to color in the treatment of prisoners of war as public enemies. To sell or make any captured person on account of his color, is a crime against the civilization of the age.

"The Government of the United States will give the same protection to all its soldiers, and if the enemy shall sell or make any man because of his color, the offense shall be punished by retaliation upon the enemy's prisoners in our possession. It is, therefore, ordered, for every soldier of the United States, killed in violation of the law of war, a rebel soldier shall be executed; and for every one captured by the enemy, or sold into slavery, a rebel soldier shall be placed at hard labor on the public works, and continued at such labor until the other shall be released and receive the treatment due to prisoners of war.

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

"By order of the Secretary of War.

"E. D. TOWNESS, Assistant Adjutant General."

That the President is in earnest the rebels soon began to find out, as witness the following order from his Secretary of War:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, August 5, 1863.

"See Your letter of the 24 last, calling the attention of this Department to the case of Olin H. Brown, William H. Johnston, and Wm. Wilson, three colored men captured in the gashouse near Smith's, who received consideration. This Department has directed that three rebel prisoners of South Carolina, if there be any such in our possession, and if not, three others, be confined in close custody and held as hostages for Brown, Johnston and Wilson, and that the fact be communicated to the rebel authorities at Richmond.

"Very respectfully your obedient servant.

"EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War."

"The Hon. GREEN WELLES, Secretary of the Navy."

And retaliation will be our practice now—man for man—to the bitter end.

### LETTER OF CHARLES SUMNER,

Written with reference to the Convention held at Poughkeepsie, July 15th and 16th, 1863, to promote Colored Emancipation.

BOSTON, July 13th, 1863.

"I doubt if, in times past, our country could have expected from colored men any patriotic services. Such services in the nature of protection. But now that protection has begun, the service should begin also. You should receive rights and duties be weighed with nicety. It is enough that our country, aroused at last to a sense of justice, seeks to enrol colored men among its defenders.

"If my counsels should reach such persons, I would say: enlist at once. Now is the day and now is the hour. Help to overcome your cruel enemies now battling against your country, and in this way you will surely overcome those other enemies hardly less cruel, here at home, who will still seek to degrade you. This is not the time to hesitate or to hedge. Do your duty to our country, and you will set an example of generous self-sacrifice which will conquer prejudice and open all hearts.

"Very respectfully yours,

"CHARLES SUMNER."



The thousands of black soldiers in the Union Army added a powerful new weapon to the antislavery dimension of the Union cause. 180,000 blacks served in the Union army, or about 10% of total enlistments in the North.

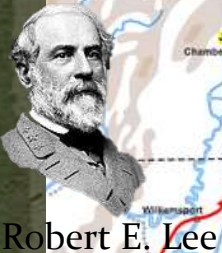
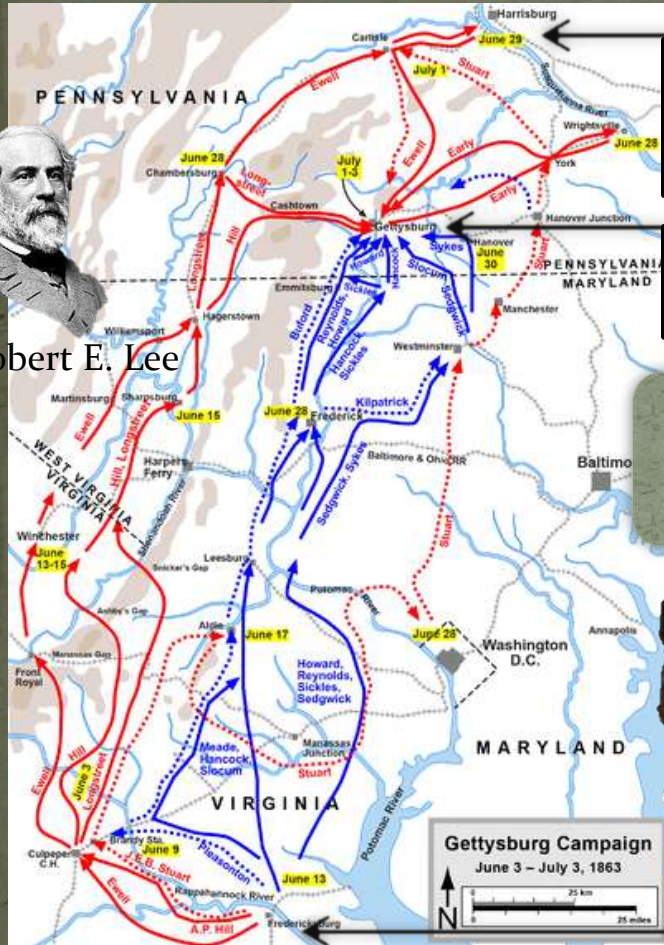
Click on the  
poster



Slaves who stayed in the South resisted in many different ways, such as diminishing productivity and serving as spies for the Union.



# Lee's Last Lunge at Gettysburg



Robert E. Lee

The northerly-most point Lee's army attained.

Battle of Gettysburg

Click on me to find out how I died - it's crazy not cool.



Four score and seven years ago...



"Stonewall" Jackson died at Chancellorsville.



Lincoln's speech at Gettysburg was considered "silly" at the time - go figure.

Lee's goals in invading the North in the summer of 1863 were to strengthen the Northern peace movement and encourage foreign intervention in the war.

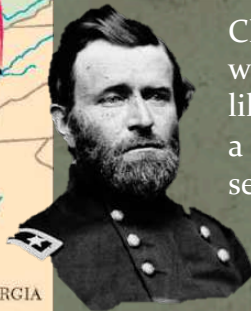
After the loss at Gettysburg, the Confederate cause was doomed. Yet, the South fought for two more years.



# The War in the West

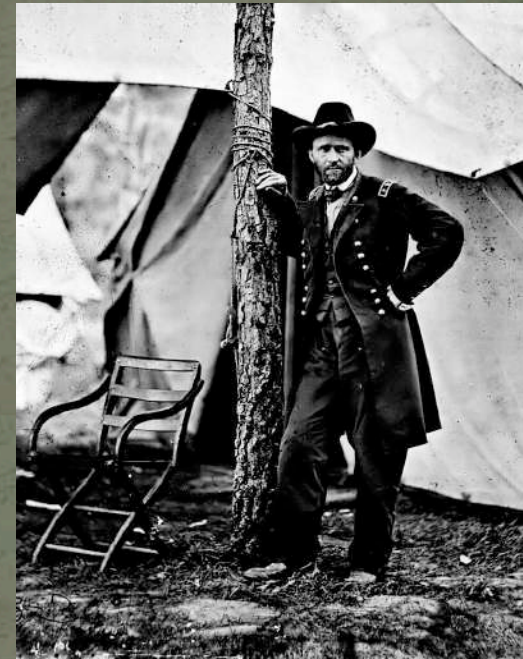


Victory  
wasn't easy.



General Ulysses S. Grant

Click on the picture with Grant posing like he's a model for a Sears magazine to see why.



Grant's capture of Vicksburg was especially important because it quelled Northern peace agitation and cut off the Confederate trade route across the Mississippi

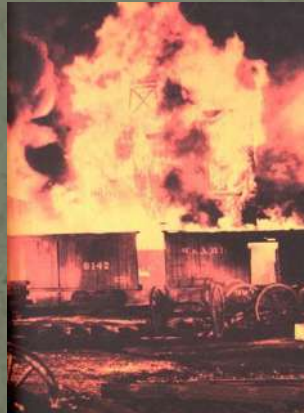
The Union victory at Vicksburg came the day after the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg – ouch. The “Butternut” region stopped pushing for peace and the Europe abandoned thoughts of aiding the Confederacy.



# Sherman Scorches Georgia



Georgia's conquest was entrusted to General William Tecumseh Sherman.



Click on the picture to see a video of Sherman burning Atlanta, GA.

Sherman's sixty-thousand strong army practiced total war in Georgia and South Carolina. They destroyed rail lines, bayoneted family portraits, stole personal belongings from abandoned houses, and confiscated crops. Click on the image and explore the interactive map.

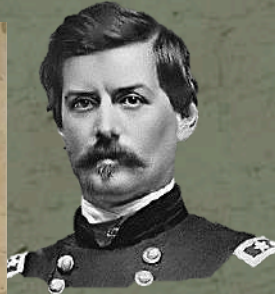




# The Politics of War

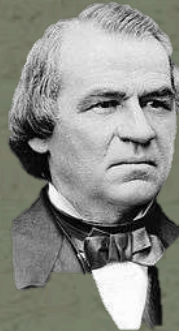


The “Copperheads” were the more extreme faction of the Northern Peace Democrats who opposed the Union war effort. They nominated McClellan, even though McClellan refused to denounce the war as a failure.



As the Democratic party nominee in 1864, General George McClellan repudiated the Copperhead platform that called for a negotiated settlement with the Confederacy.

McClellan was angry I fired him – twice.



Lincoln selected a War Democrat from Tennessee as his running mate to attract voters from Border States.



Lincoln had his own factions in the Republican party with which to deal, such as the “Radical” Republicans. To win the election, Lincoln teamed-up with War Democrats and created the Union Party.







# Grant Outlasts Lee

Click on the images



Grant took the fight to Lee and ended-up capturing the capital of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA.



General Lee surrendered at the Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia.



Lincoln went through generals to lead the army of the Potomac like toilet paper, but he finally found a good general in Ulysses S. Grant.





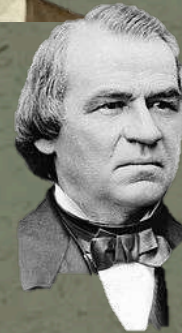
# The Martyrdom of Lincoln

On the night of April 14, 1865, only five days after Lee's surrender, Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater.



Andrew Johnson, a Southern Democrat, became president! He clashed with a Republican Congress and all hell broke loose.

Yup, I did it



Many Confederate soldiers cheered Lincoln's death, but, ironically, Lincoln's death was bad for the South because Lincoln wanted moderation. The Republicans in the North were left with fury and sought revenge.



# Essential Question

1. What was ironic about the First Battle of Bull Run for the South?
2. Why was Robert E. Lee's victory in the Peninsula Campaign a tragedy in the long-run for the South politically and economically?
3. What was Lincoln's view of the war in the summer of 1861?
4. Why was the Battle of Antietam important for the North politically?
5. Why did Lincoln wait to issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
6. How did slaves contribute to the collapse of slavery and the disintegration of the antebellum Southern way of life?