

# The Civil War



# The Civil War Begins

- In 1861 Lincoln sent only non-military supplies to the struggling soldiers at **Fort Sumter**, one of few Union-held places in the South.
- The Confederacy opened fire on Fort Sumter and the Civil War began.
- Lincoln called for volunteers to join the northern army and slave states in the Union were forced to choose sides.
- The North and South had different goals and advantages for war.

# Northern Goals and Advantages

## ➤ Goals:

- Preserve the Union
- Abolish slavery

## ➤ Advantages:

- Larger population
- More railroads

# Southern Goals and Advantages

## ➤ Goals:

- Preserve their way of life
- Be left alone with slavery unchanged

## ➤ Advantages:

- Nation's best soldiers
- Cotton exports for foreign aid

# Tactics, Technology, and Battle

Though the top generals of both sides were trained at West Point and knew military tactics from the Mexican War, this Civil War was different for many reasons:

- Far deadlier weapons, including better rifles, machine guns, and exploding shells
- The use of observation balloons and camouflage
- Officers and government communicated quickly by telegraph.
- Railroads moved large numbers of troops quickly

# First Major Battle

- The **Battle of Bull Run** near Washington, D.C.
- Untrained troops on both sides transformed the battle to chaos and ended hopes for a short war

# Different Regions of the War

## War in the West

- Gaining control of the Mississippi River would split the Confederacy in two.
  - In early 1862 Union general **Ulysses S. Grant** opened two major water routes into the western Confederacy.
- Grant moved South, winning a major victory at the **Battle of Shiloh** in Tennessee, but the fierce battle dashed northern hopes that the rebellion would collapse on its own.
- A Union fleet under Admiral David Farragut moved north along the Mississippi, capturing New Orleans and other river cities.

## War in the East

- Union general George B. McClellan delayed his attack on the Confederate capital at Richmond.
- Confederate general **Robert E. Lee** lured Union forces to the Second Battle of Bull Run in Virginia, and won.
- Defeat in Virginia hurt northern morale, so Lee wanted to invade Maryland, hoping a victory on Union soil would force northern surrender or gain foreign trust and aid.
- The **Battle of Antietam**, the bloodiest of the war, was considered a Union victory only because it stopped Lee's northern invasion.

# African Americans during the Civil War

- In the South, slave labor helped to provide the food necessary to feed the Confederate army.
- Thousands of slaves, however, escaped to join invading Union troops, and many were hired.
- On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, freeing enslaved people in all areas that were in rebellion against the U.S.
- Some northerners opposed the proclamation, others thought it did not go far enough.
- The proclamation encouraged freedmen to join Union forces, where almost 180,000 African Americans served in segregated units.



# Conditions at War and at Home

## ➤ Conditions for Soldiers

- Most soldiers died not from wounds but from contagious diseases and illness due to poor sanitation and polluted water.
- Soldiers spent most of their days in camp, doing drills, writing letters home, and playing games.
- Conditions were terrible for prisoners of war at overcrowded camps and prisons.

# Conditions at War and at Home

## ➤ The Home Front

- Southerners suffered property damage, food shortages, and inflation.
- The Confederacy, started the first U.S. draft and the North followed, which caused riots.
- Anti-war demonstrators hurt the Union war effort, They were called Copperheads by critics and were jailed without trial.

# Conditions at War and at Home

## ➤ **Women and War**

- Some women disguised themselves as men and enlisted in the army, while some worked as spies.
- Women took over daily life at home, on plantations, and in factories.
- About 3,000 women served in the Union army as nurses
- Some women, such as Clara Barton, cared for the wounded on battlefields.

# Fighting Continues

- The Civil War tore America apart, but it also had international effects.
  - Union naval blockades stopped the South from trading with the world.
  - When blockades became hard to cross southerners used blockade runners, or low, sleek ships that took cotton to Caribbean ports for transfer to Europe.
  - Southerners made an ironclad ship that withstood cannon fire to break through the blockade, but when the North built one also, the first ironclad battle took place and changed naval warfare forever.

# Fighting Continues

- Though most action was in the East, forces also clashed west of the Mississippi River over natural resources, additional soldiers, and territory.
  - Congress admitted Kansas, Dakota, Colorado, and Nevada territories as free states, then they created Idaho, Arizona, and Montana territories.
  - Lincoln appointed pro-Union officials to head the territories.
  - He did not enforce the draft in the West, though many joined voluntarily.
- More than 10,000 Native Americans fought, many for the Union.

# Three Major Battles

- After disastrous Union losses at Fredericksburg in December 1862, Union forces were ready to fight again by spring.
- General Joseph Hooker was now in command, and he led three major battles in 1862 and 1863.

# Three Major Battles

## 1- Chancellorsville

- Hooker planned to take Richmond by surprise.
- Lee marched his army west, leaving some behind as a distraction.
- Lee ordered a surprise attack and won the battle.

# Three Major Battles

## 2- Gettysburg

- Lee tried to invade the North again.
- In this three day battle, troops held positions for two days, until 15,000 Confederate troops charged the center lines and in the battle lost most of their troops. Lee retreated to Virginia.



# Three Major Battles

## 3- Vicksburg

- Meanwhile, Grant took Vicksburg, a Confederate stronghold in Mississippi.
- He shelled the city for weeks, trying to starve out defenders, until they surrendered

# The Final Phase

## Campaigns of 1864

- After major victories, the Confederacy won the Battle of Chickamauga, but Grant rescued the Union at Chattanooga.
- Lincoln gave Grant control of all the Union armies, and Grant moved the Army of the Potomac further and further south, despite heavy losses in the Battle of the Wilderness and the Battle of Spotsylvania.
- After the Battle of Cold Harbor, Grant began a siege of Richmond to cut supplies to the capital.
- Then Union General Sherman invaded Georgia, laid siege to Atlanta, closed railroad access to the city, and forced Confederate General Hood's troops to abandon the city.

## The Election of 1864

- While Sherman took Atlanta, the Democrats chose popular General George McClellan as their candidate.
- The Republicans chose Andrew Jackson, a pro-Union Democrat, as Lincoln's vice president to help Lincoln's wavering appeal.
- The Emancipation Proclamation and high casualties made the war unpopular and even Lincoln expected to lose the election.
- News of Sherman's Atlanta capture shifted public opinion, and Lincoln defeated McClellan, allowing Congress to pass the **Thirteenth Amendment** ending slavery.

# The War Ends

- Lincoln began his second term in March 1865. Lincoln announced his intention to be forgiving to the South in order to build up the nation's strength.
- After the election, Sherman's troops marched across Georgia in "Sherman's March to Sea," and burned much of Atlanta.
- Sherman believed that striking at economic resources would help win the war. His troops slaughtered livestock, destroyed crops, and looted homes and businesses.
- Eventually Confederate leaders were forced out of Richmond, and Lee surrendered when he found his troops surrounded.
- Lee and Grant met to negotiate terms of the Confederacy's surrender, which were very generous for such a long and bitter conflict: Lee's troops were to turn over their weapons and leave.
- The North celebrated, but Lincoln's assassination in 1865, before the official end of the war, changed the course of American history.