The War of the Union

- What were the major strategies of the Civil War?
- How did the war affect the home front in the North and the South?
- What were the reasons for, the results of, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation?

The End of the Waiting Game

- On both sides, people believed that fighting would be over in a little more than a month and that their daily lives would go on as usual.

Lincoln’s Inauguration

- Lincoln’s pledge: would not interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it existed—no right
- Immediate question was secession, not slavery
- William Seward: State Department
- Salmon Chase: Treasury Department
- Simon Cameron: War Department
- Edward Bates: attorney general

The Fall of Fort Sumter

- Lincoln initially firm and moderate
- President Jefferson Davis decided to prohibit Lincoln from resupplying the fort
  - Anderson surrenders
  - Militiamen summoned by Lincoln to quell rebel states
  - Proclaimed blockade of southern ports—confirmed war

Taking Sides

- Lincoln’s war proclamation swept four more states into the Confederacy
  - Virginia—Richmond became new Southern capital, Unionists in Virginia form West Virginia
  - Arkansas
  - Tennessee
  - North Carolina
- Slaves were scarce in these states and Union support was strong
  - Unionists of western Virginia formed their own state under General McClellan
- To hold onto Maryland, Lincoln took drastic measures
  - Suspended habeas corpus
  - Threw pro-Confederate leaders in jail
- Kentucky remained with the Union but extremely divided
- Missouri remained with the Union
  - Battle of Pea Ridge: Unionists vs. Confederates

- States seceding before Fort Sumter’s surrender: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina
- States seceding after Fort Sumter’s surrender: Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia

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Slaves states adhering to the Union: Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware

Choosing Sides
- Robert Lee’s decision epitomized the agonizing choice facing many residents in the border states
  - Although he did not see the good of secession, he could not fight his own homeland, Virginia.
  - He resigned
- In every Confederate state except South Carolina, whole regiments were organized to fight for the Union

Were there regiments of Confederate-supporters in the North?

The Balance of Force
- Confederate cause was doomed from the beginning due to sparse industrial development, smaller pool of able-bodied men, paucity of capital resources and warships, and spotty transportation network
  - But still possible for south to win

Economic Advantages
- Union had more states, higher population. 4:1 imbalance of soldiers, favoring the Union
- Union states produced 97% of firearms and 96% of railroad equipment
  - Union had more wagons, horses, ships, railroads
  - Union could easily claim control of Mississippi River with navy
- Confederacy had geographic advantage
  - Defensive war on its own territory
  - More experienced military leaders

The War's Early Course
- First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) demonstrated futile optimism that war would be over quick—naïve
  - Public pressured both sides to attack quickly and decisively
  - General McDowell (Union) versus General Beauregard (Confederate)
  - Similar plans: tried to turn the other’s left flank
    - McDowell’s troops panicked—frantic retreat—but Confederates were too exhausted to give chase
- First Battle of Bull Run demonstrated that war would not be quick and decisive

The War's Early Phase
- Lincoln adopted Winfield Scott’s three-pronged “anaconda” strategy
  - Army of Potomac to defend Washington DC and pressure Richmond
  - Navy blockade of southern ports
  - Divide Confederacy by invading the South along the main water routes: Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland rivers
- Confederate strategy was simpler
  - Hoped that cotton-hungry British or French would support them
  - Hoped public sentiment in the North would force Lincoln to negotiate settlement
Naval Actions

- Most important military actions involved naval war and blockade
  - Only threat to blockade was Confederate ship Virginia, which was countered by Union Monitor
- Union tightened grip on the South
  - Seized islands and ports on Carolina coast
  - Extended southward

Forming Armies

- Union Army
  - By end of 1861, half million Federal troops had enlisted
  - Rapid mobilization left the army with large number of “political” officers, commissioned by state governors or elected by recruits
  - 19th century army organized along community and ethnic lines
- Confederate Army
  - Veteran contracts ran out before war ended
  - Confederate government turned to conscription
    - all white male citizens age 18 to 35 were declared army members for three years
    - age limit was extended to 50 in 1862
    - Two loopholes:
      - Draftee might escape by providing substitute or paying $500
      - Exemptions in work—key jobs in society
- Conscription used in both north and south, both had loopholes
- Widespread public opposition in North and South
  - Riots exposed social racial and ethnic tensions—mobs were furious at African Americans for causing the war
    - Mostly Irish poor working-class toughs

Confederate Diplomacy

- Confederate diplomacy focused on gaining foreign supplies, diplomatic recognition, and perhaps even military intervention
- Union warship stopped British ship Trent and arrested two Confederate agents—protest in Britain threatened their neutrality
  - Federal officials released the agents in response to British ultimatum
- Confederate agents in Europe were far more successful in getting supplies than in gaining official government recognition of the Confederacy as a sovereign nation
  - Sale of ships to Confederates—Florida and Alabama

The West and the Civil War

- Western settlement continued, unabated
  - Gold and silver
  - New transportation and communication networks emerged to support West
  - Dakota, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, Montana gained territory status
- Texas was the only western state to join the Confederacy
- Fighting in Kansas and Indian Territory (Oklahoma) was widespread
Lincoln’s primary concerns in sending troops to the west:
- Protect gold and silver
- Win western political support for the war and his presidency

Most intense fighting in the West occurred along the Kansas-Missouri border
- Disputes between pro and anti-slavery turned to warfare
- William Quantrill—most prominent Confederate leader in the area—opposed by Jayhawkers
  - Super violent

Indian regiments fought on both sides
- “Five Civilized Tribes”—held black slaves and supported South
- Cherokees split—divided loyalty

Actions in the Western Theater
- General Ulysses Grant made the first Union thrust against the weak center of General Johnston’s overextended lines
  - Captured Fort Henry
  - Attacked nearby Fort Donelson
  - Confederates surrendered

Shiloh
- General Johnston regrouped in northern Mississippi
  - General Grant moved Union army along Tennessee River
  - Grant’s costly mistake: exposed 42,000 troops and failed to dig defensive trenches
  - Confederates struck suddenly at Shiloh
  - Union army was about to lose, but General Johnston was wounded
- Costliest battle in which Americans ever engaged until then
- General Halleck was jealous of Grant and spread rumor that Grant was drinking

McClellan’s Peninsular Campaign
- McClellan appointed general in chief
  - Sought to enter Richmond by side door, not directly as Lincoln suggested
  - McClellan waited to strike, failing to capitalize on advantages
- President Davis sent Stonewall Jackson into Shenandoah valley as a diversion
  - McDowell defended Washington DC
  - Jackson defended Richmond against McClellan
- Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) –Union defeat was prevented
- Robert Lee assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia
  - Attacked Union lines east of Richmond but failed to dislodge Union forces
  - McClellan criticized Lincoln, Lincoln replaced him with General Halleck

Second Bull Run
- McClellan and Pope defended Washington
- Generals Lee and Stonewall Jackson attacked Pope before McClellan’s Army of the Potomac reached Washington—split Union forces
- At Second Battle of Bull Run, Pope assumed that he faced only Jackson, but Lee’s main army had joined in—Pope was crushed and dispatched to Minnesota to fight Indians
Antietam

- Lee pushed into North, bold plan was discovered in cigar wrappings
  - McClellan failed to take action promptly
  - McClellan attacked Lee at Battle of Antietam—bloodiest day
  - Confederates retreated
  - Lincoln was not pleased—battle was not truly decisive
    - McClellan was removed

- Battle of Antietam was the turning point in the war

Fredericksburg

- Antietam was significant turning point
  - Raised North morale, emboldened Lincoln to issue Emancipation Proclamation, dashed Confederacy’s hope for foreign recognition
- Lincoln’s worst choice: appointed Ambrose Burnside as fighting general
- Burnside attacked Confederates in Fredericksburg, Virginia and got owned
- Year 1862 ended with discontent
  - Union morale decreased, northern Democrats called for negotiation, Radical Republicans pressured Lincoln, criticism of Burnside
- Lincoln signed Emancipation Proclamation in 1863

Emancipation

- Initial promise to restore union and maintain slavery was challenged—emancipation encouraged
  - Racial prejudice of the North—uneasy about racial integration but still opposed slavery
  - Lincoln would have to justify emancipation as a military necessity

A Measure of War

- Fugitive slaves were being declared as free
- 1862: Lincoln signed acts to abolish slavery in Washington DC, abolish in territories without compensation, Second Confiscation Act liberated slaves of all persons aiding the rebellion, forbade army to return runaways to border states
- Lincoln decided that emancipation of Confederate slaves would be required for several reasons:
  - Slave labor bolstered the Rebel war effort
  - North needed a boost in morale
  - Public opinion was swinging toward emancipation
- Primary Emancipation proclamation 1862
  - Objective was to restore Union
  - Lincoln favored proposals to compensate slaveholders
  - Immediate emancipation

Reactions to Emancipation

- Tennessee and Union-controlled parts of Virginia and Louisiana were exempted from Emancipation Proclamation but many slaves claimed freedom anyway
Blacks in Military
- General recruitment of blacks was authorized by War Department in 1863
  - It changed a war to preserve the Union into a revolution to transform the social, economic, and racial status quo in the South
- By end of the war, 180,000 African Americans had served in U.S. Colored Troops regiments
  - 80% were former slaves
  - 38,000 died
- Three major steps occurred in 1865 when both Missouri and Tennessee abolished slavery by state action
  - They passed an abolition amendment
  - Thirteenth Amendment became part of the Constitution
  - By then, slavery only existed in the border states of Kentucky and Delaware

Women and the War
- Women on both sides played a prominent role
  - Sewed uniforms, composed songs, raised money
  - U.S. Sanitary Commission
  - Medical relief
  - Provided aid to slaves
- The most famous nurses were Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton
- Departure of men for the battlefield forced women to assume public and private roles
  - In the south, Women suddenly found themselves farmers, plantation managers, clerks, teachers
  - Some served as spies, some cooked meals the army
- Number of widows increased

Government During the War
- Freeing 4 million slaves and loosening the restraints on female activity constituted a momentous social and economic revolution
- Even broader revolution began as power in Congress shifted from South to North
  - Several projects that had been stalled by sectionalism were completed
  - New protective tariff was passed, transcontinental railroad was approved, homestead act, National Banking Act, Morrill Land Grant Act provided federal aid to state colleges of “agriculture and mechanic arts”, and the Contract Labor Act encouraged importation of immigrant labor

Union Finances
- Congress focused on three options to finance the war: raising taxes, printing money, borrowing
  - Taxes came from Morrill tariff on imports, excise taxes on manufactures, and income tax
  - Internal Revenue Act created the Internal Revenue Service
- Taxes alone were not sufficient—resorted to printing money
  - Legal Tender Act of 1862: authorized $450 million in paper money—greenbacks
  - Greenbacks could not be exchanged for specie
    - Their value relied public trust in government
- Nationwide campaign to sell bonds—generated $2 billion
For many businessmen, war-related ventures brought quick riches
  - Wartime business laid groundwork for postwar economic boom

Confederate Finances
- Disaster from the start
  - Levied export and import duties—but exports and imports were too low to generate much revenue
  - Income tax of 0.5% led to chaos
  - Desperation Confederate Congress began taxing everything in 1863—enforcement was poor

Union Politics and Civil Liberties
- Radical Republicans pushed for confiscation of plantations, immediate emancipation, vigorous prosecution
- Majority of Republicans supported Lincoln’s cautious approach
  - Party was united on economic policy
- Copperheads: extreme fringe of peace Republicans preferred end to fighting, even if it risked the Union
- By Habeas Corpus Act of 1863, Congress authorized president to suspend habeas corpus in times of crisis
- Democratic national convention in 1864 called for an end to the war
  - George McClellan was nominated but he distanced himself from peace platform
- Radical Republicans tried to thwart Lincoln’s election for a second term
- Lincoln promoted Andrew Johnson for vice-president—war Democrat
- Lincoln won

Confederate Politics
- Davis’s greatest challenge came from the politicians who had embraced secession and then guarded states’ rights against the central government of the Confederacy as zealously as they had against the Union
  - Georgia and North Carolina
- The states’ rights advocates challenged legality of draft, taxes on produce, suspension of habeas corpus
- Davis was stubborn

❖ Did Lincoln intend the Emancipation Proclamation to be a military, diplomatic, or humanitarian gesture?

The Civil War and the Environment
- Devastated ecology of the south
  - Hog and horse population was decimated
  - Landscape, bridges, levees, dams, fencing, more mosquitoes

The Faltering Confederacy

Chancellorsville
- Lincoln’s search for a capable general turned to Joseph Hooker
  - He failed his leadership at Chancellorsville
  - Defeated by Robert Lee, who predicted his diversionary plans—peak of Lee’s career
  - Stonewall Jackson died
Vicksburg
- **Vicksburg = Confederate stronghold**
  - Ulysses S. Grant planned to split the Confederate in two by capturing Mississippi
  - Seized and destroyed supplies
- Union victory

Gettysburg
- Joseph Johnston was now in charge of western Confederate forces—wished to lure Grant’s army into Tennessee and relieve siege of Vicksburg
  - If he could win major battle in the North, northern public opinion may end the war
- Union Commander George Meade got reinforcements—had advantage on higher ground
- Confederates failed—it was successfully split in two
- **Gettysburg Address**: Lincoln expressed pain and sorrow of civil war

Chattanooga
- Union General William Rosecrans took Chattanooga and pursued General Braxton Bragg
- Confederates had numerical advantage
- Union command sent reinforcements—Grant replaced Rosecrans
- Union won—Grant’s genius confirmed

The Confederacy’s Defeat
- Spreading sense of hopelessness in South
- Union’s main targets: General Joseph Johnston in Georgia and Lee’s army in Virginia
- Grant and Sherman vs. Lee and Johnston
- **Grant’s military strategy to end it all:**
  - Find enemy, strike quickly, keep moving on
  - Brutal simplicity

Grant’s Pursuit of Lee
- Grant’s men suffered heavier casualties but Confederates were running out of replacements
- **Union army was massacred at Cold Harbor**—Grant admitted it was his greatest mistake
- Petersburg became Lee’s prison—he got owned
  - Grant cut railroad arteries

Sherman’s March
- Sherman laid plans for a march through central Georgia, where no organized Confederate armies remained
  - Intention was to whip the rebels and make them fearful
- Confederate General Hood lured Sherman to pursue—did not take the bait
- **Battle of Franklin**: Confederates epic failed—Hood failed
- **Battle of Nashville**: Confederates were finished off
- Meanwhile, Sherman razed Georgia
  - Destroyed livestock, food, railroads, mills, but not houses, few crimes
- **By 1865, defeat of the Confederacy was obvious**
  - Desire for negotiation—but Jefferson Davis refused surrender

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Lincoln prepared for second term
  • Longed for peace
  • Irony of war
  • Christian virtues of forgiveness

Appomattox
• Lee’s army abandoned Richmond and Petersburg—but escape route cut off
• Confederacy was dead—Jefferson Davis was captured
• Lee met with Grant at Appomattox Court House—Confederate armies officially surrendered

A Modern War
• Civil War was the first modern war
  o Scope was unprecedented
  o 620,000 Americans died
  o Disease was the greatest threat to soldiers, killing twice as many as in battle
  o Killing was distant, impersonal, and mechanical
    ▪ New weapons, observation balloons, ironclad ships, rifles
• Inherent weaknesses of the Confederacy
  o Lack of industry
  o Fractious relations between states
  o Faulty communication and coordination
  o Burden of slavery
  o Disparities in resources

Battles to Know
Bull Run
Antietam
Gettysburg
Sherman’s March
Grant
Lee
Stonewall Jackson
Merrimack vs. Monitor