



Chapter 3 Crisis, Civil War, and Reconstruction

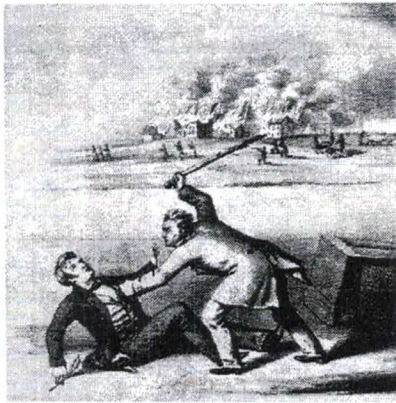
Section I	Competency 3 / Objective 1 – 2
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I. THE ROAD TO SECESSION

Objectives 3.01 and 3.02

LEGISLATION REGARDING SLAVERY

The debate over slavery grew more heated as controversy continued over which territories should be slave states and which ones should be free. Congress passed the Missouri Compromise in 1820 with the hope of maintaining the balance of power between slave and free states. With the acquisition of land from Mexico, however, conflict surfaced once again. Henry Clay of Kentucky helped maintain national unity by proposing the **Compromise of 1850**. Under this agreement, Congress admitted California as a free state and declared the unorganized western territories free as well. These provisions greatly pleased Northerners. The Utah and New Mexico territories, however, were allowed to decide the issue by **popular sovereignty**. In other words, the people living in these areas would vote on whether or not to allow slavery. Attached to the Compromise was the **Fugitive Slave Law**. This law required that northern states forcibly return escaped slaves to their owners in the South. This provision pleased southerners, but because the law was unpopular in the North, many northerners refused to obey it.



Sumner-Brooks Incident

In 1854, Congress passed the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**. This act allowed the previously free and unorganized territories of Kansas and Nebraska to choose whether or not to permit slavery (popular sovereignty). This act effectively repealed the Missouri Compromise and reignited the slavery issue. Settlers rushed into the territory from both the North and the South. Kansas became known as "**Bleeding Kansas**" as armed clashes between pro-slavery forces and abolitionist settlers became commonplace. In Washington, the act caused heated debate. A fiery Senator from Massachusetts named **Charles Sumner** strongly denounced the act in a speech that spanned two days. Sumner attacked the act and the senators who authored it (**Stephen A. Douglas** and

Andrew Butler). A couple of days after the speech, Sumner was approached on the Senate floor by South Carolina Congressman, **Preston Brooks**. Brooks was insulted by Sumner's words both because he was from the South and because he was related to Butler. Brooks beat Sumner with a heavy cane, almost killing him and causing him to be absent from the Senate for three years while he recovered from the attack. The **Sumner-Brooks incident** was a brutal example of how inflamed passions had become over the slavery issue. Meanwhile, two rival governments (one slave and the other free) formed in Kansas, leaving the territory in a state of civil war.

THE DRED SCOTT DECISION



Dred Scott

The 1857 case of *Dred Scott v. Sanford* threw the nation further into turmoil. Dred Scott, a slave in Missouri, was taken by his owner into free territory where he lived for four years. The owner later returned to Missouri, where he died. After his death, Dred Scott sued for his freedom. The Supreme Court ruled that Scott had no right to sue because, as a slave, he was not a citizen. It also declared that a slave owner could not be deprived of his "property" without due process of law. The decision also struck down the Missouri Compromise because it declared that it was a violation of the Fifth Amendment to declare slaves free of their owners without due process of law — even if that slave had entered a free state. The decision outraged

both abolitionists and those who favored popular sovereignty.

BIRTH OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

In 1854, a coalition of Democrats, Whigs, Free Soilers (a party opposing slavery in new territories), and former Know-Nothings formed the **Republican Party**. While the party did not call for the immediate abolition of slavery, it was noted for adopting the Free-Soilers' position of opposing the extension of slavery into new US territories.

THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

In 1858, the Republicans nominated **Abraham Lincoln** (1809 – 1865) to run for the US Senate in Illinois against Democrat **Stephen A. Douglas** (1813 – 1861). The two confronted one another in a series of public debates that won national attention. Lincoln, an opponent of expanding slavery into new territories, insisted that Douglas explain how his view supporting popular sovereignty could hold up in light of the Dred Scott case. Douglas, who had hopes of being president in 1860 and wanted to appeal to both southern Democrats and his northern constituents, argued that slavery could not be implemented without laws to govern it. If a territory had no slave laws, then it could not have slaves. This view became known as the **Freeport Doctrine** because it was espoused by Douglas during a debate in Freeport, Illinois. Douglas went on to win the election, but his refusal to support the court's decision in the Dred Scott case outright ended up costing him valuable southern support.



Stephen Douglas

ACTION AGAINST SLAVERY

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN AND THE "UNDERGROUND RAILROAD"

While politicians fought desperately to maintain peace as they dealt with the topic of slavery, others began to take action. **Slave codes** (laws that seriously limited the actions of slaves) and harsh treatment of slaves in the South led radical abolitionists to believe that they could not afford to wait for legislation that would do away with slavery. **Harriet Tubman** (1820 – 1913), herself an escaped slave, was a hero of the abolitionist movement. She secretly returned to the South nineteen times in order to lead other slaves to freedom by way of the **Underground Railroad**. The Underground Railroad was not actually a railroad, but rather a network of people who helped slaves escape to the northern US and Canada.



Harriet Tubman

Another activist was **Harriet Beecher Stowe** (1811 – 1896). Her 1852 novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, was a fictional account of the horrors faced by a slave family in the South; though she was white and had never been a slave, many northerners accepted her book as truth and were motivated to support the abolition of slavery. Most southerners, however, found her book outrageous and dismissed it as lies.



John Brown

JOHN BROWN'S RAID

One of the most radical white abolitionists was **John Brown** (1800 – 1859). In October of 1859, Brown and his followers attacked the federal arsenal (location where weapons are made and/or stored) at **Harper's Ferry, Virginia**. They hoped to seize weapons and give them to slaves

who could then rise up in armed rebellion. The plan failed when US troops under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee surrounded the arsenal and forced Brown's surrender. Brown was hanged and southern resentment towards the abolitionist movement intensified.

ELECTION OF 1860 AND SOUTHERN SECESSION



Jefferson Davis



Abraham Lincoln

By the time of the **presidential election of 1860**, the country was at a boiling point regarding slavery. At its convention, the Democratic Party split along sectional lines over the issue. The northern Democrats supported popular sovereignty and nominated Stephen Douglas. The southern Democrats, wanting federal protection of slavery in the territories, nominated Vice President John Breckinridge of Kentucky. The Republicans, meanwhile, chose **Abraham Lincoln**. The South felt

threatened by Lincoln's candidacy because, unlike Douglas who considered slavery a legitimate choice, Lincoln considered it a moral evil. The southern states feared that Lincoln would seek not only to prevent slavery in the new territories, but to dismantle it in the South as well. When Lincoln won the election without winning any Southern electoral votes, South Carolina responded by **seceding** (announcing their withdrawal) from the Union on December 20, 1860. By February 1861, six other states had seceded as well: Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. In February of 1861, southern delegates from the seceded states met in Montgomery, Alabama to draft their own constitution and elect **Jefferson Davis** (1808 – 1889) as president of the **Confederate States of America**.

FORT SUMTER

The day after his inauguration, President Lincoln learned that Union soldiers at **Fort Sumter, SC**, had only one month of supplies remaining. Wanting to uphold the Union without provoking war, he notified the governor of South Carolina that he was sending ships with food but no soldiers or munitions. On April 12, 1861, Confederate soldiers opened fire on the fort before the relief ships could arrive, forcing the Union troops to surrender the following day. In response, President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers. The so-called border states were forced to decide whether to support the Union or the Confederacy. With a great deal of controversy and division, Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland remained in the Union, while Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee joined the Confederacy. The capital of the Confederacy was then moved from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond, Virginia. The **Civil War** had begun.

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II. THE CIVIL WAR

Objective 3.03

KEY FIGURES OF THE CIVIL WAR

Abraham Lincoln: President of the United States of America and the first Republican president in history.

Ulysses S. Grant (1822 – 1885): Initially an effective general in the Union's western battles, he eventually assumed command of the entire Union army in 1864. He defeated the South and accepted Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. He went on to become the eighteenth president of the United States.



Abraham Lincoln



Ulysses S. Grant

George McClellan (1826 – 1885): A young and talented general in the Union army, he was Lincoln's first choice to command the Union forces in the East. Despite his abilities, he often proved too cautious and hesitant to attack. Lincoln eventually fired him twice out of frustration with his lack of aggressiveness. He was the Democratic party's nominee for president in 1864, losing the election to Abraham Lincoln.

William T. Sherman (1820 – 1891): Union general who took command of the western forces after Grant decided to remain with troops in the East. His capture of Atlanta in 1864 signaled to both the North and the South that the war was all but won for the Union and helped Lincoln win re-election in 1864. He is most remembered for his "march to the sea," in which he burned and destroyed southern cities and railways in an effort to disrupt the Confederate war effort and trap Lee between himself and General Grant.



George McClellan



William T. Sherman

Jefferson Davis: First and only president of the Confederate States of America.

Robert E. Lee (1807 – 1870): Assumed command of the Confederacy's Army of Northern Virginia after General Joseph Johnston was injured. A brilliant commander, he was originally offered field command of the Union's forces by Lincoln, but could not bring himself to fight against his homeland of Virginia. Despite winning several impressive victories during the course of the war, he did not have nearly enough men to sustain the war effort past early 1865. He eventually surrendered to General Grant.



Jefferson Davis



Robert E. Lee

Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson (1824 – 1863): Confederate general and right-hand man to Robert E. Lee. Noted for his ability to use geography to his advantage, he swiftly navigated the Shenandoah Valley which stretched from the Allegheny Mountains in northern Virginia north towards Washington, D.C. One of his most brilliant moves came at the Battle of Chancellorsville, when he successfully marched his troops over 12 miles undetected and attacked the unsuspecting Union forces. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, it was during this same battle that Jackson was accidentally shot by Confederate troops from North Carolina while scouting the enemy’s position at night. His left arm had to be amputated, leading to Lee’s famous quote, “Jackson has lost his left arm, but I have lost my right.” Although his injuries did not initially seem life threatening, Jackson died after contracting pneumonia during his recovery. So effective a leader was Jackson that many believe the South would have won the war, had he lived to fight at Gettysburg.



Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson

KEY BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR

THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN (JULY 21, 1861)

The **First Battle of Bull Run** (also known as First Manassas because of the town near which it was fought) was the first confrontation between the two armies and a humiliating defeat for the Union forces. Fought only 30 miles from Washington, DC, it could have led to an invasion of the capital by Confederate forces had the southern troops been better organized. The battle made it evident that the war would be longer than expected and led Lincoln to adopt General Winfield Scott’s “**Anaconda Plan**. The plan involved restricting southern supplies and communications by seizing control of the Mississippi River, cutting Confederate territory in half, and instituting coastal **blockades** (use of naval power to keep ships from entering or leaving enemy ports). The Union sought to isolate and divide the Confederacy in an effort to capture Richmond. Meanwhile, the Confederates hoped to fight off the Union and defend their homeland until assistance arrived from England or France. Although they lacked the North’s manpower and industrial production, southerners were inspired to fight for their homeland. They hoped that, if nothing else, they could simply outlast the North’s willingness to fight. On land, the war was fought on two primary fronts, or **theaters**: Eastern and Western.

THE EASTERN THEATER

ANTIETAM (September 17, 1862)



Robert E. Lee

After successfully defeating the Union army at the Second Battle of Bull Run, General Robert E. Lee believed that the time was right for an invasion of the North. Lee and his generals tried to maintain secrecy as they made the necessary preparations. Meanwhile, General McClellan (the Union's commanding general), remained unaware of the Confederate army's whereabouts until a copy of Lee's orders were found wrapped around some cigars at an abandoned Confederate camp. Now aware of Lee's plans, McClellan saw to it that Lee met a prepared Union force at Antietam Creek, Maryland. The battle of **Antietam** proved to be the bloodiest single day of the war, halting the Confederate advance. McClellan hesitated, however, and Lee's army slipped away to fight another day.

GETTYSBURG (July 1 – 3, 1863)



The Battle of Gettysburg

Fought just outside Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the battle of **Gettysburg** was a key turning point in the war. Just two months earlier, the battle of Chancellorsville had been a great Confederate victory. Often called "Lee's perfect battle" because of the great planning and good fortune the Confederates had experienced, Lee and Jackson had defeated more than 70,000 Union troops with only 40,000 Confederate soldiers. Jackson's death following Chancellorsville, however, meant that Lee was without his most gifted and reliable commander at Gettysburg. As a

result, the Confederate troops under his command proved less aggressive than usual and failed to win valuable high ground early in the battle. Union forces under the command of General George Meade defeated Lee's army and ended any hope the South had of successfully invading the North. With more than 51,000 soldiers killed, wounded, or missing, Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the entire Civil War. Four months later President Lincoln gave his famed **Gettysburg Address** at a ceremony dedicating a cemetery on the sight of the battlefield. Although a relatively short speech, it was a powerful affirmation of Lincoln's desire to see the Union survive and the nation reunited.

THE WESTERN THEATER

VICKSBURG (May 15 – July 4, 1863)

In the late spring of 1863, the town of Vicksburg, Mississippi was the last Confederate obstacle to total Union control of the Mississippi river. Ignoring advice to retreat, General Grant laid siege (a strategy by which an army surrounds its enemy, cuts off their supplies, and starves them into surrendering) to Vicksburg for almost two months. By the time the town finally surrendered on July 4, residents had been reduced to eating horses, mules, dogs and even rats.

SHERMAN'S MARCH (May – December, 1864)

Making their way from Chattanooga, Tennessee, Union forces under the command of William T. Sherman captured Atlanta in September of 1864, thereby helping President Lincoln to win re-election. Then, after burning the city, Sherman continued his **march to the sea** destroying bridges, factories, and railroad lines. Union forces cut a nearly 300 mile path of destruction across Georgia in route to the city of Savannah, which surrendered without a fight. Sherman then turned north into the Carolinas, intending to trap Lee's army between himself and Ulysses S. Grant.



General William T. Sherman

POLITICAL ISSUES OF THE WAR

As the battle lines were being drawn, four slave states (Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware, and Maryland) remained with the Union. Southern sympathizers, however, were common in these states. If Maryland joined the Confederacy, the Union capital of Washington, DC, would be surrounded by Confederate territory. Concerned that Confederate sympathizers might succeed in swaying Maryland to secede, President Lincoln took drastic action. He declared martial law in Maryland, suspended the **writ of habeas corpus** (the guarantee that a person cannot be imprisoned without being brought before a judge) and jailed the strongest supporters of the Confederacy. This allowed the Maryland legislature to vote in favor of remaining with the Union. Lincoln continued to use such measures throughout the war.

Another point of contention in the North was Lincoln's decision to establish a **draft**. A draft is a policy in which the government selects certain individuals for military service rather than waiting for them to enlist. Lincoln's draft was particularly unpopular among the poor and immigrants. They resented the fact that wealthy citizens could avoid military service in exchange for paying \$300 or by hiring a substitute to serve in their place. In July 1863, draft riots broke out in New York City, killing more than 100 people and resulting in the lynching of at least 11 African Americans by immigrants and poorer whites who blamed blacks for the war.

One group that was among Lincoln's most notable political opponents came to be called the **copperheads**. Named after a deadly snake, "copperheads" were Union Democrats who criticized Lincoln and the war. They played on some northerners' fears and predicted that freeing southern slaves would mean huge numbers of African Americans migrating north to steal white jobs. Radical copperheads even encouraged Union soldiers to desert (abandon) the army, while calling on citizens to resist the draft.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION



The Emancipation Proclamation

The Union victory at Antietam gave President Lincoln the opportunity to issue the **Emancipation Proclamation** on January 1, 1863. This proclamation freed the slaves in the Confederate States, while maintaining slavery in the border states loyal to the Union. With this executive order, Lincoln hoped to give the war a moral focus beyond just saving the Union. He also hoped to undermine the South's reliance on slave labor and ensure the support of England and France — both of which had already abolished slavery. Two years later, Congress passed the **13th Amendment** which abolished slavery throughout the United States.

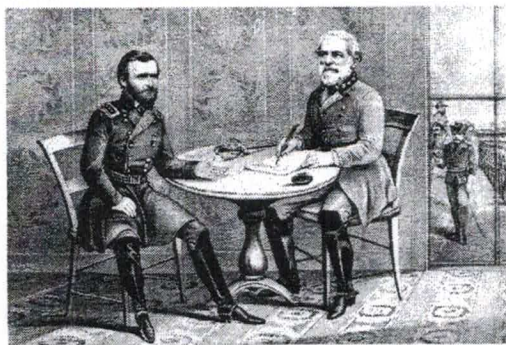
The Emancipation Proclamation also encouraged free African Americans to serve in the Union army. Although originally not allowed to enlist, McClellan's early defeats led Congress to authorize accepting African Americans into the army in 1862. On warships, whites and blacks served side by side. In the army, however, African Americans served

only in all black regiments under the command of white officers. Seeing their battle as one to free their own people from the bonds of slavery, African Americans served notably during the war.

ELECTION OF 1864

The discontent that many in the North felt towards the war meant that Lincoln was in danger of losing the **1864 election**. In an effort to defeat Lincoln and negotiate an end to the war, the Democrats nominated George McClellan — Lincoln's former general — to run for president. However, Sherman's capture of Atlanta two months before the election signaled to everyone that Union victory was within reach, and Lincoln was elected to a second term.

UNION VICTORY



Surrender at Appomattox

In March of 1864, President Lincoln put **Ulysses S. Grant** in command of the Union army. Grant, knowing he had far more men than Lee, began a campaign designed to crush the Confederate army in a series of head to head confrontations. Pushing south, Grant engaged Lee in a number of bloody battles. In less than two months, Grant's army suffered some 65,000 casualties. Still, the Union's overwhelming numbers meant that the Confederates were the ones on the retreat. Finally,

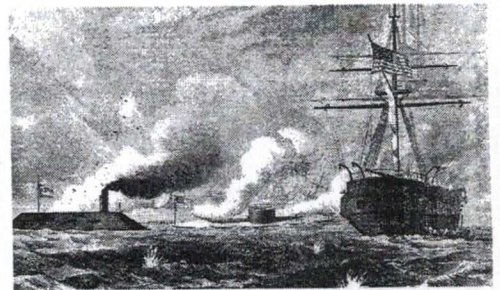
when Lee's army found itself surrounded in Virginia, the Confederate general elected to surrender rather than see more lives lost. On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at **Appomattox Courthouse**. Although some fighting continued afterwards, this effectively ended the war. Two weeks later, the largest and last major surrender of the war took place when General Joseph Johnston surrendered his Confederate army to General William T. Sherman at a farm house in Durham, North Carolina, known as the **Bennett Place**.

MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND THE INDUSTRIAL NORTH

There were many reasons why the North won the war. Although the South initially had more gifted generals in the Eastern Theater, the North possessed far more people. Therefore, the North's armies consistently outnumbered the Confederates. Even more important, however, was the distinct industrial advantage the North enjoyed. Because of its factories, the North was able to produce far more munitions, weapons, and needed supplies for the war. The war with all of its demands for production actually boosted the Northern economy. By contrast, the death and destruction inflicted on the South left its economy devastated at war's end.

The war also saw advances in military technology. Guns became more efficient as innovations allowed for firearms that could fire rounds of ammunition much quicker and more accurately. When the war began, both sides still relied heavily on the use of muskets that had to be loaded one musket ball at a time. By war's end, both armies were using advanced **rifles** that allowed soldiers to load rounds faster and get off more shots in less time.

Nowhere were advances in technology more evident than with the two sides' navies. The Confederates created an **ironclad** (a warship with the sides shielded with iron to protect it from enemy fire) from an old wooden steamship called the *Merrimack*. (The South renamed this ship the *Virginia*, but it is better known as the *Merrimack*.) The Union navy's wooden ships found themselves powerless against this innovative weapon. Finally, the Union responded with an ironclad of its own called the *Monitor*. On March 9, 1862, the two ships met in a battle off the coast of Virginia. After several hours of fighting, the *Merrimack* withdrew with neither ship suffering much damage. Eventually, the South blew up the *Merrimack* to keep it from falling into enemy hands, and the *Monitor* sank during a storm. While the two ships met only one time, their battle marked a new era in American naval warfare.



The Monitor and the Merrimack

The Civil War also marked the first time that **submarines** (ships that remain entirely under water) were used as American weapons of war. The Union was actually the first to use a sub, but no Union submarine ever engaged in battle with a Confederate ship. The most notable Confederate sub was the *CSS Hunley*. The *Hunley* was intended to sink Union ships blockading Confederate harbors. On February 18, 1864, it became the first North American submarine to successfully sink an enemy ship. Unfortunately for the South, however, the *Hunley* also sank during the same battle.

Practice 2: The Civil War

1. It was a major turning point in the war that ended the South's hopes of successfully invading the North. In addition, many believe that had General "Stonewall" Jackson been alive the South would have won this battle and, quite possibly, the war. Which battle was it?
A. Gettysburg B. Antietam C. Shiloh D. Atlanta
2. How did Sherman's taking Atlanta greatly impact the election of 1864?
 - A. It allowed Lincoln to suspend *writ of habeas corpus* in Georgia, thereby assuring that only Lincoln's supporters went to the polls.
 - B. It inspired faith in military generals, thereby leading to General McClellan being nominated for president.
 - C. It assured people in the North that victory was in sight, thereby increasing the popularity of President Lincoln and allowing him to win re-election.
 - D. It led to Lincoln's defeat because he lost the support of Southerners whom Sherman had abused.
3. What was the Emancipation Proclamation, what impact did it have on the role of African Americans in the Civil War, and why did it have this impact?

III. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH

Objective 3.05

With the Union preserved, Lincoln's plan for **Reconstruction** was to rebuild rather than punish the South. Sadly, however, Lincoln would not live to see the nation healed. On April 14, 1865, just five days after the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, a Confederate sympathizer named **John Wilkes Booth** (1838 – 1865) assassinated Lincoln at Ford's Theatre.

ANDREW JOHNSON AND THE RADICAL REPUBLICANS



Andrew Johnson

With Lincoln's death, the presidency now fell to **Andrew Johnson** (1808 – 1875). Johnson, himself a southerner and one time slave owner, proved sympathetic to the South. Taking office while Congress was in recess, Johnson pursued his own plan of **presidential reconstruction**. Johnson's plan was seen as far too lenient by many in the North, and conflict quickly arose between Johnson and the **Radical Republicans**. The Radical Republicans were members of the Republican party who favored a much tougher stance with the former Confederate states. They believed that Johnson's approach did not do enough because it failed to offer African Americans full citizenship