I. Union War Strategy
   A. Initial attempts to win the war in Virginia failed miserably (Bull Run, Peninsula Campaign, Vicksburg, Chancellorsville)
   B. Later, the war developed into four phases; strategy geared more toward attrition
      1. Strangle the South by blockading its coasts – Anaconda Plan
      2. Control the Mississippi River to cut the Confederacy in half.
      3. Devastate the South by cutting a swath through GA and then sending troops North through the Carolinas.
      4. Capture Richmond by annihilating the remaining Confederate armies.

II. Civil War begins, 1861
   A. Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) -- July 21, 1861 (30 southwest of Washington, D.C.)
      1. First major land battle of the Civil War
      2. By summer 1861, Northern public pressure demanded a quick decisive victory
      3. During battle, Union forces near victory but reinforcements from the Shenandoah Valley led by "Stonewall" Jackson surprised fatigued Union forces.
      4. By mid-afternoon, Union forces in full retreat back towards Washington, D.C.
      5. Casualties: Union lost 2,896 men; Confederates lost 1,982
      6. Psychological impact:
         a. North realized it was in for a long and bloody war.
         b. South grew complacent; many deserters--felt war was over.
            -- Southern enlistments fell off sharply and preparations for a long war relaxed.

   B. General George B. McClellan and the Army of the Potomac
      1. Lincoln gave McClellan command of the Army of the Potomac in late 1861.
      2. Fatal flaw: Overcautious; frequently believed he was outnumbered when in fact he always possessed numerical advantages; Lincoln became exasperated
III. The Union blockade -- "Anaconda Plan"

A. Initially ineffective; 3,500 miles of coastline too much for undeveloped Union navy.
B. Concentrated on principal ports and inlets where bulk materials were loaded
   -- Eventually effective against blockade-runners
C. Respected by England; Britain did not want a future war with North
D. Battle of the Ironclads (Hampton Roads, VA, March 1862)
   1. Merrimack (C.S.S. Virginia) -- former U.S. warship plated on sides with old railroad rails; (not really seaworthy); first of the ironclads
      a. Destroyed two wooden ships of Union Navy in Chesapeake Bay, VA
      b. Threatened entire Union fleet blockading Southern ports.
   2. Monitor -- Union counterpart to Merrimack built in 100 days
      a. 4 hour battle with neither side winning; Monitor withdrew after Captain wounded; both sides claimed victory.
      b. Virginia never again a serious threat and eventually blown up at Norfolk by Confederates when ship in danger of falling into Union hands.

IV. The War in the Eastern Theater: 1862

A. The Peninsula Campaign (April 5-June 16, 1862)
   1. McClellan abandoned a direct frontal assault by land for a flanking approach to Richmond by moving up the peninsula between James & York Rivers.
      -- After a month's fighting, McClellan pushed within a few miles of Richmond.
   2. Seven Days' Battles (June 25-July 1, 1862)
      b. After an unsuccessful battle, McClellan withdrew and later retreated
      c. Robert E. Lee’s first victory over the Union.
   3. Peninsula campaign abandoned by Lincoln
      -- McClellan removed as commander; replaced by Gen. John Pope.
   4. Losses: Confederates 20,141; Union 15,849

B. Second Battle of Bull Run (14 July to 30 August)
   1. General Pope put in charge of Union army near Washington.
   2. Combined forces of Lee, Jackson, & Longstreet forced Yankees to retreat again.
      -- Some blamed McClellan for not coming quickly to Pope’s aid.
   3. Casualties: Union 16,054; Confederates 9,197
   4. Lincoln once again gave McClellan command of the Army of the Potomac; Pope removed
C. **Antietam** *(September 17, 1862)* -- perhaps most important battle of the war.
   1. Lee invaded Maryland hoping to take it from the Union and encourage foreign intervention on behalf of the South.
   2. Sept. 17 -- Battle of Antietam -- bloodiest day of the war.
      a. Ended in a stalemate; Lee withdrew having failed his objective.
      b. McClellan should have won with his numerical edge.
      c. Removed from command for 2nd time and replaced by Gen. Ambrose Burnside
   3. Considered one of most decisive battles in world history.
      a. South never again so near victory
      b. Foreign powers decided not to intervene in support of the South whose military capacity was now questioned in the face of an unexpectedly powerful Northern army.
      c. Lincoln got the "victory" he needed to issue the preliminary **Emancipation Proclamation** on Sept. 22, 1862.
         -- Prior, he had not issued the proclamation because the war was going poorly and issuing the document without a victory would have made it impotent.

V. **The Emancipation Proclamation**
   A. In 1862, Congress had passed the **Confiscation Act**:
      1. Union Army could confiscate slaves as they invaded the South on the basis that they were "contraband" of war
      2. Slaves that escaped would not be returned to their owners.
   B. The Emancipation Proclamation became effective Jan. 1, 1863
      1. Civil War now became more of a moral crusade: a "higher purpose".
         -- Moral cause of the South conversely weakened
      2. Lincoln’s immediate goal not so much to free slaves as to strengthen the moral cause of the Union at home and abroad.
      3. Didn’t go as far as Confiscation Acts for freeing enemy-owned slaves
      4. Constitutionally, the proclamation was somewhat questionable.
         -- Became constitutional with the 13th Amendment in 1865
   C. All slaves in areas in rebellion declared now and forever free.
      -- Justification lay with removing valuable slave labor from the Southern war cause.
   D. Slaves in Border States not included nor those in specific areas of conquered South.
      -- About 800,000 slaves in all
   E. In effect, did little immediately to change the plight of the slaves.
F. Reaction to Emancipation Proclamation
   1. Many Northerners, especially from Border States and Ohio Valley felt Lincoln went too far; opposed to fighting an "abolition war"
      a. Desertions increased sharply especially from Border States
      b. Republicans suffered losses in mid-term 1862 elections.
         -- Lost in NY, PA, OH & Lincoln's IL; still controlled of Congress
   2. Many abolitionists complained Lincoln did not go far enough.
   3. Moderates and some abolitionists pleased including Greeley and Douglass.
   4. South accused Lincoln of trying to stir up a slave insurrection.
   5. European working classes sympathized with the proclamation.
      -- As a result, diplomatic condition of Union regarding Europe improved.

VI. The War in the West: Battle for control of the Mississippi River
   A. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant became Lincoln's most able general
   B. Grant captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in northern TN in Feb. 1862
      1. Significance: KY more secure while gateway opened to rest of TN and GA.
      2. Boosted northern morale in the face of humiliating losses in Virginia.
   C. Shiloh (April 6 & 7, 1862)
      1. Federals moved down through western TN to take the Confederacy's only east-west railroad linking lower South to cities on the Confederacy's east coast
      2. Grant victorious but casualties were shocking: 23,746 killed, wounded, or missing
      3. Brought shocking realization to both sides that war would not end quickly
   D. New Orleans taken by Union in spring of 1862; led by Adm. David G. Farragut

VII. War in the East: Lee's last victories and the Battle of Gettysburg
   A. Lee defeated General Burnside at Fredericksburg, VA, on Dec. 13, 1862
      1. Burnside launched foolish frontal assault on Rebels dug in behind a stone wall.
      2. More than 10,000 Federals killed or wounded in "Burnside's slaughter pen"
      3. Burnside removed from command and replaced by "Fighting Joe" Hooker.
B. Chancellorsville (May 2-4, 1863)
1. Lee's smaller force split Hooker's army in two.
   -- "Stonewall" Jackson made daring move around Union's flank
2. Union defeated again by a smaller force only half its size
   -- Hooker shortly after removed and replaced by General George Meade
3. Significance: Stonewall Jackson killed accidentally by own man
   -- Lee: "I have lost my right arm."
4. Casualties: Confederates lost 13,000 men (22% of Lee's army)

C. Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863)
1. Lee decided to invade the North again, this time through PA in hopes of strengthening peace movement in North and getting direct foreign support.
2. Bloodiest battle of the Civil War: 53,000 casualties.
3. Day 1 -- July 1 – Confederates took Gettysburg but Union took high ground overlooking the town.
4. Day 2 -- July 2
   a. Major engagements occurred on Union right and left; Lee hoped to flank Feds
   b. Little Round Top held on extreme left; prevented flank from caving in.
5. Day 3 -- July 3
   a. Lee ordered Gen. George Pickett’s division to attack the Union center at Cemetery Ridge; Pickett’s division annihilated
      -- "High tide of the Confederacy": Rebels never again so close to victory
   b. Lee retreated while taking full responsibility for the Confederate defeat.
6. Meade neglected to pursue Lee and finish off his army
   -- Lincoln after Meade’s report that Lee had been repelled: "My God, is that all"
7. Significance: South doomed after Gettysburg and Vicksburg; would never again invade the North and would remain in the defensive until the war’s end.
8. Gettysburg Address (November, 1863)
   a. Lincoln philosophically established the Declaration of Independence as document of founding law
   b. Equality became supreme commitment of the federal government
   c. Established idea of nation over union
      -- The United States is a free country; NOT of United States are a free country.
   d. Most Americans today accept Lincoln’s concept of America
e. Attracted relatively little attention at the time but became one of most important speeches in world history.
   -- Union victory proved men capable of governing themselves in free society

VIII. The End of the War in the West
   A. Vicksburg campaign lasted seven months
      1. Vicksburg last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River.
      2. July 4, Confederate army surrendered to Grant; 29,500 men.
      3. Significance: Split the Confederacy in two; Union controlled the Mississippi
         -- Boosted Union morale along with Union victory at Gettysburg a day before.

   B. Sherman marches through Georgia
      1. William Tecumseh Sherman
         -- Pushed his way through northern Georgia and captured Atlanta in Sept. 1864.
      2. "March to the Sea": After taking Atlanta, cut a 60-mile-wide swath through heart of Georgia before arriving at Savannah on the sea in December, 1864.
         a. Determined to inflict the horrors of war on the South to break its will.
            -- "War is hell"
         b. Aimed to destroy supplies destined for the Confederate army and weaken morale of the Rebels at the front by waging war on their homes.
         c. Pioneer of "total war."
            -- Despite brutality, probably shortened the war thus saving lives.
      3. Turned northward into South Carolina where destruction worse than Georgia
         a. Burned capital city of Columbia
         b. Sherman’s army reached deep into North Carolina by war’s end.

IX. The Copperheads
   A. Democratic faction that preached either defeatism with disloyal talk or a "peace at any price" philosophy.
      1. Many seized by Union without warrant and held without a trial.
      2. Appealed to midwestern farmers whose trade routes were disrupted by war
   B. Condemned Lincoln for fighting an unjust war.
C. Clement L. Vallandigham

1. Ex-congressman from Ohio who demanded an end to the war, condemned conscription and suspension of *habeus corpus*.
2. Convicted by military in 1863 for treason and sentenced to 2 years in prison.
3. Lincoln banished him to the Confederacy for fear that his imprisonment would make him a martyr to antiwar agitators.
4. Before end of war, returned to Ohio where despite his continued defiance, he was not arrested again per Lincoln’s orders.
   -- Demonstrated Lincoln's moderation toward political opponents.

X. Politics and Election of 1864

A. Congressional Committee on the conduct of the War

1. Formed by anti-Lincoln Republicans secretly led by Salmon P. Chase
2. Many distrusted his ability and wanted to keep him check.

B. Abolitionists (such as Phillips and Greeley) demanded total emancipation.

C. Northern Democrats deeply divided as they lacked a leader.

1. War Democrats supported Lincoln (e.g., Stanton)
2. Peace Democrats numbering 10s of 1000s did not support Lincoln
   -- Many favored Union through a negotiated peace, not war.
3. Copperheads most radical.
   a. Some wished the Confederacy victorious; hated Lincoln
   b. Strong in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois which contained many Southerners.
   -- Governors struggled to keep states cooperating with federal gov’t.

D. Presidential Candidates

1. **Union party** -- Coalition of the Republican party and War Democrats
   a. Republican party temporarily out of existence.
   b. Republicans feared defeat from anti-Lincoln, anti-Republican sentiment
   c. Lincoln nominated w/o serious dissent despite early push for Chase
   d. Andrew Johnson was Lincoln's runningmate; loyal War Democrat from Tennessee who had been a small slaveowner when war began.
   -- Put on ticket to attract War Democrats and Border States
   e. Slogan: "Don’t swap horses in the middle of the river."

2. Democratic Party nominated George McClellan
   a. Copperheads forced a platform denouncing the war as a failure.
   b. McClellan repudiated this portion of the platform
E. Course of the war affected the election.
   1. During primaries and during much of the fall, the Union forces were stuck
      a. Lincoln believed he would not be reelected.
      b. Some anti-Lincoln Republicans sought to remove Lincoln in favor of another candidate.
   2. Northern victories changed boosted Lincoln politically.
      a. Admiral Farragut captured Mobile, Alabama; "Damn the torpedoes! Go ahead!"
      b. General Sherman took Atlanta
      c. General Phillip Sheridan destroyed the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.
   3. Northern soldiers sent home to vote for Lincoln; others voted at the front.

F. Result
   1. Lincoln defeated McClellan 212 to 21; Lincoln only lost KY, DE, and NJ.
      -- McClellan received a surprising 45% of popular vote
   2. One of most crushing defeats for the South.
      a. Lincoln’s election assured continued policy of "total war"
      b. Last real hope for a Confederate victory.
      c. Confederate desertions increased sharply

G. Second Inaugural speech
   -- "With malice toward none, with charity for all"

XI. End of the War in the East: Grant’s Virginia Campaign
A. Grant promoted to lead all Union armies after Lincoln's dismay with Meade after Gettysburg
   1. Meade still remained head of the Army of the Potomac
   2. Grant’s strategy: attack Rebel armies simultaneously thus not allowing them to assist one another; destroy Confederate Army.
   3. Campaign would result in 50,000 Union casualties
B. Wilderness (May & June, 1864) Beginning of Grant's campaign.
C. Spotsylvania Courthouse: 24,000 casualties
D. Cold Harbor (June 3, 1864)
   1. Grant ordered frontal assault at a huge cost.
   2. 7,000 Federals killed in a half-hour; Confederates less than 1,500.
   3. Public opinion in North appalled at the losses; Critics: "Grant the Butcher"
   4. Grant determined to continue the grind; Lincoln supported him
E. Siege of Petersburg (June-Oct. 1864)
   1. Contained all railroads that served Lee’s army & Richmond from the south.
   2. Lee rushed in time to defend Petersburg; Grant lay siege to the city for 9 months.
   3. Along with Richmond, fell on April 2, 1865
F. Siege of Richmond (July-Oct. 1865)
   1. Grant hoped to divert Confederate forces from Petersburg
   2. Lee sacrificed several detachments in rear guard to evacuate both Richmond & Petersburg successfully.

G. Early 1865, Confederates tried to negotiate peace between the "two countries."
   -- Lincoln not willing to accept anything short of unconditional surrender.

H. Lee’s surrender
   1. Confederate army surrounded near Appomattox Court House in VA.
   2. April 9, 1865 -- Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia.
      a. War in Virginia officially over.
      b. Remaining Confederate armies surrendered within a few weeks
   3. Terms of surrender were generous
      a. The 30,000 captured Confederates were paroled and allowed to go home so long as they vowed never to take up arms against the Union again.
      b. Confederates allowed to keep their own horses for spring plowing.
         -- Officers could keep their sidearms
   4. Grant: "The war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again."

XII. Lincoln assassinated on night of April 14, 1865 (Good Friday)
   A. Only five days after Lee’s surrender, Lincoln assassinated at Ford’s theater by John Wilkes Booth
   B. Lincoln died at height of his popularity, thus becoming a martyr.
   C. South cheered initially, but eventually saw it as a disaster for them.
      1. Lincoln’s reconstruction policies moderate compared to the later Congressional Reconstruction.
      2. Assassination increased bitterness in the North against the South especially with rumors that Jefferson Davis plotted it.

XIII. Prisoner of War Camps
   A. North treated prisoners better than the South; more resources
   B. Southern prisons could not provide for POWs since Confederate soldiers often lacked basic necessities.
      -- Andersonville the most notorious POW camp; more than 13,000 died there
XIV. Results and costs of the Civil War
A. 620,000 soldiers dead (2% of population!); over 1 million total casualties
B. Slavery abolished
C. Total cost of war: $15 billion (about $1.5 trillion in today’s dollars)
   -- Does not include pensions and interest on the national debt.
D. Nullification and secession died with the Confederacy
E. Ideal of Union and nation triumphant
   -- Dangers of two nations and balance of power politics averted
F. War economy laid the foundation for the 2nd Industrial Revolution after the war.
G. Monroe Doctrine became more effective; U.S. had demonstrated military power
   -- U.S. would now look to the hemisphere and beyond to expand its influence.

Essay Questions for Review:

1. Was the Union’s victory in the Civil War inevitable? Why or why not?
2. To what extent was American politics impacted by events of the Civil War between 1861 and 1865?
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