

The Civil War

Key Terms

Confederate- The southern states in the United States, seceded from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America, headed by President Jefferson Davis

- o South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Missouri, Kentucky

Union- The 'United States' during the Civil War, they kept the American Government, headed by President Abraham Lincoln

- o California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Yankees- The North during the Civil War

Rebels- The South during the Civil War

Blue- The Union during the Civil War, traditionally the uniforms were blue

Gray- The Confederates during the Civil War, traditionally the uniforms were gray

Johnny Reb- The national personification of the south during the Civil War; Johnny Reb symbolized the common Confederate soldier.

Billy Yank- The national personification of the north during the Civil War; Billy Yank symbolized the common Union soldier.

People to Know

Abraham Lincoln-president of the United States during the Civil War, issued the Emancipation Proclamation, was assassinated in 1865.

Jefferson Davis-president of the Confederate States during the Civil War.

Robert E Lee- Commander of the Confederate Army during the Civil War, surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865.

Ulysses S Grant-Commander of the Union Army during the Civil War.

Joseph Johnston- Confederate General during the Civil War who surrendered the Army of Tennessee to Sherman.

George Gordon Meade (December 31, 1815- November 6, 1872) Union General who served as the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. He defeated General Lee during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Places to Know

Chickamauga- a battle fought in Georgia on September 18-20, 1863. This battle marked the end of the Union offensive (known as the Chickamauga Campaign, in Southeastern Tennessee and northwestern Georgia). The Battle of Chickamauga was a Confederate victory and is known as the most significant Union defeat in the Western Theater.

Fort Sumter- site of the first shots fired in the Civil War. On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops fired on the Union-held Fort in South Carolina. The fort was surrendered on April 13, 1861.

Franklin- a battle in Franklin, Tennessee on November 30, 1864. This was a Union victory and one of the largest disasters for the Confederacy of the entire war.

Nashville- a battle fought in Nashville, Tennessee on December 15-16, 1864. This battle marked the end of large-scale fighting west of the coastal states. It is one of the largest Union victories during the Civil War.

Lookout Mountain- a battle fought on November 24, 1863. The battle was a Union victory and led to the battle of Missionary Ridge (the following day), which allowed for a gateway into the Deep South.

Eastern Theater- consists of major military and naval operations in the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, along with the coastal fortifications and seaports of North Carolina.

Western Theater- consists of major military and naval operations in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee, as well as Louisiana east of the Mississippi River.

Important Events

Fort Sumter- Fort in Charleston, South Carolina, held by the Union army at the beginning of the Civil War. Confederate soldiers opened fire on April 12, 1861 and sieged the fort for 34 hours. It was surrendered to the Confederate army on April 13, 1861.

Lincoln elected- Lincoln was elected as the 16th President of the United States on November 6, 1860. He is the first Republican President. Lincoln carried the North and the West, but failed to get any hold in the South; 10 of the 15 slave states cast no ballot for Lincoln, and he only managed to win two counties out of the 996 that comprised the South. After his election, secessionists made it clear that they would leave the Union before he took office.

Emancipation Proclamation- Presidential proclamation and executive order that freed over 3.5 million slaves in the 10 states still in active rebellion at the time of its implementation-

January 1, 1863. The proclamation did not free slaves in other slave holding areas, such as the Union itself, the Border States who had slaves, and Tennessee, which was mostly under Union control at the time.

Gettysburg- battle taking place on July 1-3, 1863 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The battle was a victory for the Union Army led by Major General George Meade. Gettysburg had the largest number of casualties in the entire war. It is called the turning point of the war, and it ended General Lee's invasion of the North.

Gettysburg Address- speech given by Lincoln on November 19, 1863 at the dedication of the *Soldier's National Cemetery* in Gettysburg, PA.

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Secession-the withdrawal of a group from a larger entity, especially a political entity.

Overview

Before the War

“The Antebellum South”

The ‘antebellum’ period in American history refers to a period of economic growth stretching from the late 18th century to the onset of the Civil War.

Agriculture vs Industry

The South was entrenched in a plantation era- they had large farms that used slave labor, which utilized unskilled labor in the fields. Comparatively, the North was an industrial center, where factory jobs were plentiful and there was more of a chance for skilled laborers. At the time before the war, the South had 1/9 of the industrial capacity of the North, but the numbers themselves show a clearer picture. The North produced 97% of the countries firearms, 90% of the shoes, 96% of railroad locomotives, and 94% of cloth. By the end of the war, the South would have factories as well, but their industrial capacity was still far behind that of the Union.

Railroads

The railroads in the United States boomed in the 1850's. By 1861, there were over 22,000 miles of railroad tracks in the North and over 9,500 in the South, though the South only contained 3 major rail hubs: Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Richmond. Very little track was laid west of the Mississippi River

Population

At the onset of the Civil War, the North had around 22 million people, while the South had around 9 million, which is less than half. Along with this, the North was full of densely populated cities, while the South was spread along the countryside on plantations and farms.

Tennessee and Secession

Buildup- Many things led to talk of secession and differences between the North and South. Among these issues were slavery, states rights, sectionalism, protectionism, the acquisition of new territories, nationalism, and the Presidential election of 1860.

Secession Begins- South Carolina voted unanimously to secede on December 20, 1860. In January and February of 1861, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, and Texas followed South Carolina in secession. They were then followed by North Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Tennessee Secession-Tennessee was the last of the 11 states who succeeded. They succeeded on June 8, 1861.

Sectionalism- loyalty to a region or section of a country instead of the country as a whole.

Protectionism- the use of tariffs on manufactured goods, supported by the North, while the South favored free trade.

Nationalism- support of the nation. The North primarily supported the United States as a Union, while the south was more prone to support their own state or region, then after secession, they began to support the Confederacy.

States Rights- a belief mostly held by southern states that the Constitution was merely an agreement between the states and that the states have the right to secede

Territories- During the 19th century, the United States acquired new land, which became new territories, and often new states. New states admitted into the union as free states were California, Oregon, Kansas, and Minnesota.

Slavery- system in which principals of property (ownership, the ability to be bought and sold) were applied to people.

The War in Tennessee

Tennessee was a divided state during the entirety of the war. Before the bombardment of Fort Sumter, Tennessee was mostly pro Union; but after President Lincoln called for troops to stop the rebellion, Tennessee would side with the Confederacy. The state siding with the Confederacy did not mean that everyone supported the Union. Most of eastern Tennessee would go on to support the Union, while Western, Tennessee, which was often a hotspot for Confederate sympathy, would support the Confederacy. Tennessee would play a major role in the war: the farmland would produce food to feed both armies and the rivers would serve as crucial transportation links to the Deep South.

Building an Army

The Confederate States Army (C.S.A.)

On February 28, 1861, the Provisional Confederate Congress established a provisional army to be under the control of President Jefferson Davis. He would assume control of said army on March 1. By March 6, a permanent army would be established.

The main armies in the C.S.A would be the Army of Northern Virginia led by General Robert E Lee and the Army of Tennessee, led by General Joseph Johnston.

Supplementing the Confederate Army were various state militias, which were under the control of state governments.

Conscription Act- Put into place in April, 1862, this was the first conscription law in either Confederate States or United States history. This law said that any able bodied white man between 18 and 35 (later amended to 45) was liable to serve a 3 year term. The act also extended 1 year soldiers to 3 year soldiers. Men who worked in occupations considered valuable to the Confederacy (railroad workers, teachers, telegraph operators) were exempt. On October 11, 1862, a provision was added saying that anyone owning 20 or more slaves was also exempt.

While Tennessee would provide more soldiers to the Union Army than other than all of the other Confederate states combined, more than three times that number would volunteer to fight for the Confederacy.

The Battles

Only one state- Virginia- would see more battles in the Civil War in Tennessee, but there would be a battle fought in every single county of the state.

Soldiers

Volunteers

Early on in the war, many volunteers came forward. The army was to have no more than 100,000. Beginning in March of 1861, the Confederacy began calling for volunteer.

The Army of Tennessee

The Army of Tennessee was put together in late 1862, and was active from November 20, 1862 to April 26, 1865. It was the largest Confederate field army in the western theater and the primary army operating between the Appalachian mountains and the Mississippi River. The Army of Tennessee fought in most major battles in the Western Theater.

Leaders

The Confederate Army did not have a formal general-in-chief until very late in the war. The Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, served as general-in-chief. General Robert E. Lee was charged with military conduct in the armies of the Confederacy from March 13- May 31, 1862. He was referred to as a military advisor to Davis, though he had significant control over the logistical and strategic aspects of the Army. On June 1, 1862, he assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia. It was not until an Act of Congress on January 23, 1865 designated him general-in-chief that he would take control of the entire Confederate army. He held this post from January 31 to April 9, 1865.

Many senior military leaders in the Confederate Army were former US Army or Navy officers who resigned their commission once their states seceded from the Union (whether they fully agreed with secession or not). This led to many officers on both sides knowing one another.

Surrender

Lee's Surrender- During the Battle of Appomattox Courthouse on the morning of April 9, 1865, the Army of Northern Virginia was surrounded by Union troops. Early that morning, around 8:30 am, Lee requested a meeting with General Ulysses S. Grant. General Grant's response came around noon, stating that he would accept the surrender under certain terms. After these terms were met, General Lee surrendered. The terms of the surrender were as follows: Lee's army would not be imprisoned or prosecuted for treason, officers would be allowed to keep their side arms, horses, and personal baggage, men could keep their horses and mules to be taken home to aid in the spring planting, and Lee was given food for his starving army.

Johnston's Surrender- On April 26, 1865, Joseph E. Johnston surrendered his 100,000 men strong Army of Tennessee to General William Tecumseh Sherman at Bennett Place in North Carolina. Included in this surrender were: the Department of Tennessee and Georgia, the Army of Tennessee, the Department of Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida, and the Department of North Carolina and Virginia. The terms of Johnston's surrender were the same as those given to General Lee.

Bennett Place- farm in Durham County, North Carolina. This is the location of the surrender of Joseph Johnston and his armies to General William Tecumseh Sherman, which is the largest surrender in the Civil War.

Appomattox Courthouse- Battle taking place just outside of Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia on April 9, 1865. It is the last battle of the Civil War, and the last engagement between the Army of Northern Virginia, led by General Robert E. Lee, and the Army of the Potomac led by General Ulysses S. Grant. It is the location of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Reconstruction (5.18, 5.20)

During Reconstruction, Tennessee was the only state that succeeded from the Union that did not have a military governor. It was the first state readmitted to the Union on July 24, 1866, after ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The Aftermath

The state of Tennessee would add an amendment to its state Constitution in 1865 that ended the right to own human property- that would end slavery.

Reconstruction- commonly refers to the years of 1863-1877, when Congress directed that the eleven ex-Confederate states be transformed. This was a time for getting rid of Confederate nationalism and giving rights and citizenship to former slaves. There are three main visions brought on by

Visions of Reconstruction

Reconciliationist vision- that tried to cope with the death and destruction brought on by the war

White supremacist vision- that brought terror and violence focused on segregation and the preservation of the cultural traditions of the South

Emancipationist vision- that sought full freedom, citizenship, and constitutional rights for African Americans

Thirteenth Amendment- Constitutional amendment adopted on December 6, 1865 as the first of the Reconstruction Amendments. This amendment addresses the issue of slavery and abolishes it and involuntary servitude except as punishment of a crime.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Fourteenth Amendment- Constitutional amendment adopted on July 9, 1868 as one of the Reconstruction Amendments. This amendment addresses citizenship rights and equal protection of the laws; it was proposed in response to the former slaves following the Civil War. It allows: all people born in the United States are citizens of the United States, representatives of the states shall be apportioned according to their numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians, no one shall hold political office if they supported rebellion against the same, the public debt of the United States shall not be questioned., and Congress shall have the power to enforce these provisions.

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress,

the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Fifteenth Amendment- Constitutional Amendment adopted on February 3, 1870 as the third and last Reconstruction Amendment. This amendment prohibited federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.