



The Great Battles

of the American Civil War

An exploration in the LRC

Great Battles of the Civil War

- We will spend the next three days in the LRC researching ~ seven of the great battles of the Civil War
 - Antietam, 1st and 2nd Manassas (Bull Run), Shiloh, Siege of Vicksburg, Battle of Mobile Bay, and Seven Days' Battles (Malvern Hill)
 - You will work with your current team to research the following items

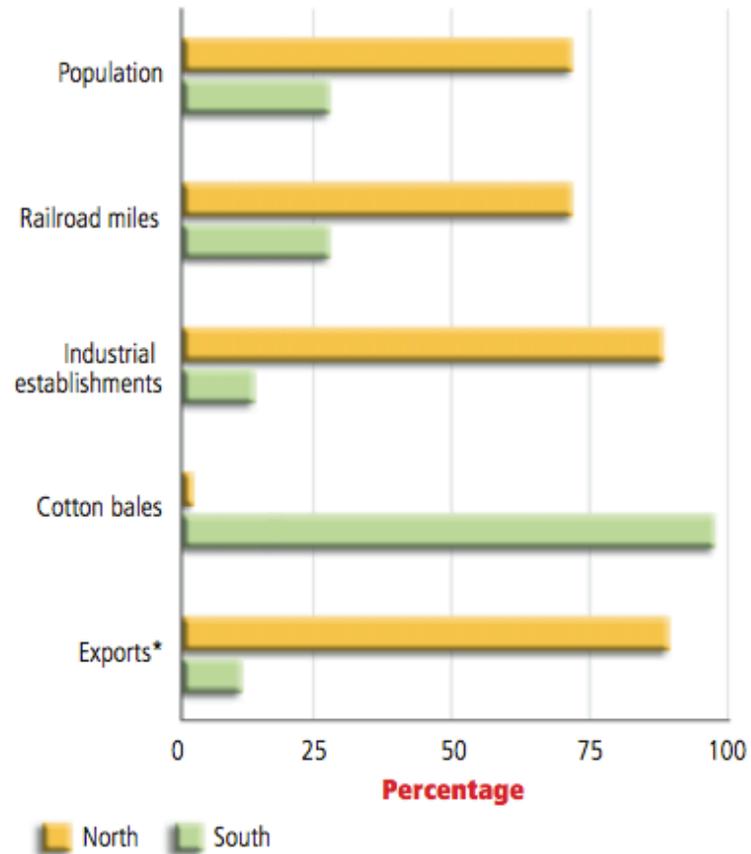
Things to Keep In Mind...

- Both the Union and the CSA had advantages and disadvantages throughout the war
- Both had access to similar weaponry, strategies, and leadership
- There were hundreds (some say thousands!) of “engagements” during the war.
 - Not all battles were three-days long like Gettysburg
 - We will focus on just six or seven of these major engagements
- Many people thought the war would only take 3 months
 - Due to many failed Union campaigns, it takes **four years**
- Civilians would often watch battles

Things to Keep In Mind...

- Most battles were incredibly gruesome
 - ~620,000 casualties - more than all military engagements from Am. Revolutionary War through Vietnam *combined!*
- Union — ~2,500,000 strong
 - Battle deaths: 110,000
 - Disease, etc.: 250,000 1/7 lost
- CSA — ~1,000,000 strong
 - Battle deaths: 94,000
 - Disease: 164,000 1/4 lost

Resources of the North and South



*Southern exports do not include Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

UNION STRATEGY: THE ANACONDA PLAN - MIXING NAVAL AND GROUND FORCES

SCOTT'S GREAT SNAKE.

Passed according to act of Congress in the year 1861 by J. D. R. Little of Cincinnati in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of Ohio.



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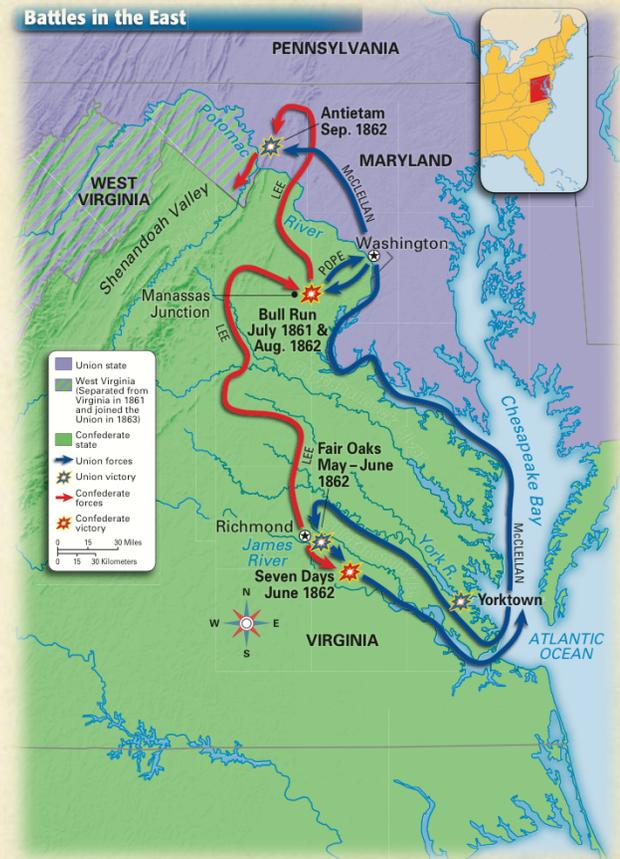
UNION STRATEGY: THE ANACONDA PLAN – MIXING NAVAL AND GROUND FORCES

- Developed by General Winfield Scott (the fat guy)
- Set up a blockade around CSA's coast
 - Choke the CSA off from the rest of the world
 - Prevent South from selling/receiving goods
 - Cripple their economy, “starve them out”
 - Blockade hard to maintain but it worked!
- Gain control of the Mississippi to divide the South



The War in the East

- First Battle of Bull Run, July 1861
- Seven Days' Battles, June 1862
- Second Battle of Bull Run, August 1862
- Battle of Antietam, September 1862



[page 517 in your textbook]

FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN (MANASSAS), JULY 1861

- Location: Northern Virginia, near Manassas Junction, July 21, 1861
- Union: ~ 35,000 under McDowell
 - Union planned to take Manassas Junction in order to secure a direct route to Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia
- CSA: ~ 32,000 under Beauregard and Johnston
- Stonewall Jackson earns his nickname for standing like a stonewall in defense

FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN (MANASSAS), JULY 1861

- Location: Northern Virginia, near Manassas Junction
- Winner: Confederacy
- Importance/Significance:
 - First **major** battle of the Civil War and another victory for the Confederacy (Ft. Sumter + Manassas)
 - Shatters Union's hopes of winning the war quickly

SEVEN DAYS' BATTLES, JUNE 1862

- Location: near Richmond, VA (CSA capital)
- Union: Gen. McClellan planned to “sneak” into Richmond by going up between the James and York rivers
 - Called this the “Peninsular Campaign”
 - Ended up being a huge waste of time and energy
 - As McClellan advanced towards Richmond, Stonewall Jackson moved on Washington
- Winner: CSA
- Importance/Significance:
 - Robert E. Lee saved Richmond *and* forced McClellan to retreat

SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN, AUGUST 1862

- Location: Bull Run (creek)/Manassas, Virginia
- Winner: CSA
 - CSA wanted to defeat Union Gen. Pope's smaller force before they could link up/support McClellan's Army of the Potomac
 - Three days of fighting
 - 1: absolute slaughter on both sides
 - 2: more casualties
 - 3: CSA crushes Union and forces a retreat
- Importance/Significance:
 - Yet another massive victory for CSA
 - Greenlighted Robert E. Lee's confidence *and* next move:
 - Bring the war to the North

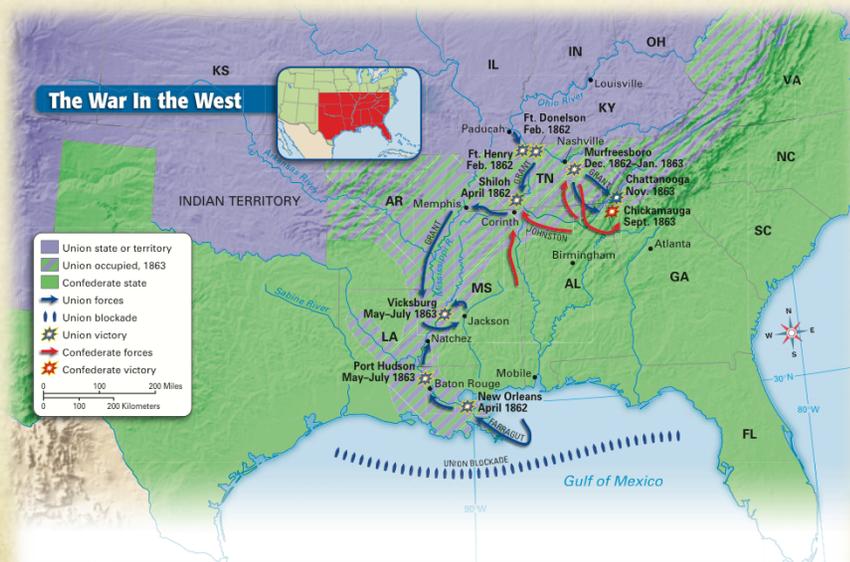
BATTLE OF ANTIETAM, SEPTEMBER 1862

(THE BATTLE OF SHARPSBURG)

- Location: near Sharpsburg, MD/Antietam Creek
 - 40,000 CSA troops cross into Maryland
 - Lee splits his army in half, Stonewall takes half to Harpers Ferry - they defeat Union there and take the town
 - Union soldiers find a copy of Lee's battle plan, give it to McClellan
 - McClellan thinks too hard, hesitates, CSA forces reunite - Union seems to have lost its chance!
 - 9/17/1862 - two armies meet at Antietam Creek
 - One-day battle
 - Union suffers ~ 12,000 casualties
 - CSA: ~ 13,000
- Winner: Union
- Importance/Significance:
 - Bloodiest day of battle of the entire Civil War and *still* throughout all of American History, including WWI/WWII!
 - More were killed there than with Am. Revolution, War of 1812, and Mexican-American War combined!
 - Fully halts Lee's northward advance into Union territory, a huge victory for Union

The War in the West

- Battle of Shiloh, April 1862
- Siege of Vicksburg, May-July 1863
- The western campaign focused on taking control of the Mississippi



Leading to Shiloh

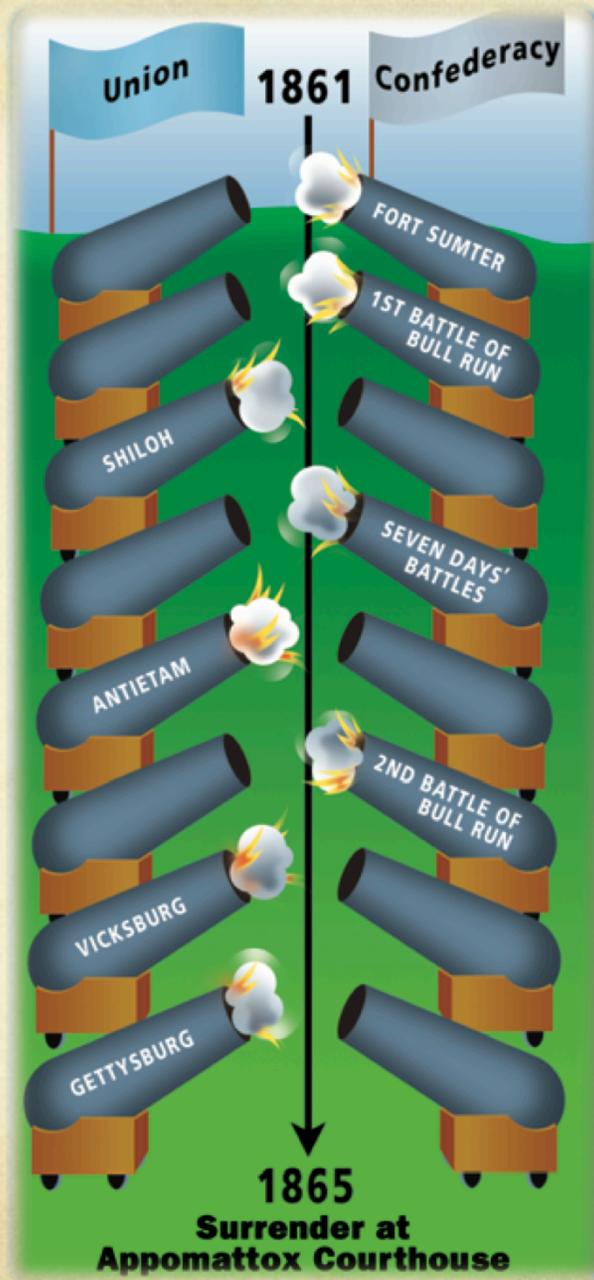
- Union General Ulysses S. Grant plows through Tennessee taking CSA forts like it's nobody's business
- U.S. Grant became "Unconditional Surrender" Grant
- Grant rests his Army of the Tennessee near Shiloh Church, TN
 - Even though he knows CSA Gen. Johnston's forces are nearby, Grant spends his time drilling infantry over building defenses

BATTLE OF SHILOH, APRIL 1862

- Location: near Shiloh Church, TN – early A.M., April 6, 1862
 - Rebels surprise Union by attacking their camp early in the morning
 - Bloody two-day battle
 - CSA Gen. Johnston is killed on first day
- Winner: Union
 - Both sides lost ~ 10,000
 - Both claimed victory, but Grant was true victor
- Importance/Significance:
 - Grant's success allowed him to push the CSA further back and take control of more of the Mississippi valley and work his way towards New Orleans

SIEGE OF VICKSBURG, MAY-JULY 1863

- Location: Vicksburg, Mississippi mid-May-July 1863
 - After Admiral Farragut sneaks through New Orleans and begins taking CSA strongholds on the Mississippi, he and Grant set their eyes on Vicksburg, MS
- Winner: Union
 - Grant wanted to starve the city into surrender
 - Cuts off the city from transport routes and shells them continuously
 - Survivors and soldiers were forced to eat their horses, dogs, some had to eat sickly rats
 - Grant was also forcing CSA troops to mutiny!
 - When CSA surrenders on July 4, Grant *immediately* sent supplies to the civilians and soldiers (what a gentleman!)
- Importance/Significance:
 - Perched on 200-foot cliffs, it was a well-defended stronghold of the CSA, surrounded by deep gorges, huge win for Union!
 - Vicksburg was the last true stronghold of the CSA, key-point on Mississippi River for trade and supply lines, split CSA in two!
 - from this point on, CSA begins losing stability



WEAPONS OF THE CIVIL WAR

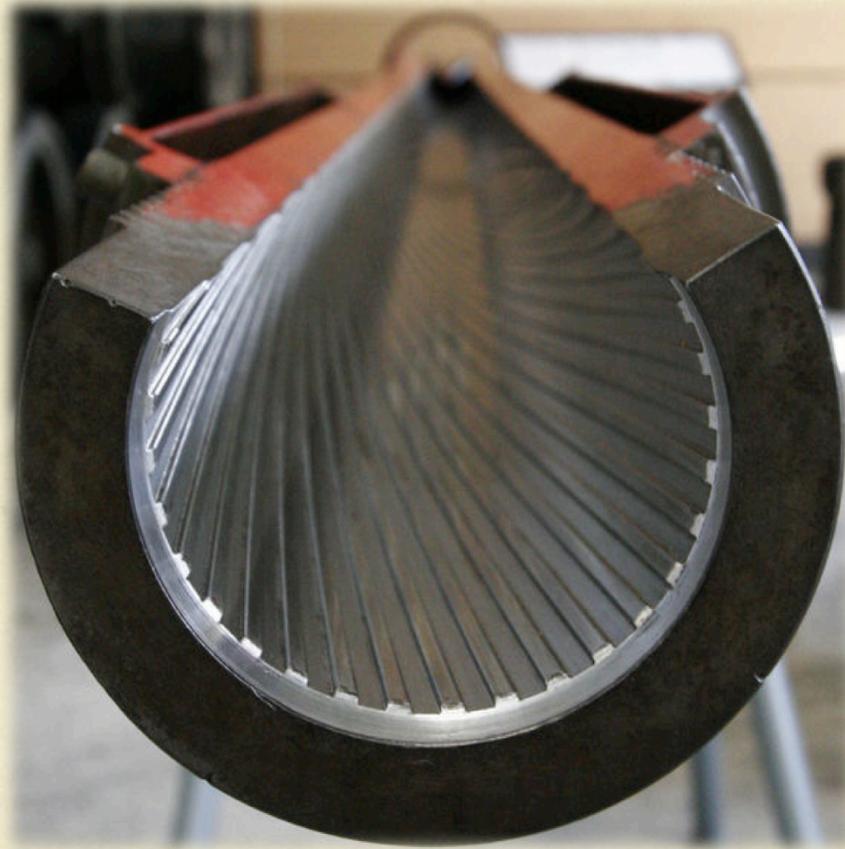
- The birth of modern warfare
 - The first “ironclad” ships
 - First Gatling/machine guns
 - Torpedoes (marine mines/depth charges)
 - Grenades
 - Aerial Reconnaissance

Rifle Musket

- More accurate than the smooth bore musket
- Rifling made it more accurate, added spin to projectile which stabilized bullet
- Could hit a 6'x6' target at 500 yards
 - That's like hitting a basketball backboard from 5 football fields



Rifling



Carbines and Repeaters

- Breech loaded – cartridge with multiple rounds was loaded at the rear end of the barrel
- “That Yankee gun that can be loaded on Sunday and fired all week!”



Revolvers

- Carried by officers and cavalry
- Typically held six rounds



Bladed Weapons: knives, swords, bayonets

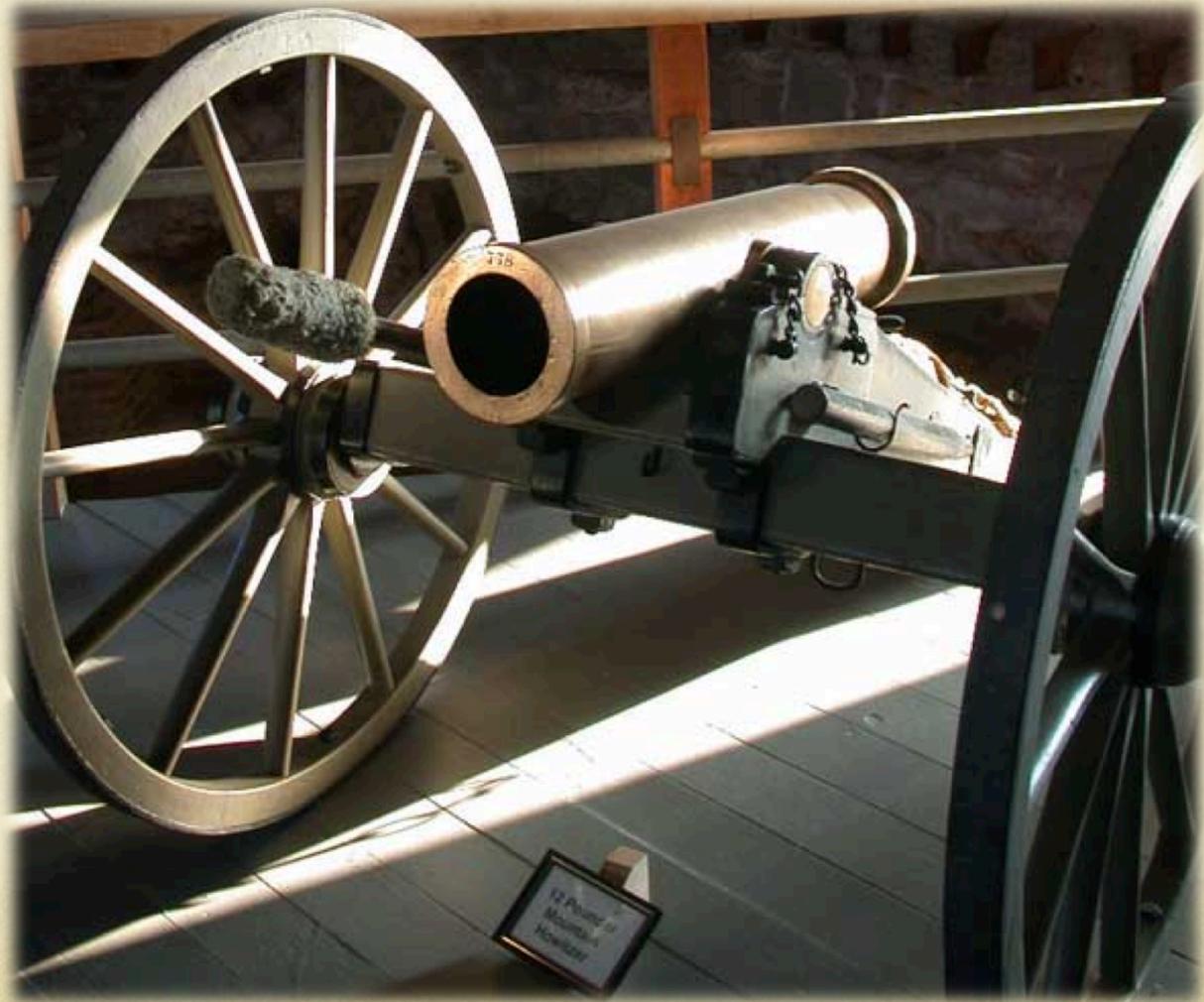
- Hand-to-hand combat
- Bayonets did more cooking than killing



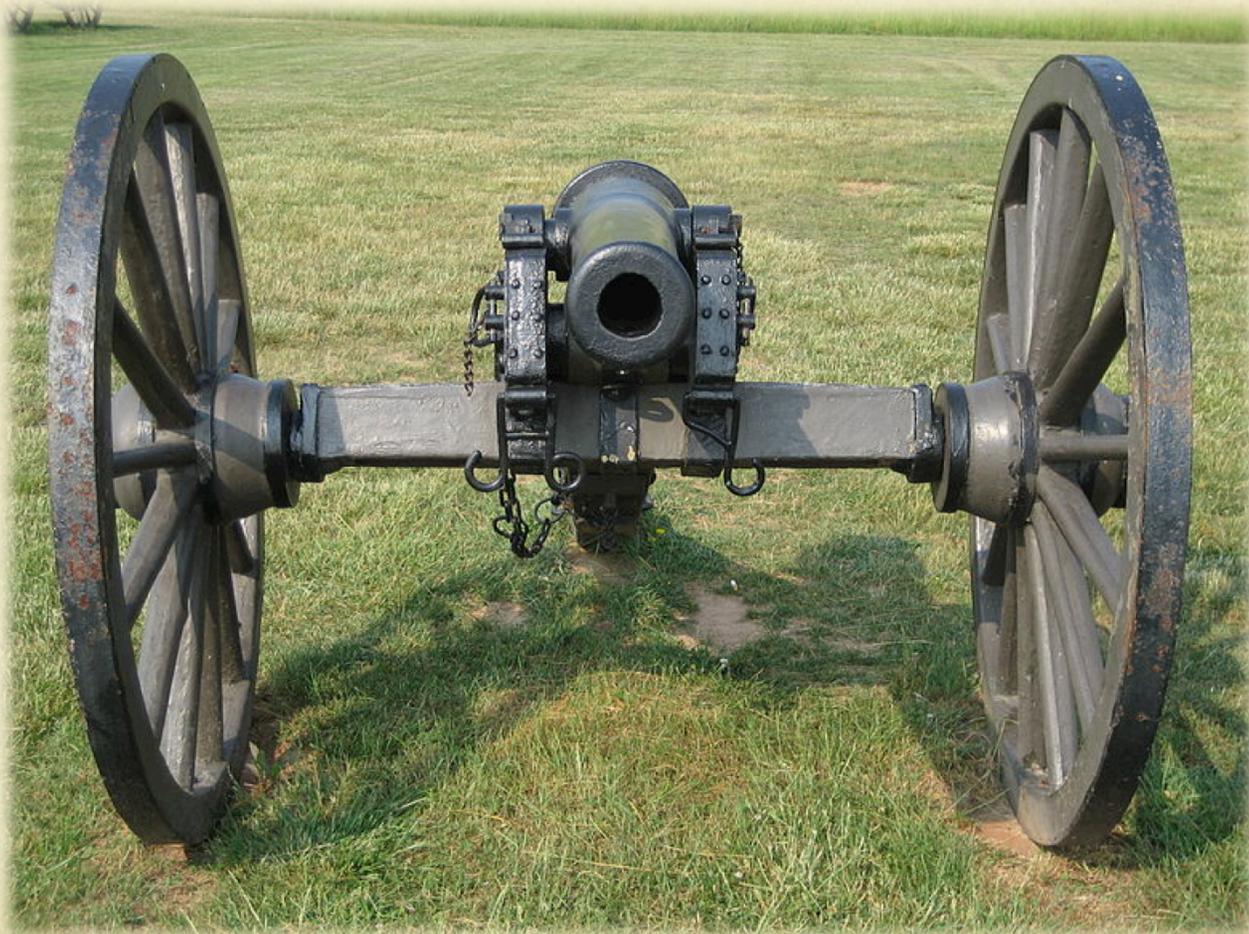
Artillery

- Multiple projectiles used
 - Shot - typical cannonball
 - Shell - explosive charge, usually timed after shot
 - Case (shrapnel) - explosive charge filled with lead or iron balls
 - Canister - thin metal container loaded with lead or iron balls packed in sawdust, just like a shotgun shell
 - deadliest of them all
 - Grapeshot - predecessor to canister, smaller
 - Chain shot - two small cannonballs connected by a two-foot chain, typically used against ships with masts (sails)

12- and 24-pounder Howitzer



Parrott

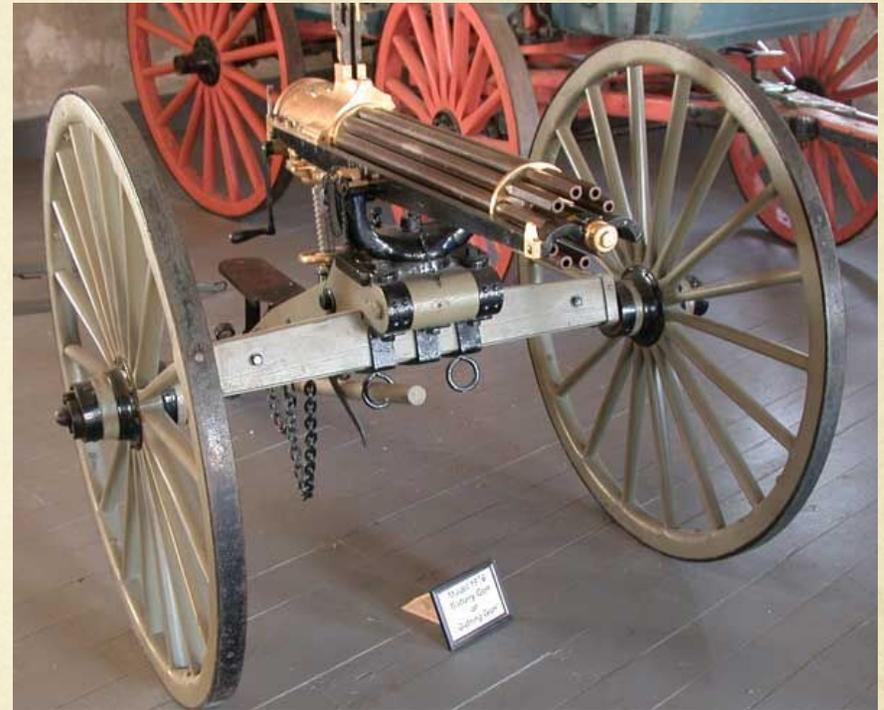


Mortars

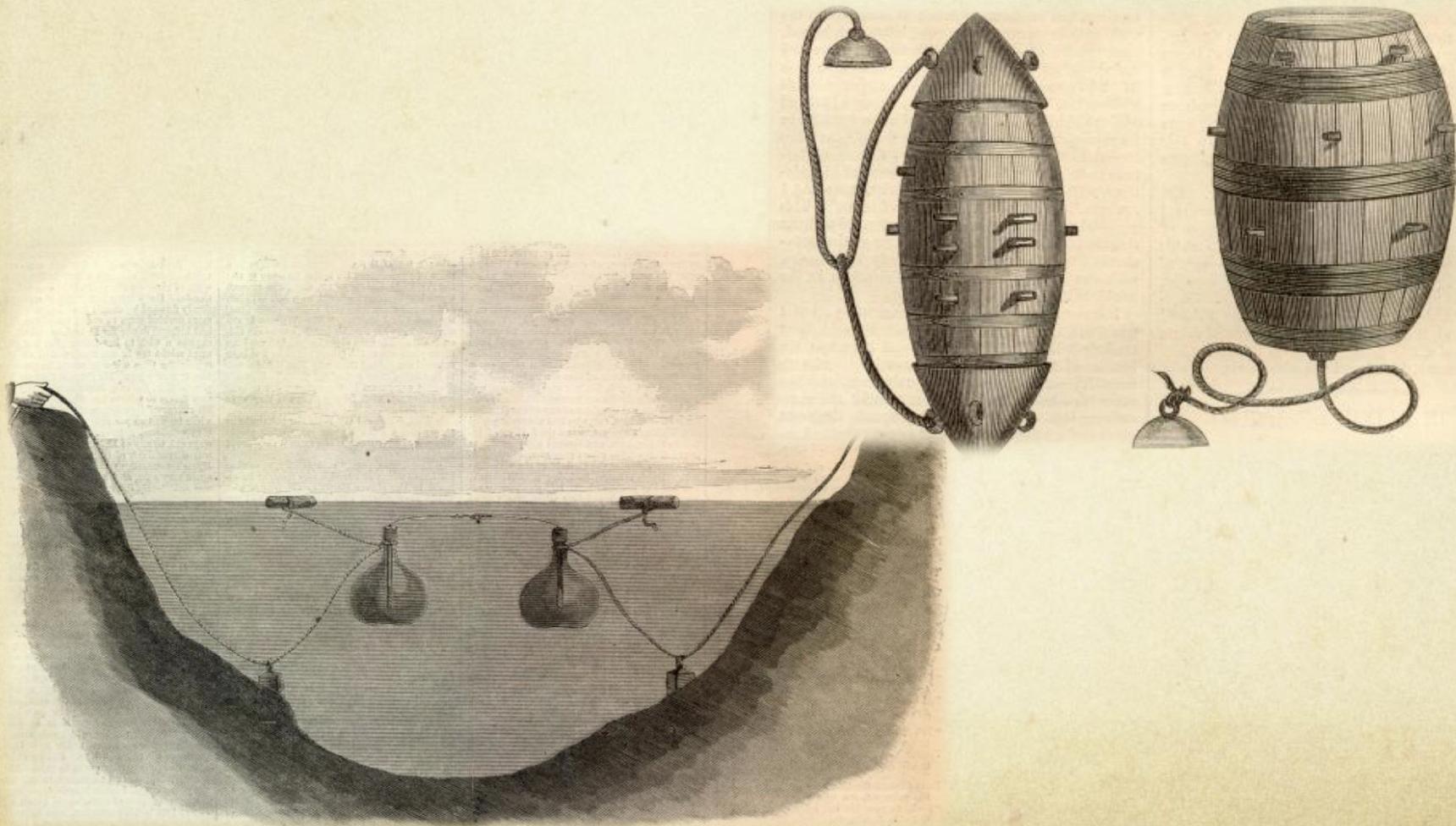


Gatling Gun

- Crank turned barrels in rotations
- Quickly loaded, fired, and expelled empty cartridge
- Could be used for long periods of time without overheating
- 200 rounds/minute
 - More than 3 rounds/second!



Naval Developments: Torpedoes



More Naval Developments

- Ironclad Ships - *Pook Turtles*,
 - Carry up to 18 guns, only drew ~6 ft. of water, travel pretty quickly
 - Steam-propelled, covered in armor
- Submarine - *CSS H.L. Hunley*

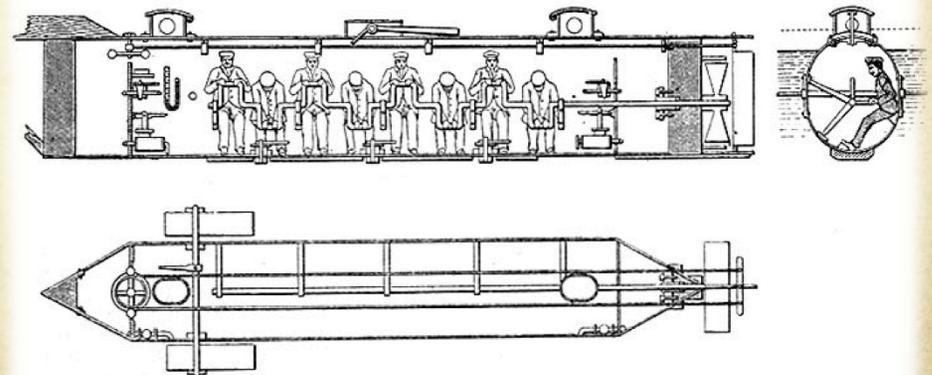
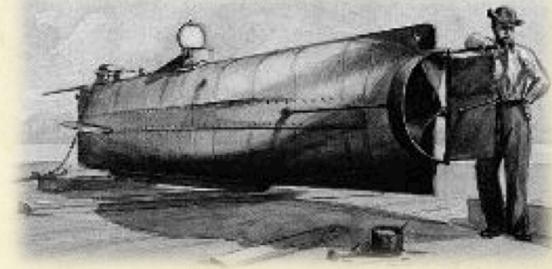
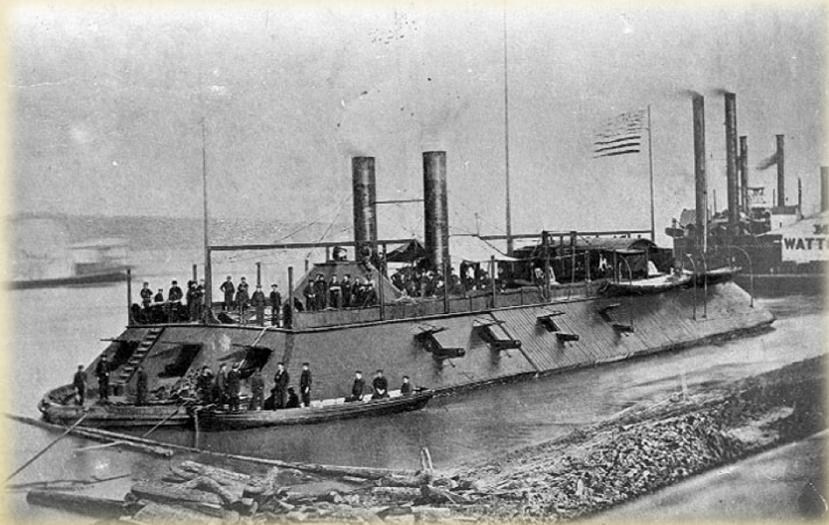
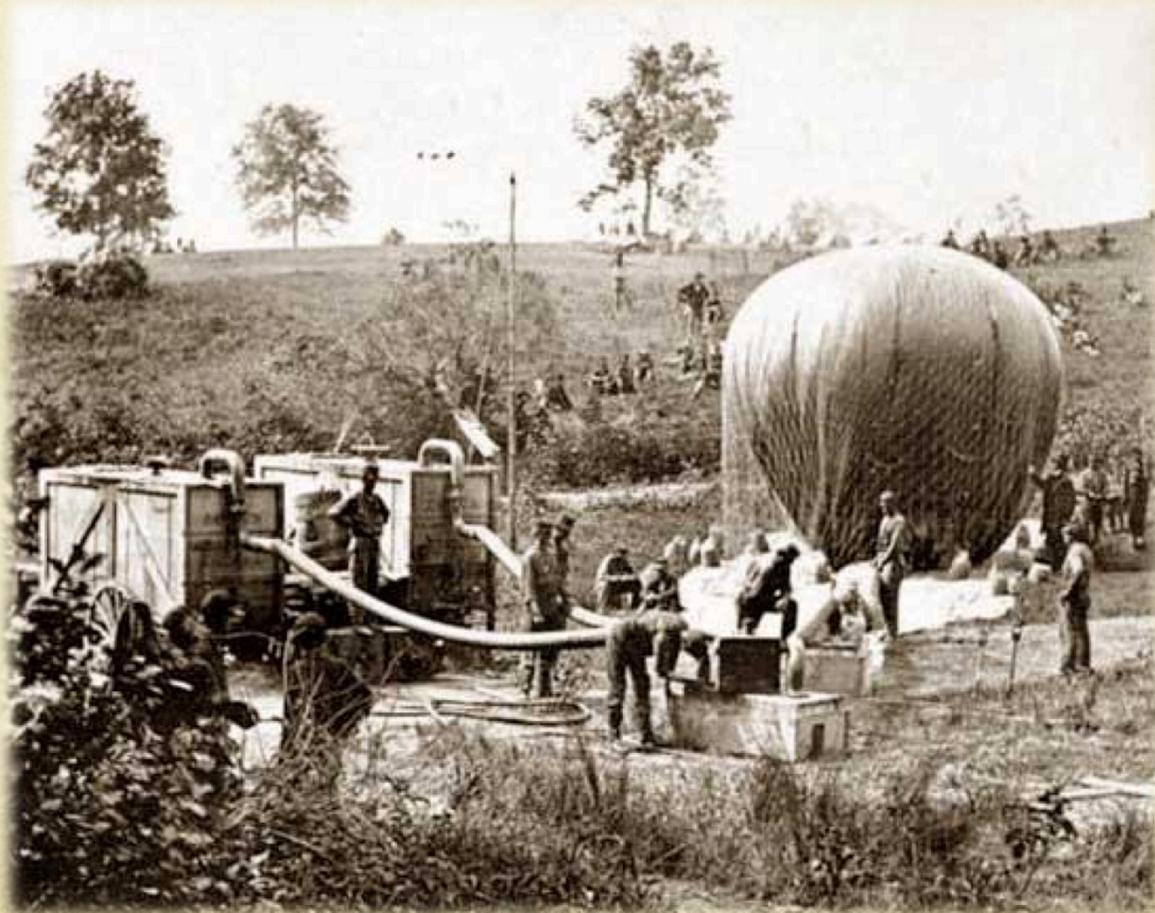


FIG. 175 à 177. — Le *David* de Hunley reconstitué d'après les dessins de M. William-A. Alexander (1863).

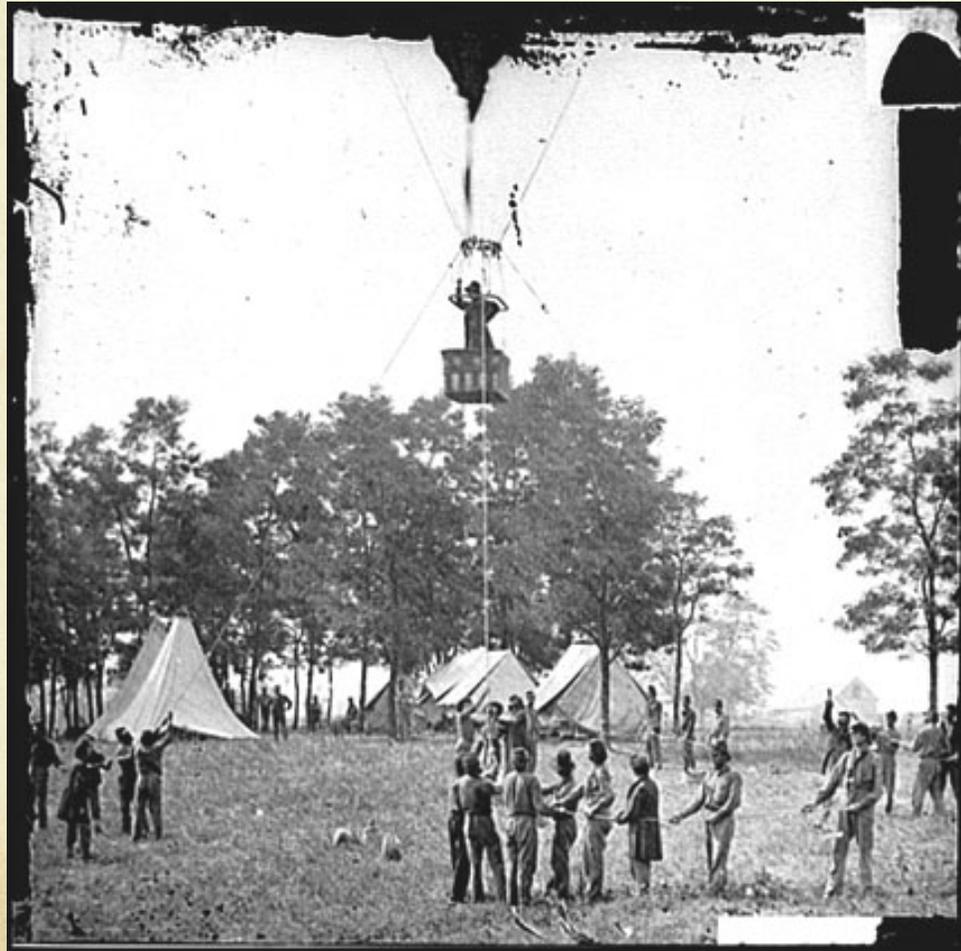
Aerial Reconnaissance

The Intrepid



Aerial Reconnaissance

The Intrepid



The Battle of Hampton Roads: CSS *Virginia*/Merrimack vs. USS *Monitor*



54th Regiment Massachusetts



STORMING FORT WAGNER

Lincoln's Views on Slavery

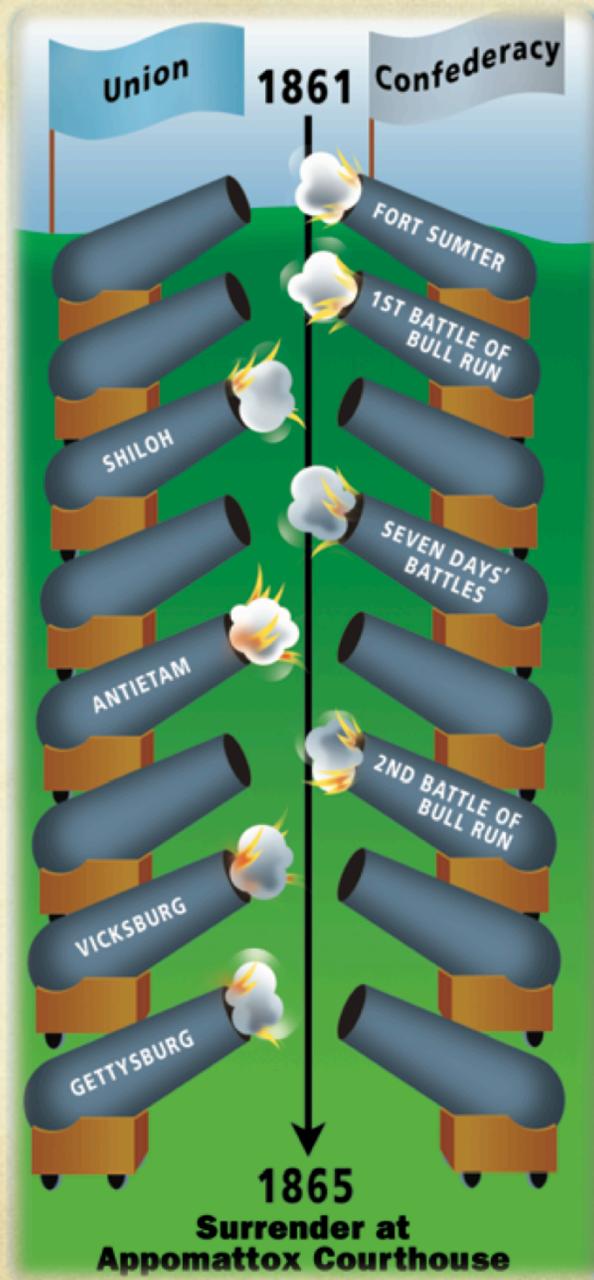
- What were Lincoln's views on slavery?
- Why was he fighting the Civil War?
- Many northerners had many opinions!
 - Democrats (laborers) opposed emancipation (freeing the slaves); freed slaves may steal northern jobs!
 - Abolitionists argued that the war was pointless if it did not win freedom for blacks, the Union would remain divided until slavery was ended
 - Lincoln worried about losing support for the war (didn't want to free slaves!)
 - Some felt that slavery was keeping the Confederacy alive; end slavery, you end the Confederacy!

Emancipation Proclamation

- Issued on September 22, 1862 - in effect on 1/1/1863
- “...all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”
- He based the EP on the Declaration of Independence’s principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- This was a military order that all Confederate slaves would be freed
 - Ineffective up front, how could the U.S. force Confederates to free their slaves?
 - Was this done to end slavery completely or a strategy to win the war?

Opposition to Emancipation and the War

- As the war dragged on and the issue of freeing Confederate slaves came up, many northerners (specifically Democrats) continued to openly oppose the war effort
- Peace Democrats, or Copperheads (like the rattlesnake), sympathized with the South and opposed abolition
- To silence this fringe group, President Lincoln suspended the constitutional right of habeas corpus
 - Protection against unlawful imprisonment
 - How did Lincoln get away with this?



Gettysburg: July 1-3, 1863

- Confederate General Robert E. Lee pushes into the North in order to break the Union's will to fight after the Confederate victory at Chancellorsville, Virginia
- From Maryland, Lee moves into southern Pennsylvania but lacks necessary intelligence (information) from his cavalry chief, James Ewell Brown Stuart (Jeb Stuart)
- As Confederate raiding parties rushed in to Gettysburg, PA, Union cavalry under Gen. Meade met them and triggered the Battle of Gettysburg
 - The bloodiest battle of the Civil War (51,000-57,000 casualties in THREE DAYS!)

Gettysburg: July 1-3, 1863

- Confederates had larger numbers and forced Union troops back through the town
- Union troops were able to entrench themselves and build up defenses along Cemetery Ridge (an outcropping south of town)
- Confederates take Seminary Ridge, just west and parallel to Cemetery ridge

Gettysburg Day 2: July 2, 1863

- Lee orders an attack on the left side (south) of the Union line
- Lee attempts to capture Little Round Top (a hill) at that end
- After an entire day of fighting, the Confederates take few of the Union's defenses but thousands die

Gettysburg Day 3: July 3, 1863

- Frustrated, Lee demands another Confederate attack, this time at the center of the Union line
 - Meade only left ~ 5,500 troops to guard the center
- After a barrage of artillery fire that did little to damage the Union forces, 3 Confederate officers (including General George Pickett) commanded ~ 15,000 men as they marched uphill towards the center of the Union line
- Union forces fired their guns and showered the Confederates with deadly fire
- In less than an hour, 7,500 casualties were suffered

Gettysburg

- 75,000 Confederates and 90,000 Union troops fought in the battle that brought more than 50,000 casualties
- Lee retreated back to Virginia and the Union successfully kept the Confederates from marching North
- This battle was a TURNING POINT in the war that had been going on for two years
- But why?

Gettysburg

- The Battle of Gettysburg would be the last time that Confederates attacked in the North
- This victory for the Union combined with the victory at Vicksburg (the next day!) provided an incredible amount of confidence for the Union - they believed the war could be won!
- The war would go on for two more years, but from this point forward, the Confederacy would become weaker and weaker as the Union pushed further south and crippled the Confederacy's resources through the Anaconda Plan

End of the War

- As the end of the war neared, General William Tecumseh Sherman went on a rampage through Georgia, attempting to take Atlanta and finally Savannah on the coast
- As he marched his men through Georgia, Tecumseh practiced *total war*
 - Burning and destroying all civilian and military resources including farms, bridges, and railways

End of the War

- In April 1865, General Ulysses S. Grant had surrounded Lee's forces in Virginia
- Hopeless, Lee met Grant in Appomattox Court House, Virginia and surrendered his forces on April 9, 1865
 - Essentially ending the war
- Grant promised that Lee's troops would be fed and cared for, not tried for treason, and treated with respect
- Grant insisted that his men not celebrate the victory, but rather welcome their former enemies as countrymen

Effects of the War

- The Civil War created multiple short and long-term effects (some good, many bad)
 - ~ 620,000 Americans lost their lives to battle, disease, and injury
 - Slavery was permanently ended in the South due to the Emancipation Proclamation and in other states with the passing of the 13th amendment in January of 1865
 - Former slaves, suddenly freed, had no jobs or homes
 - The South was virtually destroyed, farms were ruined, cities burned to the ground, families torn apart
 - Incredible amount of hostility between North and South

Lincoln's Death

- Before Lee surrendered to Grant, John Wilkes Booth (a Confederate man - and an actor, too!) developed a plan with other conspirators to kidnap President Lincoln
- When Booth heard of Lee's surrender a few days later, Booth shot Lincoln in the back of the head as the president watched a play (*Our American Cousin*) at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.
- Booth used a single shot .45 Derringer
- Lincoln died the next day at Peterson House just across the street

Why did the North win?

| Union Advantages | Confederate Disadvantages |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Larger Navy-Larger population: 22 million people-Experienced governmentBetter infrastructure: roads, railroads, canals-More industrialized-Better access to resources-ABRAHAM LINCOLNThe man would not give up! His resolve and dedication to his country truly was one of the most powerful weapons! | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Weak Navy could not defeat the Union blockade-Smaller population: 9 million (6 million free people)-Weak industry-Choked off from the rest of the world (poor access to resources)-Terrible infrastructure |