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The Furnace of Civil War, 1861–1865

PART I: Reviewing the Chapter

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to

1. describe the failure of the North to gain its expected early victory in 1861.
2. explain the significance of Antietam and the Northern turn to a “total war” against slavery.
3. describe the role that African-Americans played during the war.
4. describe the military significance of the battles of Gettysburg in the East and Vicksburg in the West.
5. describe the political struggle between Lincoln’s “Union party” and the antiwar Copperheads.
6. describe the end of the war and list its final consequences.

B. Glossary

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

1. **intelligence** In military affairs or diplomacy, specific information about an adversary’s forces, deployments, production, and so on. “He consistently but erroneously believed that the enemy outnumbered him, partly because . . . his intelligence reports were unreliable.” (p. 453)
2. **reconnaissance** Operations designed specifically to observe and ferret out pertinent information about an adversary. “. . . ‘Jeb’ Stuart’s cavalry rode completely around his army on reconnaissance.” (p. 454)
3. **proclamation** An official announcement or publicly declared order. “Thus, the Emancipation Proclamation was stronger on proclamation than emancipation.” (p. 459)
4. **flank** The side of an army, where it is vulnerable to attack. “Lee . . . sent ‘Stonewall’ Jackson to attack the Union flank.” (p. 462)
5. **court-martial** A military court or a trial held in such a court under military law. “Resigning from the army to avoid a court-martial for drunkenness, he failed at various business ventures. . . .” (p. 464)
6. **garrison** A military fortress, or the troops stationed at such a fortress, usually designed for defense or occupation of a territory. “Vicksburg at length surrendered . . . , with the garrison reduced to eating mules and rats.” (p. 465)
7. **morale** The condition of courage, confidence, and willingness to endure hardship. “One of his major purposes was . . . to weaken the morale of the men at the front by waging war on their homes.” (p. 467)
8. **pillaging** Plundering, looting, destroying property by violence. “. . . his army . . . engaged in an orgy of pillaging.” (p. 467)
9. **tribunal** An agency or institution (sometimes but not necessarily a court) constituted to render judgments and assign punishment. “But he was convicted by a military tribunal in 1863 for treasonable utterances. . . .” (p. 469)

10. **running mate** In American politics, the candidate for the lesser of two offices when they are decided together—for example, the U.S. vice presidency. “Lincoln’s running mate was ex-tailor Andrew Johnson. . . .” (p. 469)

PART II: Checking Your Progress

A. True-False

Where the statement is true, mark **T**. Where it is false, mark **F**, and correct it in the space immediately below.

- ___ 1. The First Battle of Bull Run was the turning point of the Civil War because it convinced the South the war would be long and difficult.
- ___ 2. The Emancipation Proclamation was more important for its political effects on the North and Europe than for actually freeing large numbers of slaves.
- ___ 3. The Union’s first military breakthroughs came on the eastern front in Maryland and Virginia.
- ___ 4. The Battle of Antietam was a turning point of the war because it prevented British and French recognition of the Confederacy.
- ___ 5. Lincoln’s decision to make the war a fight against slavery was widely popular in the North.
- ___ 6. The use of black soldiers in the Union Army proved militarily ineffective.
- ___ 7. Lee’s invasion of Pennsylvania in 1863 was intended to encourage the Northern peace movement and promote foreign intervention.
- ___ 8. The Northern victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg effectively spelled doom for the Confederacy.
- ___ 9. In the final year of the conflict, Grant and Sherman waged a “total war” that was immensely destructive of Southern lives and property.
- ___ 10. The Northern Democrats were deeply divided between those who backed the war and those who favored peace negotiations with the South.
- ___ 11. The formation of a temporary “Union party” in 1864 was a device used by Lincoln to gain the support of prowar Democrats.
- ___ 12. As a popular war leader, Lincoln received whole-hearted support within the Republican Party and in the nation as a whole.
- ___ 13. The South’s last hope was that the victory of a “Peace Democrat” in the election of 1864 would enable it to achieve its political goal of independence.
- ___ 14. Most Southerners eventually came to see Lincoln’s assassination as a tragedy for them.

- ___ 15. The Civil War failed to settle the central issues of slavery, states' rights, and secession that caused the war.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

- ___ 1. One effect of the first Battle of Bull Run was
- to convince the North that victory would not be difficult.
 - to increase the South's already dangerous overconfidence.
 - to demonstrate the superiority of Southern volunteer soldiers over Northern draftees.
 - to cause a wave of new Southern enlistments in the army.
- ___ 2. The primary weakness of General George McClellan as a military commander was
- his inability to gain the support of his troops.
 - his tendency to rush into battle with inadequate plans and preparation.
 - his lack of confidence in his own abilities.
 - his excessive caution and reluctance to use his troops in battle.
- ___ 3. After the unsuccessful Peninsula Campaign, Lincoln and the Union turned to
- a new strategy based on "total war" against the Confederacy.
 - a new strategy based on an invasion through the mountains of western Virginia and Tennessee.
 - a pattern of defensive warfare designed to protect Washington, D.C.
 - a reliance on the navy rather than the army to win the war.
- ___ 4. The Union blockade of Confederate ports was
- initially leaky but eventually effective.
 - challenged by the powerful navies of Britain and France.
 - immediately effective in capturing Confederate blockade-running ships.
 - largely ineffective in shutting off the sale of Confederate cotton in Europe.
- ___ 5. Antietam was one of the crucial battles of the Civil War because
- it ended any possibility of Confederate invasion of the North.
 - it was the last chance for the Confederates to win a major battle.
 - it fundamentally undermined Confederate morale.
 - it prevented British and French recognition of the Confederacy.
- ___ 6. Officially, the Emancipation Proclamation freed only
- slaves who had fled their masters and joined the Union Army.
 - slaves under control of the rebellious Confederate states.
 - slaves in the Border States and in areas under Union Army control.
 - slaves in Washington, D.C.

- ___ 7. The political effects of the Emancipation Proclamation were
- to bolster public support for the war and the Republican party.
 - to strengthen the North's moral cause but weaken the Lincoln administration in the Border States and parts of the North.
 - to turn the Democratic party from support of the war toward favoring recognition of the Confederacy.
 - to weaken support for the Union among British and French public opinion.
- ___ 8. The thousands of black soldiers in the Union Army
- added a powerful new weapon to the antislavery dimension of the Union cause.
 - were prevented from participating in combat.
 - seldom fought effectively in battle.
 - saw action in the very first days of the war.
- ___ 9. Lee's goals in invading the North in the summer of 1863 were
- to capture major Northern cities like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.
 - to deflect attention from "Stonewall" Jackson's movements against Washington.
 - to strengthen the Northern peace movement and encourage foreign intervention in the war.
 - to cut off Northern supply lines and damage the Union's economic foundations.
- ___ 10. Grant's capture of Vicksburg was especially important because
- it quelled Northern peace agitation and cut off the Confederate trade route across the Mississippi.
 - it ended the threat of a Confederate invasion of southern Illinois and Indiana.
 - it blocked the French army in Mexico from moving to aid the Confederacy.
 - it destroyed Southern naval power.
- ___ 11. The "Copperheads" were
- Northern Democrats who opposed the Union war effort.
 - Republicans who opposed the Lincoln administration.
 - Democrats who backed the Union but opposed a war against slavery.
 - radical Republicans who advocated a war to destroy slavery and punish the South.
- ___ 12. Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's vice presidential running mate in 1864, was
- a Copperhead.
 - a War Democrat.
 - a conservative Republican.
 - a radical Republican.
- ___ 13. Lincoln's election victory in 1864 was sealed by Union military successes at
- Gettysburg, Antietam, and Vicksburg.
 - The Wilderness, Lookout Mountain, and Appomattox.
 - Bull Run, the Peninsula, and Fredericksburg.
 - Mobile, Atlanta, and the Shenandoah Valley.

- ____ 14. Sherman's march "from Atlanta to the sea" was especially notable for
- its tactical brilliance against Confederate cavalry forces.
 - its effective use of public relations to turn Southern sympathies against the Confederacy.
 - its brutal use of "total war" tactics of destruction and pillaging against Southern civilian populations.
 - its impact in inspiring Northern public opinion to turn against slavery.
- ____ 15. As the Democratic party nominee in 1864, General George McClellan
- denounced Lincoln as a traitor and called for an immediate end to the war.
 - repudiated the Copperhead platform that called for a negotiated settlement with the Confederacy.
 - indicated that if elected president he would take personal command of all Union armies.
 - called for waging a "total war" against the civilian population to the South.

C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

- _____ 1. First major battle of the Civil War, in which untrained Northern troops and civilian picnickers fled back to Washington
- _____ 2. McClellan's disastrously unsuccessful attempt to end the war quickly by a back-door conquest of Richmond
- _____ 3. Key battle of 1862 that forestalled European intervention to aid the Confederacy and led to the Emancipation Proclamation
- _____ 4. Document that proclaimed a war against slavery and guaranteed a fight to the finish
- _____ 5. General U.S. Grant's nickname, taken from his military demand to the enemy at Fort Donelson and elsewhere
- _____ 6. Crucial Confederate fortress on the Mississippi whose fall to Grant in 1863 cut the South in two
- _____ 7. Pennsylvania battle that ended Lee's last hopes of achieving victory through an invasion of the North
- _____ 8. Mississippi site where black soldiers were massacred after their surrender
- _____ 9. Northern Democrats who opposed the Civil War and sympathized with the South
- _____ 10. Edward Everett Hale's story of treason and banishment, inspired by the wartime banishing of Copperhead Clement Vallandigham
- _____ 11. Georgia city captured and burned by Sherman just before the election of 1864
- _____ 12. The temporary 1864 coalition of Republicans and War Democrats that backed Lincoln's re-election
- _____ 13. Washington site where Lincoln was assassinated by Booth on April 14, 1865
- _____ 14. Virginia site where Lee surrendered to Grant in April 1865
- _____ 15. Romantic name given to the Southern fight for independence, indicating nobility despite defeat

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Bull Run | A. Daring Southern commander killed at the Battle of Chancellorsville |
| ___ 2. George McClellan | B. Southern officer whose failed charge at Gettysburg marked "the high water mark of the Confederacy" |
| ___ 3. Robert E. Lee | C. Ruthless Northern general who waged a march through Georgia |
| ___ 4. Antietam | D. Fortress whose capture split the Confederacy in two |
| ___ 5. "Stonewall" Jackson | E. Site where Lee's last major invasion of the North was turned back |
| ___ 6. George Pickett | F. Gentlemanly top commander of the Confederate army |
| ___ 7. Ulysses S. Grant | G. Site of one of Grant's bloody battles with the Confederates near Richmond in 1864 |
| ___ 8. Gettysburg | H. Crucial battle in Maryland that staved off European recognition of the Confederacy |
| ___ 9. Vicksburg | I. Ambitious secretary of the treasury who wanted to replace Lincoln as president in 1864 |
| ___ 10. William T. Sherman | J. Fanatical actor whose act of violence actually harmed the South |
| ___ 11. Clement Vallandigham | K. Union commander who first made his mark with victories in the West. |
| ___ 12. Salmon P. Chase | L. Southern War Democrat who ran as Lincoln's "Union party" vice-presidential candidate in 1864 |
| ___ 13. The Wilderness | M. Notorious Copperhead, convicted of treason, who ran for governor of Ohio while exiled to Canada. |
| ___ 14. Andrew Johnson | N. Union general who repudiated his party's Copperhead platform and polled 45 percent of the popular vote in 1864 |
| ___ 15. John Wilkes Booth | O. Site of Union defeat in very early battle of the war |

E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- ___ Within one week, two decisive battles in Mississippi and Pennsylvania almost ensure the Confederacy's eventual defeat.
- ___ Defeat in a battle near Washington, D.C., ends Union military complacency.
- ___ A militarily indecisive battle in Maryland enables Lincoln to declare that the Civil War has become a war on slavery.
- ___ The Civil War ends with the defeated army granted generous terms of surrender.
- ___ In both Georgia and Virginia, determined Northern generals wage bloody and destructive "total war" against a weakened but still-resisting South.

F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause	Effect
___ 1. Political dissent by Copperheads and jealous Republicans	A. Enabled Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation and blocked British and French intervention
___ 2. A series of Union military victories in late 1864	B. Split the South in two and opened the way for Sherman's invasion of Georgia
___ 3. The assassination of Lincoln	C. Deprived the nation of experienced leadership during Reconstruction
___ 4. Grant's Tennessee and Mississippi River campaigns	D. Made it difficult for Lincoln to prosecute the war effectively
___ 5. The Battle of Bull Run	E. Helped lead to the enlistment of black fighting men in the Union Army
___ 6. The Battle of Antietam	F. Ended the South's effort to win the war by aggressive invasion
___ 7. The Battle of Gettysburg	G. Guaranteed that the South would fight to the end to try to save slavery.
___ 8. Grant's final brutal campaign in Virginia	H. Forced Lee to surrender at Appomattox
___ 9. The Emancipation Proclamation	I. Led some Southerners to believe they would win an easy victory
___ 10. The growing Union manpower shortage in 1863	J. Ensured Lincoln's reelection and ended the South's last hope of achieving independence by political means

G. Developing Historical Skills**Interpreting Painting**

Paintings may depict historical subjects and in the process convey information about an artist's interpretation of an event, a problem, or a whole society. Answer these questions about the Winslow Homer painting *Prisoners from the Front*. (p. 474)

- ___ 1. Study the clothing carefully. Who is in what kind of uniform, and who is not? What is the artist suggesting about the economic and military condition of the two sides? What is suggested about the condition of civilians in the two sections?
- ___ 2. Describe the posture and facial expressions of the five main figures. What kind of attitude does each suggest?

3. Look at the weapons in the painting, and at the distance between the Northern officer and the Confederates. What does Homer seem to be suggesting about the relations between the sections after the war?

H. Map Mastery

Map Discrimination

Using the maps and charts in Chapter 21, answer the following questions.

1. *Main Thrusts, 1861–1865*: Which two states of the Southeast saw little of the major fighting of the Civil War?
2. *Emancipation in the South*: In which four states were the slaves *all* freed by state action—without any federal involvement?
3. *Emancipation in the South*: Which two states kept slavery until it was finally abolished by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution?
4. *The Mississippi River and Tennessee, 1862–1863*: On what three rivers were the major Confederate strategic points that Grant successfully assaulted in 1862–1863?
5. *Sherman's March, 1864–1865*: What major secessionist South Carolina city was *not* in the direct path of Sherman's army in 1864–1865?
6. *Grant's Virginia Campaign, 1864–1865*: What major battle of Grant's final campaign was fought very close to the Confederate capital city?

Map Challenge

Using the maps in this chapter, write a brief essay explaining Union military strategy in the Civil War.

Part III: Applying What You Have Learned

1. How did the military stalemate of 1861–1862 affect both sides in the Civil War?
2. What were the primary military strategies of each side, and how did each side attempt to carry them out?
3. Why was Lincoln so slow to declare the Civil War as a fight against slavery? Was he wise to move slowly, or could an early Emancipation Proclamation have undermined the Union cause?
4. What role did African-Americans, both slave and free, play in the Civil War?
5. What were the key military and political turning points of the war? Why did the South hold onto hopes of winning its goals as late as 1864 and even early 1865?
6. Were the costs of the Civil War worth the results to the nation as a whole? What issues were settled by the war, and what new problems were created?