

CHAPTER 14**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Lincoln was born on Feb. 12, 1809 in the frontier area of Kentucky. His father was a typical frontiersman, a drifter and farmer who knew poverty and had learned to adapt to different situations.

Abe had very little schooling; borrowed all the books he could get to read and educate himself.

He moved from Kentucky to Indiana and later Illinois; held various jobs in his lifetime:

- wrestler, weight lifter, railsplitter, operated a flatboat to New Orleans, was a country store owner, a surveyor and an Indian fighter

As a lawyer in Springfield, IL he earned the nickname "Honest Abe" because he refused cases he couldn't conscientiously defend.

He was elected to the state legislature in Illinois and elected to the U.S. Congress as a Whig who did believe that slavery was wrong but was against abolishing it without payment to slave owners. In the campaign he stated: *"New free states are places for poor people to go and better their condition. They should not be turned over to rich slave owners."*

Though he lost the Illinois U.S. Senate election in 1858, he drew national attention in his Senate debate with Stephen Douglas and gradually shifted from the Whig to the Republican Party.

As a Presidential candidate in 1860 he stated:

"Finally, the moment came when I felt that slavery must die that the nation might live."

At 6'4", Lincoln was thin and awkward with a sad, brooding face. Many considered him to be homely. He had a high-pitched voice and a gift for story-telling and making people laugh.

Lincoln didn't inspire hero worship like Andrew Jackson or George Washington, but people trusted and believed in him. He was a popular hero who "grew into greatness".

Lincoln as a Moderate and Pragmatist

- he changes his war goals from "save the Union" (1861) to "end slavery" (1863)
- he changes war generals 8 times to find a "winner"
 - Winfield Scott, George McClellan, John Pope, George McClellan (again), Ambrose Burnside, Joseph Hooker, George Meade, U.S. Grant
- he changes Vice Presidents to win reelection and save the Union
 - (1860) Hannibal Hamlin (NH)
 - (1864) Andrew Johnson (Southern Democrat from TN)
- runs on two party tickets in 1864 (Republican and War Democrat)

THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865

The North called it the "Civil War". To Southerners it was the "War Between the States" or the "War for Southern Independence".

***This was a major turning point in our history and also our greatest tragedy. All of the wounds of the Civil War still have not healed.*

Advantages of the North

1. well established central government that was recognized abroad
2. greater population, natural resources, finances, transportation facilities
3. had most of the nation's food and manufactured goods
4. a large supply of skilled labor (especially as many new Irish and German immigrants from 1840s-1860 settled in the North)

Advantages of the South

1. fighting a defensive war on their own soil (therefore, higher morale, familiar terrain, smaller number of troops needed)
2. had superior military leaders and soldiers and as slaves provided food and supplies, the male population could be committed to the war effort
3. hope that Border States would join the Confederacy
4. hope that England and France would give them aid

Lincoln's War Aim

"My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union and is not either to save or to destroy slavery." -- Abraham Lincoln (1862)

This war goal lasted from 1861 to Jan. 1, 1863 when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued when he added to goal of "freeing the slaves".

Strategy of the War

North = the Anaconda Plan

1. Cut off European aid by a 3500 mile naval blockade from Virginia to Texas
2. Cut the South in two by seizing control of the Mississippi River
3. Capture the capital, Richmond, in order to destroy the "heart" of the Confederacy

South = defend the Southern territory; repel all attacks

- the South does not have to defeat the North; they will just hope for war weariness

The Military Men

A majority of the soldiers in the North and South were volunteers, but both sides used draft laws:

- North: ages 18-45 but the North allowed exemption from service if the man was the sole support of the family or upon payment of a \$300 bounty to the government
 - *"A rich man's war and a poor man's fight."*
- South: ages 17-50

Black servicemen were blocked by Lincoln until the summer of 1862 when 186,000 served in the Union Army and Navy yet the blacks were segregated, performed menial tasks and were paid \$3 less a month than the \$13 given to others. In 1864, Lincoln suggested and got equal pay.

- the heroism and valor of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment led to more respect for black soldiers

There was a Draft Riot in NYC from July 13-16, 1863 which resulted in whites attacking blacks over the war aim of freeing the slaves. There were over 1000 casualties and some 400 blacks were later lynched as scapegoats.

Characteristics of the Civil War

1. It was the first "Modern War"
 - civilians and their homes were targets (total war)
 - important use of technology: railroads, aerial observation by balloon, messages sent by telegraph, photography to show the grim progress of the war, introduction of trench warfare, an iron clad navy, French minnieballs, cannon, Gatling gun and repeating rifles
2. Role of Women behind the lines
 - manned Northern factories and Southern plantations
 - served as nurses
 - Clara Barton: served as President of the American Red Cross
 - Elizabeth Blackwell: first woman doctor, set up a relief association in the North
 - Dorothea Dix: head of nurses for the Union
 - provided clerks to work in Washington, D.C. = 447 "government girls"
 - provided welfare services for soldiers, widows, orphans
 - Julia Howe wrote the Northern theme song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

WAR OF THE SEA

This war brought an end to the era of wooden fighting ships.

The Union blockade of Southern ports began loosely and tightened as the war continued and was effective in cutting off all foreign aid to the South.

The Confederacy secretly bought England's cruisers, the *Alabama* and *Florida*, which captured and/or destroyed more than 250 Northern vessels.

In March, 1862 the battle between the North's ironclad, the *Monitor*, to prevent the South's *Merrimac* from breaking the blockade at Hampton Roads, VA took place (an inconclusive battle).

- The *Monitor* was designed by John Ericsson, a Swede, and is a symbol of Yankee ingenuity. Though not very maneuverable, it was 170 feet long and stood only 18 inches out of the water with a revolving cylindrical gun. It sank on Dec. 31, 1862 and was located in June of 1987 and designated as our first Undersea National Historic Landmark.
- The *Merrimac* was eventually scuttled by the Confederacy in order to keep it out of Northern hands.

WAR IN THE WEST

The Union won all the major campaigns in this area west of the Appalachians.

In 1861, the North drove Southern troops out of the border states of KY, MO. Therefore, the Ohio River was no longer a line of Southern defense. In August, Gen. Fremont issued an Emancipation Proclamation in MO, but Lincoln revoked it due to fears of losing the support of slaveholders there.

In 1862, the Confederacy was squeezed from the North and South:

- the Union led by Gen. Grant drove south along the Mississippi River and won these battles:
 - Ft. Henry on the Tennessee River in Feb.

- Ft. Donelson on the Cumberland River in western TN
- Shiloh on April 6-7 where there were 23,741 casualties; 3477 of them dead
- Memphis
- Adm. David Farragut captured New Orleans in April with the famous quote:
"Damn the torpedoes. Full speed ahead."

In May-July, 1863 the battle of Vicksburg, MS became a turning point of the war in the west because:

1. the Union victory in this best fought campaign of the war gave the North control of the Mississippi River
2. it split the South; cutting off supplies

1864: Grant is now Commander-in-Chief of the Union forces

WAR IN THE EAST

Battle of Bull Run

- also known as Manassas Junction (took place in VA) on July 21, 1861
- the North was humiliated under Gen. Irwin McDowell by Gen. Joseph Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard who routed the North due to poor generalship.
- this battle opened the eyes of the North to the job they had ahead

Peninsular Campaign

- took place from March 17 – July 1, 1862
- McClellan's goal was to take Richmond from the southern Shenandoah Valley
- On March 17, he forced Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson from Williamsburg, VA
- In May, Confederate Joseph Johnston attacked Seven Pines (Fair Oaks)
- On June 25, McClellan was defeated by Lee at Mechanicsville
- On July 1, Lee's defense of Richmond prolonged the war 3 years.
- McClellan retreated and evacuated the peninsula

2nd Battle of Bull Run

- took place from August 29 – 30, 1862
- an overconfident Northern Gen. John Pope was defeated by Lee

Fredericksburg, VA

- Northern Gen. Ambrose Burnside fought against Southern Gen. Lee, Jackson, and Longstreet with 1200 killed, 1700 missing

Chancellorsville, VA

- took place May 2- 4, 1863
- "Fighting Joe" Hooker drove Lee back to Richmond but barely escaped as the South's Stonewall Jackson was killed accidentally by his own men
- Jackson's death was a major loss to the South

Antietam, MD

- took place Sept. 17, 1862
- McClellan attacked Lee but was forced to draw back to Richmond with 4000 deaths
- though an inconclusive battle, it allowed Lincoln to issue his Emancipation Proclamation
- this battle showed the harsh reality of war; men got killed senselessly because their generals and leaders were incompetent

Emancipation Proclamation

This was a Presidential Order whereby all the slaves in Confederate-held territory were declared free after Jan. 1, 1863.

- few slaves were actually freed
- this was a political tactic

Lincoln issued the proclamation at this time:

- to give better meaning and moral purpose to the war
- to satisfy Northern sentiment for emancipation
- to gain public support for the North in England

Gettysburg, PA

- took place from July 1 – 3, 1863
- this became the most crucial battle of the whole war as Gen. George Meade defeated Lee, Longstreet, and Jeb Stuart at Cemetery Ridge, Seminary Ridge and though Lee was forced to retreat, Meade didn't pursue him as his men were exhausted
 - Lincoln was furious with Meade for this

This battle was:

1. a major morale boost to the North as it was in defense of a Northern state
2. foreign powers became convinced the Southern cause was hopeless
 - the South lost over 12,000 men in one hour

Gettysburg Address

- given in November, 1863
- delivered by President Lincoln
- he took the train to PA to dedicate the cemetery there
- his speech is considered to be the greatest of all his speeches

Chattanooga, TN

- took place on Nov. 23, 1863
- Grant arrived from Vicksburg and attacked Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge two days later

Ft. Pillow, TN

- took place in April, 1864
- Confederates surround the fort, stormed it and black prisoners were shot
- some blacks were buried alive and those wounded were burned to death
- this is an excellent example of the atrocities of all wars

The Wilderness Campaign

- took place from May – Jan., 1864
- it was costly to both sides both in men and equipment lost
- June 3 – Cold Harbor: Union forces realized they faced certain death so they pinned names and addresses on the back of their uniforms.
 - some 7000 died in less than 15 minutes of fighting
- Sept. – Atlanta, GA: it was burned by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and Union forces begin a 300 mile "March to the Sea" by cutting a 60 mile "Swath of Destruction" through the state of Georgia
 - the purpose was to destroy Confederate supplies and morale by attacking private homes and people
 - this is an example of *total war*

Address delivered at the dedication of the Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Over seven 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 battle-field 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

or dedicate. 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.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19, 1863.

Election of 1864

This revealed the large scale opposition to the war.

Lincoln ran as both a Republican and a "War" Democrat in the National Union Party.

- he dropped Hannibal Hamlin as Vice President for War Democrat Andrew Johnson, a former slaveowner from TN in order to attract more votes
- Johnson was also a moderate

Lincoln's Platform was:

- defeat the South
- no compromise with the Confederacy
- acceptance of the 13th Amendment which would abolish slavery throughout the U.S.

Democrat George McClellan's goal was to end the war by negotiation, without emancipation as a condition for peace.

Peace Democrats or "Copperheads" were partisans who obstructed the war effort by their disloyal talk. The most prominent Copperhead was Clement L. Vallandigham of OH who was convicted in 1863 for his treasonable utterances, and Lincoln banished him to the South. This incident inspired Philip Nolan to write the famous novel, *The Man Without a Country*.

The Electoral Outcome of the election was 212-21, a victory for Lincoln and Johnson, but McClellan got 45% of the popular vote. Lincoln's victory was in large part due to the news of Northern military successes at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

In December, 1864 Gen. Sherman took Savannah, GA as a "Christmas present for Lincoln" and turned north "living off the land".

- Sherman said: *"We have devoured the land. To realize what war is, one should follow our tracks."*
- in Feb., 1865 Charleston was taken by Sherman

Five Forks, VA

- took place on April 1, 1865
- Philip Sheridan took this supply line so Richmond was closed off
- Grant begins assaulting Petersburg and Union forces break through so Lee was no longer able to defend Richmond, and he moved to the Appomattox River

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

- took place on March 4, 1865 and lasted only 2 minutes
- began with the ominous words: *"With malice toward none, with charity for all..."*
- at this time 43 known conspirators had planned to kidnap Lincoln at his Inauguration on the steps of the Capitol Building and hold him as ransom to the North
 - they believed this would end the Civil War and cause a return to the status quo (slavery) in the South
 - Lincoln foiled their plans by his brevity

Surrender at Appomattox Court House, VA

- took place on April 9, 1865
- Lee surrendered to Grant
- Grant state: *"The war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again."*
- Lincoln telegraphed Grant: *"Let them down easy."*
 - Southern troops were allowed to go home, keep their horses and mules for spring plowing, and Southern officers were allowed to keep their arms

Lincoln's Assassination

- took place on Friday, April 14, 1865 at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.
- Lincoln was shot once in the back of his head as he was watching the British comedy play *"Our American Cousin"*
- the assassin was an actor, John Wilkes Booth
- President Lincoln died the next day and Sec. of war Stanton made the famous statement: *"And now he belongs to the ages."*
- at the same time as Lincoln's assassination, George Axelrod and Lewis Paine had been assigned to assassinate Vice President Johnson at his hotel in the nation's capitol
 - they failed because they went to the wrong room
- David Herrold was to assassinate Sec. of State William Seward at his home
 - this failed because Seward's son answered the door and was stabbed

Therefore, the conspirators' plan to overthrow the government of the North in order to put an end to their plans to reunite the country and end slavery came to an end.

RESULTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

1. Heavy losses in life and property
 - 1 million killed
 - \$15 billion in military and property as the South was devastated
2. Preservation of the Union
 - supremacy of the national government
 - an end to issues of state sovereignty, nullification, and secession
3. Expansion of the Constitution by broader interpretations
 - in 1864, Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney died and was replaced by Salmon Chase so a majority of the Court were Northerners
4. End to the economic system of slavery and a movement toward sharecropping
5. Industrial and commercial expansion in the North
 - production was stimulated due to the Morrill Tariff of 1862 and the National Banking System of 1863 whereby federally chartered banks were created to increase the role of the Treasury Department in commerce
6. Growth of the West
 - Homestead Act of 1862 encouraged settlement of public land as 160 undeveloped acres could be homesteaded in the West for 5 years and then owned at no cost
 - Morrill Act of 1862 allowed public land to be set aside in states to support agricultural colleges
 - Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts was the first to be set up in 1863
 - Transcontinental Railroad grant money was approved
 - intended to link America from East to West and heal the fracture between North and South
7. End of the "Old South" as the economic and social system was undermined
 - destroyed plantation system, freed Negroes, poor whites were left without a livelihood
 - former Confederates were eventually excluded from office

8. Reconstruction Period and the Rise of the "New South"
 - a gradual readmission of Southern states and new political, social, and economic systems develop

FOREIGN RELATIONS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

In general, working class people in foreign countries supported the North in the Civil War, and the ruling classes supported the South.

Britain

Great Britain remained neutral but did recognize and aid the Confederacy.

1. The *Trent Affair* caused hard feelings between England and the North as it was a U.S. violation of rights on the sea, when in 1861 a Union warship stopped the British steamship, the *Trent*, in the Caribbean and removed 2 Confederate diplomats, John Slidell of LA and James Mason of VA.
 - the British demanded their release on grounds of neutral rights being violated
 - Lincoln complied without apologizing, thus backing down
2. In the *Alabama Claims Case* the North protested neutrality violations of the British for the sale of British built cruisers to the South which were used to destroy Northern commerce.
 - Lincoln demanded damage claims payment
 - In 1872 \$15.5 million was paid after international arbitration
3. Britain failed to give all-out support to the South because:
 - Britain was able to get cotton elsewhere
 - British manufacturers made profits selling war materials to the North
 - British workers were against slavery and saw Lincoln as democracy's champion

France

Napoleon III took advantage of the Civil War to extend the French Empire by sending an army into Mexico and putting Austrian Archduke Maximilian on the throne there.

- after the war, the U.S. used the Monroe Doctrine by threatening to use force to expel them
- Napoleon withdrew the French army and Mexico executed Maximilian and his wife

Russia

Russia was considered to be friendly to the North throughout the war.

- in 1867, Russia offered Alaska for sale and Sec. of State Seward purchased it for \$7.2 million
- this sale was known as "Seward's Folly" in the U.S. because of the mistaken belief that Alaska had no economic or strategic value to the U.S.

WARTIME PROBLEMS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

Finance

Both sides used emergency measures to raise money.

The North under Sec. of the Treasury Salmon Chase:

- increased the protective tariff rates by the Morrill Tariff of 1862
- increased the excise tax on alcohol and tobacco
- collected the first income tax (\$55 million)
- issue paper money not backed by gold (known as greenbacks)

- amount issued was \$450 million
- sold bonds through the 1863 National Banking System and raised \$2.7 billion and borrowed money.
- this was the North's primary means of financing the war

The South:

- levied taxes
- sold bonds
- issued paper money and the value of all three of these went down as the war went on so the South relied on inflation to finance the war

Production

North:

- factories turned out arms, ammunition, uniforms, equipment
- farms produced enough food for home consumption, and surpluses were sold abroad

South:

- lacked production facilities; had enough arms, ammunition but not other necessities
- shortages of food, clothing, sanitary facilities on both the military and home front occurred as the war went on

Government

- both sides used conscription (draft) and assumed broad wartime powers
- the North took over railroads near war zones
- the South forced citizens to contribute food, slaves, mules, and wagons

Both Lincoln and Davis were accused of being dictators:

- Davis was weakened by anti-Confederate feeling especially in WV, AL, NC, SC, GA
 - they ignored all requests of the central government
- Davis overvalued the VA campaigns at the expense of those in MS and TN
- Davis had Cabinet members who kept "coming and going"
- Davis had a 6 year term which prevented discussion of basic issues and their resolution
- Lincoln called for volunteers; expanded the army and spent money before Congressional approval
- Lincoln restricted civil liberties by:
 - no writ of habeas corpus (this aroused the most opposition in the North)
 - trial of civilians in military courts
 - limits on freedom of speech and press
- Lincoln harassed the Peace Democrats or "Copperheads"
- Lincoln was criticized for not making abolition of slavery an early war aim and for the early Union defeats

LINCOLN'S GREATNESS

Leadership Qualities

- dynamic leader
- guided military strategy
- grew to be patient
- tactful
- firm
- had the ability to interpret and lead public opinion

Personal Qualities

- forbearance (accepted abuse, attacked back with humor)
- eloquence
- kindness and compassion
- forgiveness toward Confederacy
- charitable toward enemies