Chapter 15
Blood and Freedom
1863-1867

A Nation At War
• Dividing the nation in half and posing Americans against Americans has a profound effect on the United States.
• With the exception of Gettysburg, Antietam and forays through Maryland, all of war is fought on Southern land.
• Everything about the nation is changed by war, even areas where no battles happen

War and Human Behavior
• Placing human beings in circumstances where they are in constant danger changes them significantly, often permanently; psychological changes.
• Humans do things under stress that they would not do otherwise; e.g. rape, murder
• Facing death violently, at the hands of other humans, changes perspectives.

Antietam
• September 17,1862 in Maryland
• General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North in September 1862.
• Claimed more than 23,000 men killed, wounded, and missing in one single day.
• Union general allows rebels to escape.
• Carnage led to Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Emancipation Proclamation
• Lincoln, originally cautious so not to anger border states, & southern sympathizers
• The carnage at Antietam impacts Lincoln
• He decides that the Union needs a cause beyond “protecting the Union.”
• Also wants to deny South the benefit of slaves working to keep economy alive.
• Also, pressure from Abolitionists.

Confederate Democracy
• The aristocracy that provoked rebellion prove to be poor administrators.
• President Jefferson Davis, a West Point graduate, runs army like he is a general.
• Profiteering by suppliers exploiting the poor whites who are doing all the fighting.
• The Confederate Constitution taken almost directly from U.S. Constitution
Confederate Constitution

- We, the people of the Confederate States, each State acting in its sovereign and independent character, in order to form a permanent federal government, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity—invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God—do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Confederate States of America.

Two Constitutions

- The Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States of America signed on February 8, 1861, created a compact among six Deep South states.
- The Permanent Confederate Constitution, signed on March 11, 1861, created a political structure for what became the eleven-state Confederate nation.

The 1862 Off-Year Elections

- Congressional elections favor Democrats who had wanted to avoid the war.
- Prior to the war there had been many immigrants from the South to the North.
- Industrialized north had been attracting poor southern whites fleeing aristocracy.
- When the carnage become evident the human cost of war influences politics.

Slaves as Soldiers

- Almost immediately slaves sought out Union lines to obtain freedom.
- Lincoln had downplayed emancipation so not to alienate the border states.
- Death and wounding was taking its toll.
- Douglass advocates their use to Lincoln
- Bigotry causes limited use at first, loss of White soldiers makes it a necessity later.

The Draft in the North

- Once someone is drafted for service, they only needed to produce a person to fill that position; it did not have to be themselves!
- Rich men of north pay for poor men to fill their position in the military.
- In NYC rich men greet poverty-stricken immigrants off the boat and sign them up.
- War has always impacted the poor more.

Draft Riots

- Draft riots turn on Blacks as being the “cause of the war”; Blacks not drafted.
• Recent Irish immigrants, the extremely poor who had fled “Potato Famine,” go on murderous rampage in New York City.
• Hundreds of innocent Blacks are lynched.
• Black homes, and institutions are burned.
• Military must suppress “revolt”.

**Attacks on Washington**
• The nation’s capital was heavily protected by Union forces; Rebels across the river.
• A Rebel cavalry unit attacks Washington from the northwest; repelled successfully.
• Psychological impact of attack is significant; encourages war opposition.
• Reinforces Lee’s view that an effective attack on the North might end the war.

**Vicksburg**
• Vicksburg critical to control of Mississippi.
• The Vicksburg assault by Union forces was waged from March 29 to July 4, 1863
• 47 day siege against city and Confederate forces defending the city of Vicksburg
• Eventually Union forces find a way to attack the city from its weak side.
• Rebel forces had previously stopped it.

**Chancellorsville**
• In Virginia, April 30-May 6, 1863
• Estimated Casualties: 24,000 total (US 14,000; CS 10,000)
• Hooker outsmarted by Lee & Jackson
• Result: Gives the Confederacy the courage to attack the North outright.

**Gettysburg**
• Lee sees public opinion in North wavering so he believes an attack on Pennsylvania can make the Union petition for peace.
• Rebels were low in supplies, soldiers poorly equipped; few had shoes.
• Encounters Union armies coming from Washington in small seminary town.
• Fought in the fields around the village.

**The Battle of Gettysburg**
• Bloodiest single battle of the war, resulting in over 51,000 soldiers killed, wounded, captured or missing; Rebels lose.
• Tactical errors by Longstreet, likely approved by Lee, result in heavy casualties.
• Rebel’s lack of supplies, the death toll & probably Union reinforcements end it.
• Beginning of the end for the Confederacy.

Chickamauga
• In Georgia, September 18-20, 1863
• Estimated Casualties: 34,624 total
• Union- 16,170; Confederacy- 18,454
• Results in Confederate Victory.
• Reminds Union that conquering the South will be costly in terms of money & lives.
• Strengthens South somewhat where Gettysburg had been a blow to morale.

The Carnage
• Technological improvements in weaponry result in increased death & injury.
• Artillery can fire vast distances; kill many.
• Old styles of fighting throws humans into battle against more effective weapons.
• Bored rifles increase accuracy and distance
• Lincoln realizes to win it must disregard casualties, so he promotes Grant to head.

Weakened Resolve
• Lincoln had won with 40% in 1860.
• After the initial insult of secession Northerners begin to question the need for the death, destruction, & cost.
• McClellan, whose inaction had delayed war’s end, runs against Lincoln.
• Politicians like McClellan advocate peace talks with South; Lincoln opposes strongly

Citizen Rights in War
• “Southern accent” extends far into the North; many immigrants from South.
• Not all Southerners have accents.
• Spies & sympathizers everywhere in North
• Slavery had existed in NY until 1824.
• Lincoln suspends rights of speedy trial.
• Legacy of Lincoln’s unconstitutional actions will be used time and again.

War on Citizens
• As an attacking army, Union forces ravage Southern citizens, sometime as “collateral damage” sometimes intentionally.
• Short on supplies Union forces plunder Southern farms for materials & food.
• Union armies trample crops, kill livestock.
• When fighting takes place near citizens it’s a myth to suggest they’re not involved.
Andersonville
- Prison built for 10,000 holds 45,000 Union prisoners; 13,000 died in prison.
- While prisoners were being abused Union was waging war on Southern citizens.
- North had some abuse of Confederate soldiers but not as extensive, systemic.
- Any African American Union soldier caught would be enslaved or executed.

The 1864 Election
- Gen. McClellan runs as Democrat.
- Democrats strength in the South means most Democrats are in rebellion.
- McClellan gets 45% of the vote.
- Many soldiers vote for Lincoln tipping the scales in his favor.
- As symbol of eventual unity, Lincoln brings on only Southerner still in Congress as VP

Sherman’s Atrocities
- In an effort to speed the end of the war General Sherman destroys private property as he moves through the South.
- Intended as psychological warfare.
- Will embitter the South against the North for generations; still part of culture.
- Blacks will become the focus of the South’s anger over war atrocities.

The Final Union Drive
- Disregarding casualties Grant presses Lee in one battle after another in Virginia.
- After each battle Grant circumvents Lee’s armies and encounters them again closer to Richmond, the Confederate capital.
- Eventually, both sides settle into a trench war near Petersburg, s.e. of Richmond.
- Stalemate ensues until Union breaks out.

The South Surrenders
- Though not the formal surrender of the Confederacy, Lee, its best general, surrenders to Grant at Appomattox.
- Some fighting continues after surrender but the game is over, Lee surrendered.
- Davis flees for his life; captured in disguise
- Richmond is captured ending the political existence of the Confederacy.

Lincoln is Murdered
- Marylander, actor, John Wilkes Booth murders Lincoln; Lincoln poorly guarded.
• Part of conspiracy that intended to capture Lincoln and hold for settlement.
• Some of those executed for conspiracy had only marginal roles, if any role.
• Lincoln would have treated the South better than did the Republicans alone.

A Humane End to Violence
• Both career soldiers Lee and Grant deal with one another with respect.
• Grant allows Confederate soldiers to keep their weapons and their horses.
• There is no gloating in Lee’s presence by Union soldiers who respected his effort.
• A good beginning to the reconciliation of Americans, a beginning ruined by murder.

The Constitution Changed
• 13th Amendment—1865- Ends slavery
• 14th Amendment— 1868- Due process for all American citizens regardless of race.
• 15th Amendment— 1870 – All citizens have the right to vote regardless of race.
• Though these amendments are added their full implementation will not take place until 1965, in the Civil Rights Act of 1965.

Andrew Johnson
• Tennessee Senator, the only major Southerner not to join rebellion.
• Had a drinking problem; made vice president for pure symbolic importance.
• As president radical Republicans unhappy with how conciliatory he was to South.
• Impeachment on trumped up charges, merely an excuse to remove him

The Legacy of War
• America still dealing with legacy of Civil War; hostility to federal authority in South.
• Prevalence of weapons increase dramatically during Civil War.
• Lawlessness in the “Wild West” mostly by displaced Southerners; many soldiers.
• Southern poverty made worse by North’s punishments under “Reconstruction.”