Extended Notes:

Unit 3: Testing the New Nation

Period 5: 1840-1877

“The American Pageant” Chapters 19-21

Underlined terms indicate previous vocabulary; **bolded** terms indicate new vocabulary.

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| Notes | Look here for extras! |
| As slavery continued to be the main issue of the day in the 1850s, both sides did what they could to prove they were in the right. In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe’s book ***Uncle Tom’s Cabin*** was published and shed what many in the North believed to be an accurate light on the Southern institution of slavery. Stowe was heavily influenced by the Second Great Awakening, and used intense imagery to influence her audience against slavery. Even though the novel was a huge success, it was still marketed as a work of fiction, and Stowe admitted to never having witnessed slavery in the South but did have cousins in Kentucky.1 Perhaps the greatest impact of the book was its persuasion of many away from the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law (of 1850). The book also sold overseas, and was a small influence on the British and French governments during the US Civil War.*Uncle Tom* was not the only written work in the 1850s to oppose slavery. ***The Impending Crisis of the South*** was written by a white, non-slave-owning North Carolinian who argued that the institution of slavery hurt non-slave owners in the South more than the entire institution helped the South. It should go without saying that the author struggled to find a publisher in the South, but the manuscript was finally published in 1857. The influence of this piece wasn’t even a blip on the radar compared to *Tom.* While Northern Republicans—the newest political party on the block—distributed a condensed form of the book as campaign literature, the South used it as kindling. Even the intended audience, Southern non-slave owning whites, disagreed with the essential argument. While this literary battle made it difficult for the North and the South to “sleep under one roof,” they had other outlets for their argument that would actually amount to something. Kansas had become a battleground of popular sovereignty. While the slim majority of occupants were humble pioneers “in search of richer lands beyond the sunset,” others were there to serve their regional purpose. Groups like the **New England Emigrant Aid Company** and other free-soilers moved into the area to vote against the expansion of slavery when the time came. Southern groups made their way there as well for similar purposes. It had been an “unspoken understanding [for the South] that Kansas would become slave and Nebraska free” as they still hesitantly agreed to the Kansas-Nebraska Act. But while the South intended to make KS a slave state, it was, even to them, a bad idea to move slaves there until the matter was officially settled.2 When the territorial legislature was being put together in 1855, “pro-slavery [supporters] poured in from Missouri to vote early and often.” This allowed for a pro-slavery legislature in the territory, and a subsequent split of Kansas as an anti-slavery legislature formed too. Residents were forced to choose between these governments, which sometimes literally fought each other.After an attack on anti-slavery Lawrence, abolitionist John Brown decided that the time to fight back had come. He led a group into a pro-slavery area and “hacked to pieces five surprised men”. Retaliation was fierce, and both sides continued the exchange until fighting in KS, started in 1856, merged with the full-scale US Civil War in 1861.In 1857, KS had enough of a population to apply for statehood. The official government in KS, the pro-slavery one, drafted the **Lecompton Constitution**, which the people were not allowed to consider as a whole. The people were instructed that they could either vote “for slavery” or “against slavery,” without knowing that the Lecompton Constitution contained clauses that would protect slave owners already in KS even if the population voted against slavery. Once word got out about this, many anti-slavery voters boycotted the polls, leaving them open for the pro-slavery voters.3 The constitution was approved, with slavery, and sent to Congress in 1857. Debate in Congress raged until they finally compromised by sending the Lecompton Constitution back to KS for a true popular vote, which would remain constantly contested until 1861.**Bleeding Kansas** was quickly becoming more than a localized conflict. There was a nearly full-scale brawl in the Senate chamber that inflated the North-South discord further as the Election of 1856 approached. The Democrats now had the challenge of finding a viable candidate who had not been deeply involved with the KS fiasco. They finally landed on a PA lawyer who had been fairly removed from the conflict, James “Old Buck” Buchanan. He was described as “mediocre, irresolute, and confused”—just how every presidential candidate wants to be remembered. Taking the stage in their first full-scale election attempt, the Republican party nominated John C. Fremont, who, like Buchanan, was Kansas-less and experience-less. Both parties kept to their side when it came to slavery; the Democrats ardent supporters of popular sovereignty, the Republicans staunch non-expansionists. A new issue made its way into their 1856 campaigns: antiforeignism. “The recent influx of immigrants from Ireland and Germany had alarmed ‘nativists’” who later organized the Know-Nothing Party.4 This party, also known as the American Party, nominated former president Millard Fillmore in the Election of 1856. However, Fillmore and the Know-Nothings were not seen as a huge threat by either of the other two parties, and Fillmore gained only three electoral votes in the election. At the end of the election, Buchanan won, and the Republicans…did not throw a fit. So the question remains as to why. Republican candidate Fremont came under fire a lot in this election, there were questions on the legitimacy of his birth, his honesty, his capacity to lead. But more rousing than this was the Southern threat of secession. Southerners implied that “the election of a sectional ‘Black Republican’ would be a declaration of war on them, forcing them secede.” This left many in the North no choice but to vote for Buchanan, as secession meant cut business ties, the loss of the Southern market, and the dissolution of the United States. But the election proved that the Republican party was viable and supported. They would just have to try harder next time. Buchanan’s presidency was often tested by slavery. In 1857, the Supreme Court handed down a decision on the case ***Dred Scott v. Sanford***. The Court’s Majority Opinion was a harsh blow to abolitionists across the country. The case originated when Scott, a slave, sued for his freedom on the grounds that he had lived in free territories for a number of years. The Court’s Opinion made several important statements:1. Scott was a slave, and therefore, could not sue anyone, for anything in federal court.
2. A slave is property, and as such, can be moved by their owner, even to a free territory, and still be held in bondage.
3. The MO Compromise was never constitutional to begin with—“Congress had no power to ban slavery from the territories, regardless even of what the territorial legislatures themselves might want.”

The decision increased sectional conflict. Southerners were overjoyed, though they had not expected this result. The Democratic party was splitting, and the Republicans showed similar signs as they “insisted that the ruling of the Court was merely an opinion…and no more binding than the views of a ‘southern debating society.’”Around the same time as the *Scott* decision, the country was going through the **panic of 1857**. Well, the North was going through it. Northern grain growers who had been growing excess grain to meet the demands of Europe during the Crimean War, were now overstocked and forced to lower prices. Land and rail speculation was also taking a severe toll on the North. Meanwhile, the South was “enjoying favorable cotton prices [and] rode out the storm with flying colors.” The panic of 1857 seemed to prove “that cotton was king and that its economic kingdom was stronger than that of the North.” The panic also prompted an early suggestion for a “homestead act”. This proposed legislation would give away up to 160 acres of land to settlers on the basis that land should not be sold but instead “given outright to the sturdy pioneers as a reward for risking health and life to develop it.” The idea was highly opposed by Eastern industrialists who believed the promise of free land would drain away their employees, and by Southerners who saw it as a ploy to get as many free-soilers as possible to move west as quickly as they could. The idea was ultimately vetoed by President Buchanan, who instead supported Congress’ **tariff of 1857**. A more indirect problem for Buchanan was the IL senatorial election of 1858. The election pitted incumbent Stephen Douglas, the new golden child of the compromise, against the unknown and lanky Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln boldly challenged Douglas, who was the country’s prime orator, to a series of **debates**. The most famous of these debates occurred in Freeport, IL, where Lincoln posed perhaps the toughest question he could to Douglas: Given the *Scott* decision, and a state which voted slavery down, who would be in the right, the state or the Supreme Court? The **Freeport Question** as it became known, had already been answered by Douglas, who continued with his same answer in this case. He stood by his initial reasoning that the state would win out, “slavery would stay down if the people voted it down.” Without popular approval, laws would struggle to be passed, and eventually the issue, whatever it may be, would have to be let go. Douglas’ reply later becomes known as the **Freeport Doctrine**, which often has history on its side. While most agree Douglas won the series of debates, many more actually supported Lincoln. Douglas’ success in the debates also created further splintering of the Democratic party, and may have cost him a presidential nomination. Douglas was too close to the KS issue, and southern Dems were again more supportive of secession than accept a popular sovereignty enthusiast like Douglas. The debates gave Lincoln a chance to quietly step into the national spotlight, and in doing so became a front-runner for the next Republican presidential nominee. Sectional tensions took a turn for the worst after **John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry**. John Brown, known for taking action in KS, somehow secured money for firearms from Northern abolitionists and with a team of supporters marched to VA in 1859. Brown and his followers attacked the federal arsenal at Harper’s Ferry with the intention of seizing it to arm slaves in an uprising. In their attempt, they killed seven and injured at least ten more. Brown and what was left of his posse were captured by US Marines. Slaves in the area remained largely unaware of Brown and his raid, so the “back-up” force Brown had so counted on never came. Brown was tried and convicted of murder and treason, though large portions of his supporters vouched for his insanity.The aftermath of Brown’s trial was mixed. Most Northerners disapproved of Brown’s actions. Radical abolitionists and free-soilers were infuriated by Brown’s impending execution. Southerners were riled and tacked blame for Brown’s actions on the entire North. At the end of it, Brown was hanged, with the South making him a martyr for the abolitionist cause. The election of 1860 proved just as much of a struggle as nearly everything else. The Democrats could not agree on a candidate, and after Douglas was continually put up by Northern Democrats, Southern Democrats openly felt ignored. There was another squabble at the convention in South Carolina over the party’s platform, after which “the delegates from most of the cotton states walked out.” Soon thereafter, the convention dissolved, and reconvened in Baltimore without its Southern delegations. Douglas became the nominee, popular sovereignty became the new stance, and the South had severed ties with the Democratic party. In turn, Southern Democrats organized their own convention with their own nominee and platform. The rift in the Democratic party almost assured a Republican victory. Almost, because they also struggled to agree on a candidate. On the third ballot for a candidate, Abraham Lincoln was selected over William H. Seward. The Republican platform also did its best to appeal to as many as it could providing for no further expansion for slavery, a protective tariff for those hit by the panic of 1857, railroads and internal improvements on the federal dime, and free homesteads for westward pioneers. While the Republicans ran catchy phrases during the campaign, Southerners made it clear that Lincoln’s election would decisively split the Union. This was probably a shot5 at Republicans rather than Lincoln himself, but Lincoln did nothing as a presidential candidate to quell Southern fears. Lincoln was not a slave owner, but was also not an outright abolitionist; as late as February 1865, he was in favor of monetary compensation to slave holders upon emancipation.6 Lincoln won the election of 1860 as we all know, and the South now had their reason to secede. It should however, be made more well known that despite Lincoln’s victory, the South still held the majority of the US government. The Republicans won the presidency but did not hold a majority in either house of Congress. Southerners also made up the majority of the Supreme Court at 5-4, and the federal government really couldn’t touch slavery as an institution without a constitutional amendment. Even if an amendment were tried it could easily be voted down by the South, which amounted to fifteen states in the union. But the South decided they would remain true to their word if Lincoln was going to do the same. In December, 1860, the South Carolina legislature voted to leave the US. The US was frantic to reach a compromise. The most promising proposal were the **Crittenden amendments**. These constitution amendments proposed that slavery would be prohibited in territories north of the 36’ 30’ line and given federal protection south of that line. States coming into the Union after the amendment would make the choice on whether to have slavery. So while territories would be protected, states would have popular sovereignty, though federal protection in southern territories might lead to slavery in the entirety of the south. Lincoln refused to support the amendments (though that’s not really part of his job), as he believed that this might prompt further expansion south. As this compromise neared failure, AL, MS, FL, GA, LA, and TX followed SC into secession.The seceding states met in early 1860 and declared themselves the **Confederate States of America**. Confederate President Jefferson Davis took office right away, while Lincoln was forced to wait until March for his inauguration. Meanwhile President Buchanan was criticized for not utilizing Jackson’s Force Bill, and keeping the South in the Union by force. Buchanan was probably right in his much later response when he said that forcible action only would have made war happen sooner.  | **Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1852):** Harriet Beecher Stowe’s widely read novel which dramatized the horrors of slavery and therefore heightening the support for abolition in the North.1. The South, in response, often made a compelling argument comparing slavery in the South to industrial workers in the North. **The Impending Crisis of the South (1857):** Antislavery essay which argued that non- slave holding white actually suffered most in the South’s slave economy.**New England Emigrant Aid Company:** organization created to facilitate the migration of free laborers to KS in order to prevent the establishment of slavery in the territory.2. Why would they take valuables to what was essentially a battle zone?**Lecompton Constitution:** proposed KS state constitution, the ratification of which was unfairly rigged in favor of slavery.3. So they refused to vote on the issue at all, instead of playing unfair themselves and stacking the polls with the anti-slavery vote. **Bleeding Kansas:** civil war in KS over the issue of slavery, fought intermittently until 1861 when fighting merged with the US Civil War.4. This group felt that immigrants had an unfair political advantage and were a hindrance to society in that they were often a bad influence and kept to themselves, refusing to integrate themselves more than they absolutely had to.***Scott v. Sanford* (1857):** Supreme Court decision that extended federal protection of slavery by ruling that Congress did not have the power to prohibit slavery in any territory, and declared that slaves were property rather than citizens of the US.THE COURT’S REASONING:1. Your property can’t bring lawsuit against you. This would be like your phone taking you to court because it doesn’t like the music you play on it or the people you text.
2. The 5th Amendment holds that for property of an individual to be confiscated, there must be a good reason that is clearly articulated—and we’re talking like “we need this piece of land to build a Veterans’ Memorial on” good. To further this, does it really make sense that just because you move from one state to another that the status of your property changes?
3. Slavery is legal. Congress can’t regulate it as it’s a matter of personal property.

**Panic of 1857:** financial crash brought on by gold-fueled inflation, over-speculation, and excess grain production; raised calls in the North for higher tariffs and free homesteads on public lands in the west.**Tariff of 1857:** lowered duties on imports in response to a high Treasury surplus and pressure from Southern farmers.**Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858):** series of debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephan Douglas during the IL Senate race.**Freeport Question:** question raised during one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates by Lincoln which asked whether the Court or the people should decide the future of slavery in the territories.**Freeport Doctrine:** Douglas’ response to the above question which declared that since slavery could not exist without laws to protect it, territorial legislatures, not the Supreme Court, would have the final say on slavery.**John Brown’s raid:** attack on the federal arsenal at Harper’s Ferry, VA led by abolitionist John Brown.5. THIS WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE A PUN. ABE, I’M SO SORRY. I really just wanted to say that no matter the Republican candidate, the South would have made the same threat.6. Lincoln had similar views to most moderate presidents over the issue, he didn’t mind which direction it went, as long as s decision was made. Image result for crittenden compromise map**Crittenden amendments:** failed constitutional amendments that would have given federal protection for slavery in all territories south of 36’ 30’ where slavery was supported by popular sovereignty in attempt to appease the South.**Confederate States of America:** government established after seven states seceded from the United States. |

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| Chapter 20 | Look here for extras! |
| By the time Lincoln took office in March of 1861, seven states had already seceded, with several more hanging on by a thread. His inaugural address made it clear that keeping the United States united was priority as he maintained that “physically speaking, [the US] cannot separate.” There were other problems that faced the US should the South really successfully secede: what share of the national debt would go with them, what would this mean for the fugitive slave law and international relations, the Monroe Doctrine, and would the US be able for a European power to (re-)conquer should it be split in two?As Southern states began to leave the US, a new, more direct question appeared concerning federal property remaining in the South. “When Lincoln took office, only two significant forts in the South still flew the Star and Stripes.” One was the well-fortified but poorly-staffed **Fort Sumter** in Charleston, SC. The fort was in dire need of provisions and reinforcements. If the US did not send supplies, the less than 100 troops there would be forced to surrender without firing a shot. If the US sent reinforcements, South Carolina would undoubtedly see it as an act of aggression and fighting would begin. A plan was worked out to send supplies only to Fort Sumter, along with a promise of “no effort to throw in men, arms, or ammunition” and a naval ship was sent sailing south with supplies. However, SC canons began a 34 hour bombardment of the fort before the ship could arrive, and Fort Sumter surrendered. Before this point, the North had few qualms about letting the South go, “saying that if [they] wanted to go, they should not be pinned to the rest of the nation with bayonets.” But the South had just fired on a US fort, and the North was not about to let that go. Lincoln’s own belief said that a war would need to be provoked by the South as he would not be the one to start it. He did respond quickly to SC’s attack on Fort Sumter; three days after the attack, he called for volunteers to join the military. Four days after that, he took measures to start blockading Southern ports. The South took the call for troops as the North preparing for a full-scale aggressive war.1 More states were prompted to join the Confederacy. VA, AR, TN, and NC, whose first votes on secession had failed, now joined the Confederacy. The Confederate capital was moved from Montgomery, AL, to Richmond, VA—closer to DC than most were comfortable with on either side. The only thing between the US and the CSA were the so-called **border states**: MO, KY, MD, DE and a brand new state which would join them later, WV. **West Virginia** broke away albeit illegally to become a separate, free state. The rivers in the area were also of extreme importance as they could cut off supplies in either direction. Because these border states could swing easily in either direction with their support, Lincoln did not go easy on them to keep them in the Union: he declared martial law in MD, and sent federal troops to MO and WV who were fighting their own civil wars. However, he did have to play one card to appease most of these states as he “was obliged to declare publicly that he was not fighting to free the blacks” as this would have driven these states straight into the arms of the Confederacy.2 Professing to be fighting a war to end slavery would not have sat well with the southern portions of IL, IN, and OH, which had largely been settled by Southerners and held intense racial prejudices. Similarly, slavery determined many opinions in the West. The Confederacy had secured the loyalty of the Indian Territory (present day-OK), where many members of the “Five Civilized Tribes” owned slaves themselves. The Confederacy also promised to take over federal payments to these tribes, and even invited each tribe to send delegates to the Confederate Congress. At the onset of war in 1861, most advantages seemed to side with the Confederacy. Their biggest advantage was the ability to wage a defensive war; the North would have to invade them and battle not only the vast wilderness of the South, but also the Southern cause. Many of the more talented military officers of the US pledged their loyalty to the Confederacy, including Robert E. Lee, Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, and JEB Stuart. Ordinary Southerners were also quite capable when it came to fighting and the behind-the-scenes of war. Most Southern men were used to handling horses, dealing with distance, and yelling. The Confederacy also gained an upper hand quickly in the form of seizing federal arsenals, blundering through blockades, and developing their own ironworks and factories.The greatest weakness of the South was its economy. Built on agriculture and slave labor, it could not support a constant transportation system which led to catastrophic break downs in supply lines. While railways had been built in the South, this also meant they could be easily broken by Union lines. The economy was the greatest advantage of the North. Sprawling factories and cityscapes were bolstered by the lush farmland of the Midwest. The North also maintained the US Navy. If used to blockade the South effectively, it would mean the end to Southern trade and the economy. The US also enjoyed a huge population, almost double the size of the Confederacy. The US had just as many weaknesses as the Confederacy, though they were arguably larger in the long-run. Lincoln was very indecisive when it came to generals, changing them out whenever he thought they made a misstep. Their soldiers also took longer to break in as they were unaccustomed to “soldiering” and all that it entailed. Part of the population that made up the new US military was immigrants. Immigrants from Europe “continued to pour into the North even during the war…most of them British, Irish, and German [of whom] large numbers were induced to enlist in the Union army.”While both sides were counting on some form of foreign intervention, the Confederacy was almost depending on it. A number of European governments were sympathetic to the Confederacy’s cause. They felt it was time for the “American experiment” to fail, and it could do so by imploding in upon itself, all the better. Europe leaned more South because of trade as well. Factories in Britain needed cotton for their textile mills, among the other trade crops that originated in the now Confederate states. Much of the population of Europe had been swayed by *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and other works, so it was unlikely they would support their countries backing a country supported by slavery. A large cotton crop shortly before the war also postponed British support for either side. The first aspect of war to involve a foreign power became known as the ***Trent* Affair**. A US ship stopped the British ship *Trent* and captured two Confederate officers on board who were traveling to Europe. This directly involved a neutral British ship in the war, upsetting Britain and their vastly more powerful navy. The British also supplied the Confederacy with “commerce-raiders”; quick ships that got around most neutrality laws. Among them was the ***Alabama***, which left British ports unarmed to maintain neutrality, even though it was headed by Confederate officers, for the coast of Africa where it would pick up arms and begin harassing US ships. A similar but more obvious version of this support came about in 1863 when **Laird rams** were being built in Britain for the Confederacy. The rams were designed to destroy wooden-sided US warships, and could have easily passed straight through the US blockade on the Confederacy. At the last minute, the rams were bought by the British government for their own navy, avoiding an international conflict.A side war between Irish Americans and Irish immigrants against Canada was taking off around this time as well. Small scale battles were usually set off by a Confederate raid that managed to make that far north. Even though this was a clear violation of neutrality and not at all helpful to the war going on in America, the US government “was hampered by the presence of so many Irish American voters.” Canada gained semi-independence as the **Dominion of Canada** in 1867. France also made moves in North America while the US was distracted. A French army was occupying Mexico City in 1863, with Napoleon III3 establishing a short-lived Austrian puppet government in Mexico shortly thereafter; both of which were extreme violations of the Monroe Doctrine.In regards to domestic policy, the Confederacy demonstrate a fatal flaw. By its own precedent, the Confederacy could not prohibit secession in its constitution. Fueled by their belief in states’ rights, the Confederate states were hesitant to adhere to the policies of an official Confederate government. President Jefferson Davis understood the commitment to states’ rights by many, and while he did his best to give states some room, there was still a war going on. For many states that seceded, states’ rights was part of their reason for leaving. They felt that it was not Congress’ place to make decisions on their economic livelihood, i.e. slavery, or even to promote the idea of popular sovereignty; these were all state issues that should be fully left to the states to decide and then of which to simply inform Congress. If states were too caught up in themselves to join the fight for Confederate independence, the war was as good as over. States’ rights became just as damaging to the Confederacy as it had been to the US. In the US, President Lincoln was taking huge liberties with the US Constitution. “Feeling driven by necessity, he proceeded to tear a few holes in that hallowed document” but with every intent to piece it back together when the job was done. When at war, it is unlikely that Congress will disagree with a sitting president, so many of the infractions made by Lincoln regarding the Constitution went overlooked, or were later supported after they had worked out. As a first example, Lincoln took it upon himself to expand the military and start a blockade when war broke out. Congress was not in session at this time, and while it would have been their job, this can be seen as a simple test of the President’s commander-in-chief powers. He later instituted martial law in areas of MD, and suspended the **writ of habeas corpus**. His administration arranged for “supervised” voting in the border states, putting pressure on voters to vote a certain way, and would later be guilty of suspending the publication of certain newspapers and arresting their editors for “obstructing the war effort.” While these were things that Lincoln probably shouldn’t have done, he felt justified in doing them. And they were certainly things that Jeff Davis would not be capable of doing; he was a capable leader, but not popular enough to have an iron fist.The first major hurdle of the war for both sides was manpower. The US military was manned solely by volunteers until 1863 when those volunteers began to run out. The US then enacted its first **conscription law** to draft men into service. This law was increasingly unfair to the poor as the rich could hire a substitute to enlist in their place or purchase an exemption from battle altogether for $300. This led to **draft riots in New York**, which lasted for several days and resulted in a “rampaging, pillaging mob” and a number of lives lost, including many lynched African-Americans. Most of the time though, the draft was simply met with resentment rather than rioting. The Confederacy enacted a draft a full year ahead of the US in 1862. The CSA also expanded their ability pool, but extended the ages of service; men ages 18 to 50 could volunteer or be drafted. The Confederate draft policy included some of the same loop holes as the US one; the wealthy could buy an exemption, but as only relevant to the South, slaves could be enlisted as substitutes. There were draft riots in the Confederacy, but that issue of states’ rights reared its ugly head when it came time to position troops. Some states refused to use their own troops to protect state borders or refused to contribute them to the greater cause, making the war effort a united disunity in a sense. Conscription agents also found themselves wary to head into areas where there might be sharpshooters lying in wait, Union-based or otherwise. The second hurdle on both sides was money. War, as we know, is not cheap, and each side had to come up with new and effective ways to gain money for the war effort. The US got lucky early on as with the South gone they could easily raise tariff rates. The **Morrill Tariff Act** did just that, increasing the tax on manufactured goods by 5-10% in one go. The Treasury also made a move to get rid of the worthless paper currency issued by wildcat banks and replace it with **greenbacks**4, the first version of a standard US currency. This was supported by a Congressional plan for a **National Banking System**. While the system started as a ploy to make selling bonds easier, it took off nationwide. “Banks that joined the National Banking System could buy government bonds and issue sound paper money” backed by the federal government. The downside to all of this was that the value of greenbacks seemed to fluctuate with the US’s success in the war, increasing in value when the Union was winning and decreasing when they were losing. The troubles of the Confederacy to earn money increased with each day of the war. Once the US established an effective blockade, all custom and tariff duties were cut off, not to mention the CSA was now in charge of creating their own tariffs. The Confederate government sold bonds as well, but expanded their bond market overseas. Issued bonds totally over $400M at one point, but these funds were depleted quickly. The government had no choice but to raise taxes. The opposition from states’ righters ate into these funds, as only 1% of revenue wound up being raised through taxes. As money continued to run out, the government began printing its own. This money was printed fast and spent fast, though backed by virtually nothing. **Inflation** increased and reached almost 9000% by the end of the war. Back north, war industries boomed. Other industries and business took off. All of them were protected by the new tariff, which didn’t have to appease Southern agriculture. Prices soared due to inflation, but inflation rates were not so high that money became worthless. Eager to take advantage of the war, businesses providing supplies soon began shirking their responsibilities: shoes for soldiers came with cardboard soles, uniforms were made from over-processed wool and literally disintegrated. New machinery help move business right along as the men who went to war were replaced by the sewing machine and the mechanical reaper. Women were also brought into the work force for the first real time. Women became industrial and government workers, and nurses. This created a clear path to the **US Sanitary Commission**, the formation of the Red Cross, and eventually played a role in the Women’s Movement of the early 20th Century.As business continued to expand, socio-economic distinction became more clear. The US had its first class of millionaires by the end of the war. Westward expansion didn’t take a break during this time as many headed west to avoid the war altogether. The **Homestead Act of 1862** made their move a little easier by making land much cheaper.  | The majority of this chapter covers the politics and economics of the US Civil War. Chapter 21 will take care of the battles and strategies.**Fort Sumter:** SC-based fort where Confederate forces fired the first shots of the Civil War in April, 1861, after US forces attempted to re-supply it.1. The general name for this war in the South is “The War of Northern Aggression” as almost every move made by the North toward the South leading up to the war and in the early stages of the war were seen as stark moves of aggression and hatred.**Border States:** slave states that remained loyal to the US and created a buffer zone between the US and the Confederacy.**West Virginia (admitted as state 1863):** region of VA that broke away after secession as most resident were independent farmers to who did not own slaves and were this opposed to the Confederate cause.2. The border states were still slave states. Lincoln could not claim to be fighting to free the slaves at this point *and* have these states continue to support the war effort. IL, IN, and OH, while not prone to secession, were the main food suppliers for the US at this point, and could have switched sides if Lincoln chose to express this sentiment.ADVANTAGES OF THE CONFEDERACY:1. Fighting a defensive war: If union was the goal, the US would have to invade the Confederacy, where war could be waged on Confederate turf and terms.
2. Fighting with cause: In their own way, the South was fighting to maintain their political rights and way of life, which they felt had been threatened by the US government in a multitude of ways. They were not bent on revenge, they were not out to change the larger American way of life, they were more or less fighting for their independence.
3. Experienced officer corps: Some of the most highly trained and highly respected military officers seceded to the Confederacy when their states did. [Here’s a list.](https://www.historynet.com/confederate-generals)
4. Lifestyle: Most Southern men were raised around horses and traveling long distances, so “soldering” would not be as difficult for them as it would their Northern counterparts.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE CONFEDERACY:1. Economy: The Southern economy was based heavily on agriculture and trade, not to mention slaves. This put them at a huge disadvantage as any move to fully blockade the South would cut off their trade lines and money supply.
2. Supply lines: Domestic supply lines within the South were just as easy to dismantle and their international trade routes as they were usually surrounded and protected by nothing.

ADVANTAGES OF THE UNION:1. Diverse economy: The economy of the North would also include that of the West as the states took sides. This allowed the US economy during the war to be almost self-sustaining as it would be supported by both industry and agriculture, and fueled by domestic trade.
2. Naval support: Most of the US Navy had been built, trained, and stationed in the North. This meant that the Union could easily open another front to the war that the Confederacy would not be prepared for or fully able to adapt to.
3. Population: The US continued to welcome immigrants during the Civil War, which only added to their available manpower. The population of the US was nearly double that of the Confederacy at the onset of war, and Union forces—though not as battle ready—would continue to outnumber Confederate forces 2 to 1 for much of the war.

The Opposing ArmiesDISADVANTAGES OF THE UNION:1. Discipline: Many of the Union’s soldiers came from cities where it was unlikely that they had seen or interacted with many horses, walked great distances, or dealt with many hardships that the South had already experienced.
2. “Trial-and-error” leadership: Lincoln was, well let’s just say really picky about his generals. As the war began and the Union continued to lose battles for a number of reasons, he chose to replace the army’s leadership. It was until toward the end of the war that he found ones he felt were successful enough to continue in their positions. [Here’s a list.](https://www.historynet.com/union-generals)

***Trent* Affair (1861):** diplomatic scuffle that almost resulted in the British joining the US Civil war on the side of the Confederacy when Union officers boarded the *Trent* and captured two Confederate officers. ***Alabama*:** British-built and manned Confederate warship that raided Union shipping during the Civil War.**Laird rams:** two well-armed ironclad warships constructed for the Confederacy by British ship-builders which were then sold to the British government to avoid going to war with the US.**Dominion of Canada (1867-present):** created a unified Canadian government by Britain in effort to bolster Canadians against potential attacks from the US; established the Canada we know today (maple leaf emoji).3. This is Napoleon Bonaparte’s nephew who declared himself emperor of France in 1852. He had hoped that Lincoln would be too distracted by the Civil War to really notice his invasion of Mexico, which didn’t happen.**Writ of habeas corpus:** those arrested or detained by law enforcement must be presented to a court; suspended by Lincoln during the war.**Conscription law:** law requiring all males to enlist in the military, first used in the Civil War (1863) and will be used again in other wars.**New York draft riots (1863):** uprising of mostly working-class Irish-Americans in protest of the draft; rioters were particularly riled by the ability of the rich to purchase exemptions.**Morrill Tariff Act (1861):** increased duties to 1846 levels to raise revenue for the war.**Greenbacks:** paper currency issued by the US during the war which was inadequately supported by gold allowing the value to fluctuate.4. Here’s [that thing](http://www.themoneymasters.com/the-wonderful-wizard-of-oz-a-monetary-reformers-brief-symbol-glossary/) about the “Wizard of Oz” I mentioned.**National banking system:** network of member banks that could issue currency against purchased government bonds created during the Civil War to stabilized the new national currency and stimulate the sale of war bonds. **Inflation:** the general increase in prices and resulting decrease in purchasing power.SOME INVENTIONS OF THE 1860S:* Internal combustion engine
* Hand-cranked machine guns
* Roller skates
* Barbed wire
* Set clothing sizes and paper patterns
* Dynamite

**US Sanitary Commission:**  government agency that helped train nurses, collected medical supplies, and equipped hospitals in an effort to help the Union army; helped professionalize nursing.**Homestead Act of 1862:** federal law that sold settlers 160 acres of land for $30 if they lived on it for five years and improved it. |

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| Chapter 21 | Look here for extras! |
| There was an initial belief on both sides that if war were to begin, it would not last long. The **Battle of Bull Run** soon proved this thought to be wrong. Also known as First Manassas, the battle was fought only thirty miles south of Washington DC. Spectators gathered to watch with picnic lunches the Union army have an early victory that never happened. The Confederate troops were tough to push back, especially after reinforcements joined the small section stationed there. While this first victory would be highly valued by the Confederacy, it upheld an overconfidence that existed among its troops. The Union was now assured this war would last much longer than the proposed ninety days. Lincoln quickly appointed to lead the “Army of the Potomac” General George McClellan.1 McClellan was an experienced soldier having fought in the Mexican-American War but was also a perfectionist unwilling to take risks. McClellan wanted to make sure his troops were ready, and continued to drill rather than advance, to point of driving a serious wedge between the President and himself. At one point Lincoln wrote to McClellan asking if he might borrow the army if McClellan wasn’t going to use it. Lincoln gave orders to advance, and McClellan inched toward Richmond in what would become known as the **Peninsula Campaign**. The campaign managed to capture Yorktown before continuing toward Richmond, then Lincoln routed them to chase after Stonewall Jackson who was responsible for the Union defeat at Bull Run. Jackson’s force was just outside of Washington in the Shenandoah Valley. Stalled in their progress toward Richmond, McClellan’s force was then circled by JEB Stuart’s (another Confederate general) cavalry, and then engaged in battle for almost a week straight by Robert E. Lee’s forces. The **Seven Days’ Battles** drove the Peninsula Campaign back to the water, and the Union was forced to abandon the campaign altogether. As the historical argument stands, Lee’s victory here was an ironic one. If McClellan had been able to advance to Richmond and capture it, ending the war in 1862, it was unlikely that slavery as an institution would have been harmed in the aftermath. The South would have been relatively unchanged, though still punished in some way. The Union defeat here drove Lincoln in two specific directions, one in which he stated that South could not spend “years trying to destroy the government and…come back to the Union unhurt,” and in another which he placed McClellan on an indefinite suspension.2 The Union’s strategy grew to include multiple components besides just capturing Richmond. A crucial step was to blockade Confederate ports. The strategy moved to full scale war by targeting the economy of the Confederacy; Union generals found that if they controlled the MS River, the Confederacy would effectively be cut in half. The economy could be further targeted through liberating slaves. With the circulation of a [picture of a former slave’s whipping wounds](https://www.history.com/news/whipped-peter-slavery-photo-scourged-back-real-story-civil-war), more were prepared to fight for abolition. If these pieces of the plan were successful, it would be no problem for the Union army to march through the Confederacy and engage their opponent to exhaustion. The blockade that was set up was simple at best. The US’ lackluster navy concentrated on larger ports that had well-built docks available as those were most likely used for trade. Although it was not the best by international standards, the blockade was recognized internationally if only because no European power wanted to be unwittingly pulled into the conflict. The Confederacy had a few ships that could break through the blockade, including the ***Merrimack***, a resurrected warship refurbished to serve in the Confederate navy. The CSS Virginia as it was called, sunk two US ships in Chesapeake Bay before meeting the new iron-sided ship of the US, the ***Monitor***. The two fought to the point of impasse in 1862.The Confederate army commanded by Robert E. Lee moved north to emerge victorious in the **Second Battle of Bull Run**. They continued into the border state of MD, hoping for a victory to convince them to join the Confederacy. This move resulted in the **Battle of Antietam**, which pitted Lee’s forces against those of US General McClellan. The battle proved to be a draw militarily, though McClellan was able to stop Lee from advancing. Lee’s forces moved back across the Potomac, and even though he had secured a victory for the US, McClellan was removed from his post by Lincoln yet again. The bloody battle helped “the Union [display] unexpected power” and “was also the ‘long-awaited’ victory Lincoln needed for launching his **Emancipation Proclamation**.” The abolitionist cause had grown during the first years of the war, but Lincoln had remained largely indifferent. If he were to say anything about slavery and its end (or continuation, whichever), it had to come after a Union victory, and it would have to be well-received. He had already stated in 1862 that his “paramount object in this struggle [was] to save the Union, and [was] not either to save or destroy slavery.” But with the victory at Antietam, the blockade holding, and the border states holding fast to the US, the time seemed right. The declaration proclaimed slaves in the Confederacy free, while leaving slavery in the border states intact. This in reality meant that slaves in the Confederacy who freed themselves would have protection if they made it to the Union or a Union camp. The stories shared by runaways helped make emancipation a front-running cause of the war for the Union, though it had only recently appeared on Lincoln’s list. The real impact of the Emancipation Proclamation was that it changed the course of the war’s end. Yes, I know there are still two years of the war left for us to talk about but the Emancipation Proclamation meant that negotiations would be slim.3 This was now a war of annihilation. Reactions were mixed. Several states felt that Lincoln had gone too far, after all the border states had pledged to fight for union not emancipation, while others felt he hadn’t gone far enough. The Confederacy felt that Lincoln was trying to start the race war that they had always feared, and the desire for un-involvement in Europe grew more and more. Most intriguingly, the numbers of the Union army began to change; the number of desertions rose sharply and African-Americans began to enlist. Though met with protests, African-Americans accounted for nearly 200K troops. Many of those serving felt that doing so would prove their worthiness of citizenship. The Confederacy did not begin to actively enlist slaves until the last few months of the war. Instead slaves kept their war effort on its feet in various places; slaves were still working on farms and plantations responsible for growing food for soldiers but fear of insurrection caused the need for “**home guards**” in the form of soldiers who guarded homes rather than fought in the larger war. Many slaves who remained in the South served as Union spies, guides, helped others escape, or helped Union POWs. The fact that the slave “rebellions” of the Civil War were more non-violent helped fully destroy the institution after the war. Lincoln replaced McClellan after Antietam with General AE Burnside, who launched a frontal attack on Lee’s troops at **Fredericksburg**, VA. After the defeat, Burnside handed the command over to Joseph “Fighting Joe” Hooker, who marched the Union troops to Chancellorsville for another try against Lee. The US lost again, but the win came at a price for the Confederacy with the loss of Stonewall Jackson. Despite this, Lee and his forces prepared to invade through PA. The newest appointee to commanded the Union army, General Meade, happened to be situated at Gettysburg, PA. The **Battle of Gettysburg** raged for three days, and was most defined by Confederate General Pickett’s charge4 and the extreme losses on both sides. The Confederate loss at Gettysburg was the beginning of a very slow end to the Confederacy’s war efforts. Months later, President Lincoln attended the dedication of the war cemetery placed in Gettysburg, delivering the two-minute “dishwatery” **Gettysburg Address**. The western theater finally provided Lincoln with generals he felt would be useful. The relatively undistinguished Ulysses S. Grant won attention after he captured Forts Henry and Donelson along the TN and Cumberland Rivers. He demanded from Confederate officials there “immediate and unconditional surrender.” The capturing of forts in TN opened a clear pathway into GA. Grants marched on the main Confederate railway crossings in MS, but was stopped just outside of the MS border at **Shiloh.** Other Union moves in the West including sailing the MS River in attempts to hold and/or blockade New Orleans. When New Orleans fell to the Union, Confederate troops moved their station north along the MS to Vicksburg. Grant caught up with Confederate troops at the **Battle of Vicksburg**, which resulted in the city’s surrender on July 4, 1863. Double victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg helped secure diplomatic support for the US; though Britain had not technically chosen a side, they stopped sending ships and supplies to the Confederacy. Grant continued to win battles throughout TN, where he was re-stationed, and further conquest of the South was left to General William Tecumseh Sherman. Sherman marched through GA burning captured cities, including Atlanta in 1864.5 “One of the major purposes of **Sherman’s march** was to destroy supply lines…and weaken the morale of men at the front by waging war on their homes.” This proved effective as the number of Confederate desertions increased. Sherman was a pioneer of “total war” even though it could be argued that he cut the conflict short by being so destructive. Sherman took over Savannah before he turned his troops north toward SC, “the hell-hole of secession.” Sherman’s march continued and set fire to Columbia, and kept moving for NC.The election of 1864 would prove a precarious one. It was to happen during the war, with Lincoln, hopefully, being put up for re-election. The Republican party was becoming more and more indecisive as the war continued. Even more threatening to Lincoln was the establishment of the **Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War**, which was dominated by “radical” Republicans who felt Lincoln had gone too far in various directions with the war. Northern Democrats, tainted by secession, split. “War Democrats” supported Lincoln and his administration, while “Peace Democrats” did not. Among them (the Peace Democrats), the **Copperheads** actively sought to obstruct the war and attack Lincoln’s policies. As the election neared, the Republicans joined forces with the War Democrats, proclaiming themselves the **Union Party**. Despite some controversy, Lincoln was formally nominated along with running mate Andrew Johnson of TN. The Copperheads and remaining Democrats nominated the “overcautious war hero” George McClellan. A line of Union victories helped secure Lincoln’s own in 1864. Mobile, AL was captured alongside Atlanta, and a victory was won in the Shenandoah Valley of VA. Lincoln’s win in the election extinguished one of the last few rays of light for a Confederate victory. After winning the election, Lincoln brought General Grant east to break up Confederate lines so they could no longer reinforce each other. Grant would lose about half of his men in the **Wilderness Campaign** of 1864, but started a string of Union victories that would last through the summer. Things took a turn when Grant approached Cold Harbor, VA to assault the forces of Robert E. Lee. There was no clear victory, but Lee was forced into a defensive position, which would mean that Grant would have to sacrifice many more soldiers if he wanted an outright win. Grant and Lee remained along this battle line for the remainder of 1864 and the early portions of 1865. Stalemated, the two sides began to meet to negotiate the end of the war. By his own precedent, “Lincoln could accept nothing short of Union and emancipation,” while South held firm to independence. Grant’s troops made a run at Richmond and captured the city. Jefferson Davis fled, reportedly in women’s clothing as to avoid being detected.6 Lee was cornered at **Appomattox Courthouse** in the spring of 1865. They agreed upon the terms of Lee’s surrender and as Grant put it, “The war is over, the rebels are our countrymen again.”Less than a week later, Lincoln was assassinated while visiting Ford’s Theater in Washington. His death would add to the aftermath of the Civil War though this was not apparent at first. For example, a number of ex-Confederates cheered his demise, though later they realized that his quest for moderation and willingness to listen would have spelled a better future for them over what Congress had in store. The assassination also served to increase the overall bitterness of the North, as many believed it was planned by Jefferson Davis or insert-other-famous-Confederate-name here. The US Civil war holds record for the greatest number of American casualties. Even after subsequent participation in wars, the Civil War still holds this record with 600K casualties. At the time, this would have been about 2% of the total population. Beyond the payment in human life, the war cost somewhere around $15B, not including pensions, bond or reparation payments, property damage, and the loss to American trade. Extremists for states’ rights were defeated long-term, as the “twin nightmares of previous decades”, nullification and secession were finally wiped out. Above all of this, two things were proven: American democracy could and would persevere, and America had been highly changed by war. The war had not broken the “American experiment” as much of Europe had hoped, but proved that it could instead endure. To the point that others were inspired, as seen in the **British Reform Bill of 1867**. “The preservation of democratic ideals, though not an officially announced war aim, was subconsciously one of the major objectives of the North.” The federal government, the idea of union, had won out, proving that if it ever left the world game, America would not be the one to take itself out. While the war had not broken American politics, it had broken the American spirit. The population of males who could have been politicians, professors, fathers, had been depleted. New technology moved the war along fasted but at an extreme cost as medical technology could not keep up. Most soldiers died of their battlefield wounds, while the lucky ones ended up with multiple limbs amputated. The change in thinking about war alone cause an increase in desertions on both sides. Before seeing battle, men thought war as a simple opportunity to become a hero, but after questioned why they would want to be one. This was never better described than by Stephen Crane’s “The Red Badge of Courage.” The war had pitted “brother against brother” quite literally, and the carnage that people witnessed first or second hand would make the decision to join war later much trickier.  | This chapter has a greater focus on battles and war strategies than politics or economics, with the exception of the Election of 1864.**First Battle of Bull Run (July 1861):** first major battle of the Civil War; as a victory for the South it dispelled Northern illusions of a quick end to the war.1. Experience? Check. Strategist? Check. Excellent moustache? Check. Lincoln’s favor? Um…Image result for george mcclellanPS: That’s McClellan on the right.**Peninsula Campaign (1862):** failed effort to seize Richmond that wound around the waterways of VA.Image result for peninsula campaign 1862**Seven Days’ Battles (1862):** Confederate counter against the Peninsula Campaign which forced McClellan’s troops to retreat. 2. Lincoln felt that McClellan’s indecisiveness and caution were detriments to the war effort. Again, “At one point Lincoln wrote to McClellan asking if he might borrow the army if McClellan wasn’t going to use it.” UNION STRATEGY, 1862: * Blockade Southern coasts
* Undermine economic foundations through liberating the slaves
* Seize control of the MS River
* March through strongholds, specifically GA and the Carolinas
* Capture Richmond
* Confederate military exhaustion

***Merrimack* and *Monitor*:** Confederate and Union ironclads respectively, whose successes spelled the end of wooden ships.**Second Battle of Bull Run (August 1862):** decisive Confederate victory which spurred Lee to push north.**Battle of Antietam (September 1862):** landmark battle that essentially ended in a draw but demonstrated the prowess of the Union army, forestalling foreign intervention and giving Lincoln the “victory” he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.**Emancipation Proclamation (Jan. 1, 1863):** declaration issued by Lincoln that slaves in the rebelling states were free though slaves in the border states would not be impacted; ended any prospect for compromise between the US and CSA on the issue of slavery. CAUSES OF THE US CIVIL WAR:* Preservation of the Union
* States’ rights
* Slavery
* Territorial expansion
* Economic expansion

EVENTS THAT DIDN’T HELP ANYTHING:* MO Compromise
* Nullification Crisis
* Popular Sovereignty
* Compromise of 1850
* KS-NE Act
* *Scott v. Sanford*
* Split in the Democratic Party
* Election of 1860
* Secession

3. There was a huge problem with the Proclamation in that Lincoln was legislating for areas over which he had no control. He stated that slaves within the rebelling states were henceforth free, leaving slaves in the border states out in the cold. This changed the outcome of the war because emancipation—the end of slavery—had to be adhered to for the war to fully end, otherwise what was the point of Lincoln saying anything?**Home guards:** Confederate soldiers stationed within the Confederacy to guard against slave uprisings.**Battle of Fredericksburg (December 1862):** decisive victory in VA for Lee/the Confederacy.**Battle of Gettysburg (July 1863):** major battle in PA that ended with Union victory; last attempt of a Confederate invasion of the US. 4. [Pickett’s Charge Map](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pickett%27s_Charge#/media/File:Pickett%27s-Charge-detail.png)**Gettysburg Address (1863):** Lincoln’s oft-quoted speech at the consecration of the Gettysburg battle cemetery in which he framed the war as a means to uphold the values of liberty and the Constitution.Related imageHere’s Lincoln at Gettysburg (that’s him in the yellow circle).GRANT CAMPAIGNS IN THE WEST**Battle of Shiloh (April 1862):** battle on the TN-MS border that ended in mass casualties and a slight Union victory.**Siege/Battle of Vicksburg (1863):** siege of Confederate fort along the MS River, which gave the Union army control of the river and split the South in two.**Sherman’s march (1864-1865):** General William T. Sherman’s destructive march through GA, SC, and NC which purposely targeted infrastructure and civilian property to cut supply lines and destroy morale.5. This is what’s known as a scorched-earth policy. It includes the burning and/or salting of the physical land so that it can no longer be used productively. **Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War:** established by Congress during the Civil War to oversee military affairs; largely under control of the “radical” Republicans who advocated for a more vigorous war effort and emancipation.**Copperheads:** northern Democrats who obstructed the war effort by attacking Lincoln, the draft, and emancipation**Union Party:** a coalition party of pro-war Democrats and Republicans formed during the 1864 election to defeat the anti-war Democrats.**Wilderness Campaign (1864-1865):** a series of clashes between Grant and Lee in VA leading up to the Union capture of Richmond and ultimate surrender of the Confederacy.6. The actual story goes a little more like this: Davis fled the capital before Grant was able to capture the city. He later participated in a public meeting that aimed to continue the Confederate war effort though no plans were ever carried out. After hearing of Lincoln’s assassination, he publicly lamented his counterpart’s death. In May, 1865, he formally dissolved the Confederate government, and turned himself in to Union officers. Davis’ wife put her shawl around him in the cold as he was sick, prompting the rumor mentioned. **Appomattox Courthouse:** site where Lee surrendered to Grant in April 1865.**British Reform Bill of 1867:**  granted suffrage to all male British citizens, dramatically expanding the electorate and making Britain more of a democracy. |