* Chapter 11
* The Civil War
* 1861-1865
* Section 1
* As the Civil War began, each side possessed significant strengths and weaknesses.
* Advantages of the Union:
  + Population-22 million as compared to 9 million (3.5 million of those are slaves) in the Confederacy
  + Industrialization-the North was far better prepared to wage a war than the agricultural South. The North possessed most of the nation’s coal and iron. They had mechanized factories, steady flow of European immigrants to work the factories, and the North could produce more ammunition, weapons, medical supplies, etc. faster and easier than the Confederacy could.
  + Large railroad network
  + Small but well-organized navy
  + Established government and outstanding leadership (Lincoln)
* Advantages of the Confederacy:
  + Psychological-like in all rebellions, the South was fighting for their survival. Most southerners truly believed in the Confederate cause. Everything was riding on this war for them.
  + Strong military traditions and leadership
    - Robert E. Lee
      * Virginian who opposed slavery and secession
      * Turned down an offer to lead the Union Army
      * Accepted the job of leading the Confederate Army
  + Strategic advantages-it didn’t need to conquer the North, it simply had to avoid defeat, expecting that in time the North would give up. Mostly, the Confederacy would be fighting a defensive war on familiar, friendly ground
* The Confederates war strategy had 2 main parts:
  + 1. Militarily, the South hoped to preserve its small armies while doing enough damage to grind down the Union’s will to fight.
  + 2. Politically, it hoped to win formal recognition from Britain and France.
    - Trade with these nations was crucial to the South since the supply of manufactured goods from the North was now cut off.
* The Union’s initial strategy was the **Anaconda Plan**:
  + 1. The Union would blockade southern ports, starving the South of income and supplies.
  + 2. Then, Union forces would drive southward along the Mississippi River.
    - Gaining control of this river would split the Confederacy in two, fatally weakening it.
* The Union also faced a tricky political question: how to prevent the secession of Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware and Maryland.
* These became known as the **Border States**. They allowed slavery, but had not yet joined the Confederacy.
* Lincoln knew it was crucial to keep them in the Union, so he took no definite stance on slavery. He insisted that his only goal was to save the Union.
* Lincoln was successful in keeping the Border States loyal to the Union.
* In July 1861, the Confederate and Union troops met outside of Washington DC at the **Battle of Bull Run** (Bull Run is a creek near Manassas, VA).
* Early in the battle the Union troops took the upper hand, but a stand by Confederate General Thomas J. Jackson forced the Union troops to retreat.
* Confederates named their hero **Stonewall Jackson** because, like a stone wall, he refused to yield.
* The Battle of Bull Run or Battle of Manassas, is important because it was the first major land battle of the Civil War and it made the war real to many.
* It was a shock to those who thought the war would end quickly and who were unprepared for the carnage that modern warfare would produce. In one battle the Union had lost roughly 3,000 men and the Confederacy 2,000.
* Lincoln called for more Union volunteers and he brought General George McClellan on board.
* Next, Union General **Ulysses S. Grant** pursued the Mississippi Valley wing of the Anaconda Plan.
* In February 1862, he launched the attack and capture of 2 Confederate strongholds:
  + Fort Henry on the Tennessee River
  + Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River
* He drove the Confederates out of western Kentucky and Tennessee and boosted northern morale.
* However, the **Battle of Shiloh** (AKA Battle of Pittsburg Landing) broke out on April 6, 1862 in Tennessee and in just 2 days, 25,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed or wounded.
* The Battle of Shiloh horrified both the North and the South and it damaged Grant’s reputation.
* While Shiloh shocked the public, it did not slow down the course of the war.
* Few of the major battles of the Civil War took place at sea. However, one notable exception occurred in 1862 when the Union ship *Monitor* clashed with the Confederate ship *Virginia* off the Virginia coast.
* Even though neither ship won the battle, the engineering of these 2 ships signified the beginning of the end of wooden ships.
* While Union and Confederate forces continued to square off, the outcomes did not prove decisive for either side.
* Union **General George McClellan** was a skilled leader and loved by his troops, but he was also very cautious. He did not want to execute any plans until he felt his troops were ready.
* McClellan’s caution created tension with Lincoln.
* Lincoln forced McClellan to act in the spring of 1862 and so he attempts to take Richmond, VA.
* In a series of battles known as the **Seven Days** (June 26-July 2), General Robert E. Lee took advantage of McClellan’s cautious style. McClellan retreated to Washington.
* After this Lincoln replaced McClellan, but this change did not prove to help. At the **Second Battle of Bull Run** in late August 1862, the Confederates, under Stonewall Jackson’s leadership, greatly defeated the Union forces.
* Lincoln reinstates McClellan and soon he and Lee will face off in the bloodiest battle of the Civil War.
* Section 2
* Even though Lincoln had decided to take no definite stance on slavery, several events forced him to make a decision:
  + Abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison were impatient with Lincoln’s policies and kept up the pressure for an end to slavery.
  + Slavery was unpopular in Europe and antislavery sentiment was one reason Great Britain was reluctant to aid the Confederacy. Lincoln knew that if the Union took a definite stance against slavery, they could ensure Britain’s support.
* As the war dragged on, Lincoln knew this would be the time to end slavery.
* Lincoln secretly began working on a plan for the emancipation (freeing) of the slaves living in Confederate states. Lincoln and his cabinet decided the announcement should wait until the Union had a lead in the war or a decisive victory.
* In September 1862, General Lee led his troops into Maryland, a border state where many favored the South. Lee hoped to start a pro-Confederate uprising, he thought a victory on Union soil might encourage European recognition of the Confederacy and he also hoped to acquire an abundance of food and supplies for his hungry army.
* Things did not go according to Lee’s plans. The people of Maryland were not as enthusiastic about the Confederate Army’s arrival. Also, Lee’s battle plans were found by Union soldiers and so his element of surprise was lost.
* The 2 armies met at Sharpsburg, Maryland along Antietam Creek for the **Battle of Antietam** on September 17.
* Union troops attacked Lee’s army in 3 phases, moving from one side of the Confederate line to another.
* More than 23,000 soldiers were killed or wounded and Antietam marked the bloodiest single day of the Civil War.
* Lee retreated to Virginia and Antietam was a Union victory (even though the Union lost more men).
* Antietam was the victory Lincoln needed to go ahead with emancipation of the slaves.
* On September 22, 1862, Lincoln formally announced the **Emancipation Proclamation**, which freed all enslaved people in states still in rebellion after January 1, 1863.
* It did not apply to Border States loyal to the Union or to places that were already under Union military control.
* Lincoln hoped the proclamation might encourage some southern states to surrender before the January 1 deadline.
* Many abolitionists and some members of Congress criticized Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation claiming it did not extend far enough because it did not totally abolish slavery.
* The EP is important because was a turning point in the war:
  + For northerners, it redefined the war as being “about slavery.”
  + For white southerners, the call to free the slaves ended any desire for a negotiated end to the war.
  + For black northerners, it made them eager to join the Union Army and fight against slavery.
    - Just two months prior, the Union had issued the **Militia Act**, mandating that black soldiers be accepted into the military.
* With the Emancipation Proclamation, the Union moved from *allowing* blacks in the military to *recruiting* them.
* The all-black 54th Massachusetts Regiment was created and by the war’s end more than 180,000 African American volunteers had served in the Union military.
* Black soldiers fought with bravery and shattered racist thoughts from white military leaders that they would not be good soldiers.
* Still, black troops faced prejudice. They were usually assigned menial tasks, such as cooking, cleaning or digging latrines. They often served the longest guard duties and were placed in exposed battle positions.
* Nevertheless, African Americans supported the Union and some 70,000 were killed in battle.
* Southern slaves also played an important role in the war. White owners often left their plantations for the safety of southern cities, leaving their trusted slaves to manage the farm. Advancing Union forces often received food, directions, and information from these slaves.
* Section 3
* Paying for the war was a major economic challenge. To help meet the cost the Union government:
  + Introduced a taxed based on income
  + Raised tariffs (this also helped northern industries because it raised the cost of imported goods)
  + Sold government bonds (In return for the purchase price, the buyer received a certificate promising to pay the holder a larger amount of money at a future date.)
* To increase the amount of cash in circulation and to help people buy war bonds, Congress passed the **Legal Tender Act** in 1862. This law allowed the Treasury to issue paper money (called “greenbacks” because of the color).
* The Civil War helped bring about changes in the use of land in the West. Since the South had seceded, slavery was no longer an issue in these territories. In 1862, Congress passed the **Homestead Act**, making western land available at very low cost to those who would farm it.
* In 1863, the Union instituted **conscription**, the draft, to meet the unending demand for fresh troops.
* Under this system, any white man between the ages of 20 and 45 might be called for required military service. However, a man could pay $300 to hire a replacement. Thus, the burden of conscription fell mostly on recent immigrants (wage workers) and the poor. Many resented this and also worried about losing their jobs to African Americans, who were not subject to the draft.
* Anger over the draft led to violence and in New York in July 1863, a mob of poor white working men went on a four-day rampage in the **Draft Riot**.
* Another angry group called the “**Peace Democrats**” or the **Copperheads** opposed Lincoln’s conduct of the war and demanded an end to the fighting. Most remained peaceful and loyal to the Union.
* Lincoln, however, had to deal with the chaos so he suspended the constitutional right of **habeas corpus**, which protects a person from being held in jail without being formally charged with a specific crime. Lincoln empowered the military to arrest people suspected of disloyalty to the Union and those who participated in draft riots.
* The Civil War made great economic demands in the South as well. Unlike the North, the Confederacy lacked the resources to meet these demands. As the war continued, the South seemed in danger of collapse.
* The most pressing threat to the Confederacy was the blockade of southern ports by the Union. The Union blockade was about 80% effective and southerners were forced to depend almost entirely on their own farms and factories. This was complicated by nearby military operations.
* Most of the South’s wealth was invested in land and slaves. Most of that slave labor was dedicated to producing market crops. Since the war drastically reduced the value of these assets, President Davis was left with few sources of money with which to finance the Confederate military efforts.
* Southerners seized every opportunity to ease their economic pains. When possible, Confederate soldiers seized Union weapons, food and supplies—often from bodies on the battlefield.
* The Confederacy issued paper money backed by the government’s promise to pay. Many doubted the value of Confederate money. Prices soared as those with items to sell demanded more cash. This inflation, combined with a shortage of food, led to riots in some parts of the South.
* These hardships weakened southern unity. Some states refused to send troops outside their borders or allow their troops to serve under the commander of another state.
* As in the North, the South enacted a draft, seized private property for the war effort and suspended habeas corpus. In response some called for Davis’ impeachment and in Georgia there was even talk of seceding from the Confederacy!
* The life of a soldier:
* This was the first time many men had traveled around the U.S.
* Most battled homesickness and boredom. When they weren’t preparing for battle, the wrote letters home, played games and attended religious revivals.
* Modern technology caused horrible injuries for soldiers. The most frequent treatment was amputation of limbs—sometimes without anesthesia because of the shortage of medicine.
* Poor drinking water and lack of sanitation led to the rapid spread of illness in the camps. For every soldier killed, two died of disease.
* The worst of all was the prison camps:
  + POWs faced overcrowding and filth while in captivity
  + African American prisoners in Confederate camps were usually executed
  + The most notorious camp was at Andersonville, GA (during its 15 months of operation, more than 12,000 Union prisoners died of disease and malnutrition.
* Many families suffered divided loyalties, especially in the Border States. Some fathers and sons or brothers fought on different sides.
* Women played important roles in the Civil War:
  + Many took over family businesses and farms while the men were away fighting
  + Some African American women served as spies or guides
  + The most notable military role for women was nursing.
    - **Clara Barton** was the most famous. After collecting medical supplies in her community, she secured permission to travel with Union Army ambulances to assist.
* Section 4
* In 1863, the major focus of the Union’s western campaign remained the Mississippi River. The Anaconda Plan depended on gaining control of the river and cutting the South in half.
* Vicksburg, Mississippi was a major Confederate stronghold and the key to gaining control of the Mississippi River.
* The Vicksburg fortress was tall and well-fortified. Confederate gunners shot down any boats that approached. Vicksburg’s location protected it from land or water attack. Grant made 2 failed attempts to capture it.
* In the Spring of 1863, Grant devised a new plan to take Vicksburg:
  + First, he marched his troops southward through Louisiana to a point south of Vicksburg.
  + At the same time, he ordered a new cavalry attack on rail lines in central Mississippi to draw Confederate attention away from the city of Vicksburg.
  + On April 30, Grant’s men crossed the Mississippi River to capture the state capital of Jackson.
* After sacking Jackson, the Union Army turned west toward Vicksburg and placed the city under siege. For over a month, Union guns kept up a steady fire from land and river, which gradually weakened the Confederates.
* On July 4, 1863, the Confederates forces at Vicksburg surrendered.
* A few days later, when it learned of the defeat at Vicksburg, the Confederate garrison at Port Hudson also surrendered, placing the Mississippi River in Union hands. The Confederacy was now split in two.
* While Union troops advanced in the West, the situation was different in the east.
* Lincoln replaced McClellan with **General Ambrose Burnside**, as commander of the Union Army, hoping to win some decisive victories in the east.
* In December of 1862, the armies of General Lee and General Burnside met at the **Battle of Fredericksburg** (Virginia).
* Lee was aided by Generals Longstreet and Jackson and they soundly defeated Burnside.
* Lincoln then replaced Burnside with **General Joseph Hooker**, who launched another offensive against Lee in the spring of 1863.
* Lee and Hooker met at the **Battle of Chancellorsville** (Virginia), where the Union suffered another devastating loss.
* Even though the Confederates won at Chancellorsville, they suffered a terrible loss, General Stonewall Jackson was killed. Lee pressed on and decided to invade the North.
* Union General George Meade met Lee in the town of Gettysburg, PA in July of 1863.
* The **Battle of Gettysburg** lasted 3 days. Fighting went to the Confederates on the first day, but the momentum shifted the next two days. Confederate General George Pickett made one last stand called “Pickett’s Charge,” which failed. The South suffered a crushing defeat.
* Lee abandoned his invasion of the north after losing 1/3 of his army and marched back to Virginia.
* Over 50,000 were killed or wounded, making Gettysburg the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil.
* Gettysburg is important because it turned the tide of the war in favor of the Union.
* Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address motivated the Union to connect the massive human sacrifice to “a new birth of freedom” for the U.S.
* The Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg were a severe blow to the Confederacy and left the Mississippi in Union control.
* Lincoln placed Grant in charge of the Union Army in early 1864.
* Grant then launches a massive campaign on Richmond, VA engaging Lee’s army in a series of battles: the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House and Cold Harbor.
* Grant followed a strategy of **total war**, which involves striking civilian as well as military targets. The purpose of total war is to weaken not just an enemy’s armies but also the economy that supports them and the overall will of the people to fight.
* The goals of total war included:
  + Strike military *and* civilian targets
  + Destroy materials and crops that enemy forces might be able to use
  + Destroy railroads and factories to damage the local economy
  + Break the people’s will to continue fighting
* Sherman’s “March to the Sea”
* The Union’s total war strategy was also implemented by General William Sherman. In May of 1864, he set out from the Tennessee-Georgia line with 60,000 troops on a 250-mile march to capture the port of Savannah.
* During his March to the Sea, Sherman ordered his men to get supplies by looting along the way, then to destroy anything of potential value left behind.
* Cutting a 60-mile-wide path through Georgia, Sherman’s army tore up railroad tracks, destroyed buildings and vandalized hundreds of private homes.
* Confederate troops abandoned Atlanta and Sherman’s men occupied in on September 2, forcing the residents to leave. Once Atlanta was emptied, Union troops burned it to the ground.
* Sherman continued and captured Savannah in late December.
* In the election of 1864, the Democrats nominated George McClellan.
* The Republicans nominated Lincoln.
* Union victories boosted Lincoln’s popularity and he won the election.
* Lincoln’s victory destroyed any last hopes that the North would cave in and negotiate a peace.
* Section 5
* Grant moved on to Petersburg, VA where the Confederates would make one final stand. Petersburg was a strategic railroad center and if Grant captured it, he could cut all supply lines to Richmond.
* After almost 9 months of fighting and almost 70,000 casualties on both sides, the Union took Petersburg.
* As the Confederate’s position looked more and more desperate, southerners began to talk about peace.
* Confederate VP Alexander Stephens met with Lincoln to discuss a practical end to the war. However, these talks were not successful, mostly because Congress had just passed the **13th amendment** to the Constitution, which, if ratified, would outlaw slavery in the U.S.
* The Confederate peace delegation was unwilling to accept a future without slavery.
* Lincoln focused on how to bring the Confederate states back into the Union. This proved difficult, as many Northerners had a strong desire to punish the South harshly.
* Lincoln had a very different goal. While committed to the defeat of the Confederacy and an end to slavery, he believed that the Union should take a more generous stance with the Confederate states.
* On April 2, 1865, Lee ordered a retreat from Petersburg. Richmond was evacuated and burned.
* Lee formally surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia on April 9, 1865.
* Grant refused to allow his troops to celebrate. He said, “The war is over and the rebels are our countrymen again.”
* On April 14, just days after Lee’s surrender, Lincoln decided to relax by seeing a play at Ford’s Theater in Washington.
* During the performance, John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln in the back of the head at point blank range. Lincoln died the next morning.
* Several days later Booth was shot and killed. It was later discovered that Booth was part of a plot to kill not only Lincoln, but also the VP and the Secretary of State. Their goal was to cause chaos and panic in the North, thereby giving the South time to regroup and continue the war.
* Booth was the only one to carry out his part of the plot. Four of his accomplices were later hanged as coconspirators.
* Lincoln’s death had a profound impact:
  + His murder united his northern supporters and critics, who now saw him as both a hero and a symbol of freedom
* Roughly 600,000 Americans were killed in the Civil War. Taken as a percentage of today’s population, that would be 6 million people. These were losses Americans had never before experienced.
* The war would have lasting effects:
  + **Economically**- The North’s industrial boom caused by the war continued. In contrast, many of the South’s major cities, factories and railroads lay in ruins. The South struggled to regain its economic footing after the war, often relying on northern investment.
  + **Socially**- The South was in shambles. Many Confederate soldiers returned home to find their homes and plantations destroyed. Many dislocated white southerners drifted aimlessly; defeat had shaken them to the core of their beliefs. Other southerners, however, saw the war as a lost but noble cause. These people never forgot the struggle and believed the South would be redeemed.
  + **Politically**-In many ways, the Civil War eased the history of disunity in American political life. Sectional differences remained strong, but never threatened secession again. Debates over states’ rights did not end with the war, but the war helped cement federal authority; states do not have the right to break the national bond forged by the Constitution.