

# Unit 7: *The Civil War*

## Lecture 7.1 • *The Call to Arms*

### *The Onset of War*

- In April, 1861, few people thought that a war between the states would last more than a few weeks.

In fact, the citizens of Charleston were so *excited* about the idea that they came out to see the “fireworks” at Fort Sumter.

### *Choosing Sides*

- In late April, four of the pro-slavery “border states” (Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland) decided to remain loyal to the Union.
- The other pro-slavery border states (Arkansas, Tennessee, N. Carolina & Virginia) seceded, ... but not before the western part of Virginia broke away, and joined the Union.
- On both sides, families were split as brothers, fathers, sons, uncles, and cousins joined separate armies because of their differing beliefs.
- 100,000 Southerners enlisted in the Confederate army. They joined for various reasons:
  - to keep slavery alive
  - to maintain the superior status of whites in the South, and
  - in defense of their belief in states’ rights.
- 75,000 enlisted in the Union forces. They also enlisted for different reasons:
  - to restore the Union and keep the country whole,
  - limit the spread of slavery, and keep the West open for free labor, and
  - to abolish slavery completely.
- Many young men on both sides enlisted simply because they thought it would be an “adventure”.

Sadly, they would soon learn that war is not a game...



**Union soldiers were known as “Billy Yank”. Name three other uses of the term “Yank” or “Yankee” in today’s world.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lecture 7.2 • *Strengths & Weaknesses*

### *Strategic Position*

| UNION                      | CONFEDERACY                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| had to move into the South | could fight a defensive war |

### *Soldiers*

| UNION                    | CONFEDERACY       |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| factory & office workers | farmers & hunters |

### *Navy*

| UNION    | CONFEDERACY |
|----------|-------------|
| 90 ships | 14 ships    |

### *Industry*

| UNION                                                                                                                | CONFEDERACY                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% of American factories</li> <li>• \$1.8 billion in production</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15% of American factories</li> <li>• \$150 million in production</li> <li>• had to trade with Europe</li> </ul> |

### *Railroads*

| UNION                      | CONFEDERACY                |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 71% of national rail lines | 21% of national rail lines |

### *Communication*

| UNION                  | CONFEDERACY                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| wide telegraph network | still used mounted couriers |

### *Population*

| UNION      | CONFEDERACY |
|------------|-------------|
| 22 million | 9 million   |

### *Military Leadership*

| UNION                                                                   | CONFEDERACY   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Winfield Scott<br>George McClellan<br>Henry Halleck<br>Ulysses S. Grant | Robert E. Lee |



**Rank the top three Union advantages. Which do you think will have the greatest influence on Union victory.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lecture 7.3 • *The Order of Battle, part 1: 1861-63*

★ = Union victory    ☆ = Confed. victory    ✓ = draw

### 1861

| Event                          | Outcome | Notes / Significance                          |
|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Confederates bomb _____        | ☆       |                                               |
| _____ breaks away              | —       | • Virginia secedes; West Virginia stays loyal |
| Battle of 1st _____ / Manassas | ☆       | • proved that Union troops were untrained     |

### 1862

| Event                           | Outcome | Notes / Significance                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Union _____ of Southern ports   | ★       | • cuts Confederacy off from European supplies                                                             |
| Battle of the _____             | ✓       | • the <i>Monitor</i> and the <i>Virginia</i> fight to a draw in Charleston Harbor                         |
| Battle of Ft. _____ / Ft. _____ | ★       | • secures upper Mississippi for Union                                                                     |
| Battle of _____                 | ★       | • furthest western battle of the war                                                                      |
| Battle of _____                 | ☆       | • first large-scale battle of the war<br>• 23,000 killed                                                  |
| Battle of _____                 | ★       | • Union Navy captures the port city                                                                       |
| Battle of 2nd _____             | ☆       |                                                                                                           |
| Battle of _____                 | ★       | • bloodiest single day of the war<br>• Union “wins” due to overwhelming numbers & telegraph communication |
| _____                           | —       | • all slaves in the Confederacy are “freed”                                                               |
| Battle of _____                 | ☆       | • Union loses due to poor leadership                                                                      |

### 1863

| Event                 | Outcome | Notes / Significance                          |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Congress passes _____ | —       | • Union Army begins drafting men into service |
| Battle of _____       | ☆       | • Lee’s army loses thousands of men           |

**to be continued ...**

## Lecture 7.4 • *Free at Last*

### *Fighting for Freedom*

- As the Civil War dragged on into its 2nd year, many Northerners began to seriously reevaluate why they were fighting.
- Even though the war was started in order to restore the Union, abolitionists argued that the war must also serve to rid the nation of slavery.
- From the moment he was elected president, President Lincoln was pressured by abolitionists to make some kind of statement of gesture about the evils of slavery.
- Lincoln was also being pressured by England to end slavery. The British even threatened to join the Confederacy if the North didn't abolish slavery!
- And so, on September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**. Technically, the Proclamation made slavery illegal in any parts of the U.S. that were still rebelling.
- Lincoln knew though that the Proclamation wasn't going to actually free anyone. The Proclamation was a political and symbolic move that...

... weakened the authority of the Confederate govt.

... showed England that the Union was serious about ending slavery, thereby gaining their support, and

... appeased the abolitionists, by changing the goal of the war to the abolition of slavery.

- The biggest impact of the Proclamation though was that it gave hope to African-Americans all across the country that the end of 250 years of slavery might really be on the horizon.



**Yeah, um...  
who is this?**

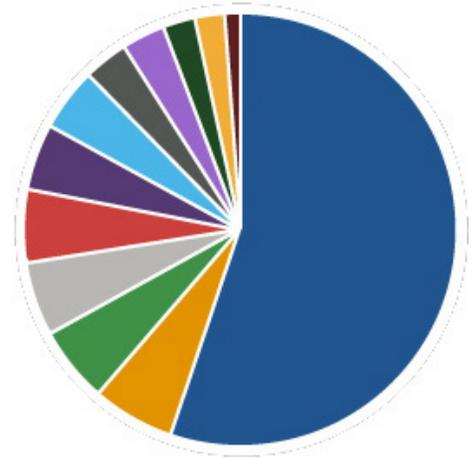
### *Black Americans in the War*

- Also in the summer of 1862, Congress passed a law which allowed black men to join the Union military. Ten of thousands of freemen and the formerly enslaved rush to enlist.
- The officers of the new, all-black units had to be white, and the black soldiers were only paid half of what white soldiers were.
- Despite these inequalities though, 200,000 black men joined the Union Army and Navy.
- The most famous of the all-black units was the **Massachusetts 54th Regiment**. Their story is told in the film *Glory*.
- The millions of enslaved people in the South did their part in the war as well. Some acted as spies for the Union, others organized campaigns of sabotage, and many risked their lives by refusing to work.

## Lecture 7.5 • *The Home Front*

### *Support for the War*

- As the war dragged on into its second full year, support for the Union cause began to dwindle.  
  
Fewer and fewer people wanted to fight against the Confederates ... especially for the freedom of black people.
- In 1863, as enlistment continued to decline, Congress passed the Conscription Act, and started to draft men — mainly poor Irish immigrants — into the army.
- In New York, thousands of people rioted against the draft.
- President Lincoln eventually declared martial law in the city ... but not before 400 people had been killed in the riots.
- The South also had its troubles. Georgia actually threatened to secede from the Confederacy, and by 1864, the South was so short on man power that they actually resorted to putting armed slaves in the army!
- Both sides were so desperate for money to supply their armies that they printed huge amounts of currency, and for the first time in U.S. history, imposed income taxes on their citizens.



**Not a lot has changed in 150 years. In the pie chart above which shows discretionary federal tax spending in 2020, what does the big slice represent?**

### *Women in the War*

- Women played a large role in the Civil War. They ...
  - replaced many men in the factories,
  - worked as nurses and spies,
  - and even fought in combat disguised as men.

**martial law:**  
law enforcement by the military

## Lecture 7.6 • *The Order of Battle, part 2: 1863-65*

★ = Union victory    ☆ = Confed. victory    ✓ = draw

### 1863 cont.

| Event           | Outcome | Notes / Significance                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Battle of _____ | ★       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• turning point of the war</li> <li>• first Union defeat of Robert E. Lee</li> <li>• Spencer rifles repel rebels at Cemetery Ridge</li> <li>• 53,000 killed or wounded</li> </ul> |
| Battle of _____ | ★       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• first definitive Union victory</li> <li>• secures the Mississippi River for the Union</li> </ul>                                                                                |
| Battle of _____ | ☆       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demise of the Massachusetts 54th</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     |
| Battle of _____ | ★       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confederate siege of Tennessee is ended by rapid arrival of Union troops by train</li> </ul>                                                                                    |
| _____           | —       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Four-score, and seven years ago...”</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                 |

### 1864

| Event                    | Outcome | Notes / Significance                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Battle of _____          | ✓       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• first major battle with Grant as Union commander</li> </ul>                                                                                       |
| Battle of _____          | ★       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,000 dies in 20 minutes!</li> </ul>                                                                                                              |
| Sherman's _____          | ★       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Union's campaign of “_____” against the South</li> <li>• supported by massive Union supply lines</li> <li>• destruction of Atlanta</li> </ul> |
| _____ of Abraham Lincoln | —       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### 1865

| Event              | Outcome | Notes / Significance                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Battle of _____    | ✓       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wide use of “_____”</li> </ul>                                                         |
| Seige of _____     | ★       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confederate capitol captured</li> <li>• rebel government begins to collapse</li> </ul> |
| Surrender at _____ | ★       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lee surrenders his sword to Grant</li> <li>• April 9th</li> </ul>                      |

# Lecture 7.7 • *Civil War Retrospective*

Why is the Civil War so important to the study of American history?

## I. *Changes in Warfare*

- The U.S. Civil War was the last of the world's "classic" wars — with their rigid troop movements and gentlemanly codes of conduct ... and the world's first "modern", technological wars.
- No war in world history produced more new weapons, ideas, and military techniques than the U.S. Civil War.

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| hand grenades   | submarines            |
| flame-throwers  | automatic weapons     |
| gas warfare     | aerial reconnaissance |
| heavy artillery | armored ships         |
| etc.            |                       |



**Not a lot of soldiers in the 1860s had pocket cameras, so... who are these guys?**

## II. *Federalism vs. States' Rights*

- The Civil War made clear that no state (or group of states) would ever be more important than the country as a whole.
- The federal government would ensure that the U.S. remain one united nation ... even if it had to use force to do so.

## III. *A New Birth of Freedom*

- And finally, the Civil War answered a question left over from the time of the Revolution:

In the Constitution,  
who exactly are the "we" in, "**We the people**"?

The answer is that "**we**" are not just white people, and that the rights of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" cannot be denied to any American because of the color of their skin.