The Civil War
Chapter 15.1

I. The War Begins
   • Civil war broke out between the North and the South in 1861.

   A. Following the outbreak of war at Fort Sumter, Americans chose sides.
      • Seven southern states had seceded before Lincoln took office.

      • Lincoln refused to recognize secession and tried desperately to save
        the Union.

      • Confederate officials began seizing federal-mint branches, arsenals,
        and military posts.

   B. Fall of Fort Sumter
      • Federal outpost in Charleston, South Carolina

      • Confederate forces asked for its surrender.

      • Lincoln refused and sent ships with supplies.

      • Confederate cannons began firing on April 12, 1861.

      • Fort Sumter fell 34 hours later.

      • Civil War had begun.

   C. Reaction of Lincoln’s Call
      • Lincoln declared the South was in rebellion and asked state governors
        for 75,000 militiamen; Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and northern states
        responded.

      • Slave states of the Upper South—North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia,
        and Arkansas—seceded.

      • Border states—Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri—between
        the North and South did not join the Confederacy, but people were
        divided on the war.

      • Western Virginia supported the Union and set up its own state
        government as West Virginia in 1863.
D. The North Versus the South

1. The North
   - Population of 22 million
   - Some 22,000 miles of railroad track
   - More developed industrial economy, banking system, and currency
   - Had to occupy large areas of enemy territory
   - Strategy—General Winfield Scott planned to blockade southern ports and to capture Mississippi River to divide the South

2. The South
   - Population of 5.5 million
   - About 9,000 miles of railroad track
   - South had to start printing its own money
   - Advantage of fighting on home soil
   - Strategy—tried to win foreign allies through cotton diplomacy: idea that Britain would support Confederacy because it needed the South’s cotton

E. The Union and the Confederacy prepared for war.
   - Volunteer armies would fight the battles. Thousands of men joined the armies.
   - Civilians helped those in uniform.
     — Raised money, ran hospitals, served as nurses
     — Sent supplies to troops
   - Both armies faced shortages of clothing, food, and weapons.
   - Volunteers had to learn the military basics of marching, shooting, and using bayonets.
II. The War in the East

A. Union and Confederate forces fought for control of the war in Virginia.
   1. First major battle of Civil War in Virginia, in July 1861
      — Union army of 35,000 under General Irvin McDowell
      — Confederate army of 22,000 under General Pierre G. T. Beauregard

   2. Clashed at Bull Run Creek near Manassas
      — Additional 10,000 Confederates arrived
      — Confederate troops under General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson
        held against Union advance

   3. Confederates counterattacked
      — Union troops retreated

   4. Confederates won First Battle of Bull Run, also known as the first
      Battle of Manassas

B. More Battles in Virginia

   • General George B. McClellan placed in charge of 100,000 soldiers,
     called Army of Potomac

   • Confederate army in Virginia under command of General Robert E. Lee

   • Lee attacked Union forces in series of clashes called Seven Days’
     Battles and forced Union army to retreat in June 1862

   • Union and Confederates fought again at Second Battle of Bull Run, or
     Second Battle of Manassas, in August 1862; Confederates again forced
     a Union retreat

C. Robert E. Lee

   • Born into wealthy Virginia family in 1807

   • Graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point

   • Fought in Mexican-American War
Lincoln had asked Lee to lead Union army at start of Civil War
Lee declined and resigned from U.S. Army to become a Confederate general

D. The Battle of Antietam gave the North a slight advantage.
- Confederate leaders wanted to follow Lee’s victories in Virginia with victory on northern soil.
- Lee’s Confederate troops and McClellan’s Union army met along Antietam Creek in Maryland on September 17, 1862.
- The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest single-day battle in U.S. history, with more than 12,000 Union and 13,000 Confederate casualties.
- It was an important victory for the Union, stopping Lee’s northward advance.

E. The Confederacy attempted to break the Union naval blockade.
- Union navy controlled the sea and blockaded southern ports
- Hurt southern economy by preventing the South from selling and receiving goods
- Some small, fast ships got through blockade, but the number of ships entering southern ports was reduced from 6,000 to 800 a year.

F. Clash of the Ironclads
- Confederacy turned to new type of warship—ironclads, or ships heavily armored with iron
- Captured Union ship Merrimack, turned it into ironclad, and renamed it the Virginia
- Successfully attacked the wooden ships of the Union
- Met by Union ironclad, the Monitor, in battle near Hampton Roads, Virginia, in March 1862 and forced to withdraw
  — Designed by John Ericsson
  — Had a revolving gun tower and thick plating
- The Monitor’s success saved the Union fleet and continued the blockade.
III. The War in the West

A. Union strategy in the West centered on control of the Mississippi River.

- **Ulysses S. Grant** was commander of Union forces in West
  - Bold and restless, he wanted to attack.

- Western campaign focused on taking control of Mississippi River
  - Would cut eastern part of Confederacy off from food sources in West
  - Union could use bases on Mississippi to attack communication and transportation networks

- Grant’s Army of Tennessee captured Confederate forts on Tennessee and Cumberland rivers in February 1862

- Both sides claimed victory in bloody two-day **Battle of Shiloh** in April 1862, but Grant’s forces had driven Confederates back into Mississippi

B. Control of the Mississippi River

- U.S. Navy moved upriver to meet Grant, who was moving down the Mississippi

- First obstacle was port of New Orleans—largest Confederate city and gateway to the Mississippi

- Fleet under Admiral **David Farragut** captured New Orleans in April 1862

- He then took Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Natchez, Mississippi

C. Siege of Vicksburg

- Farragut ordered surrender of strategic Vicksburg, Mississippi, in May 1863

- Location on 200-foot-high cliffs above the Mississippi made invasion nearly impossible

- Grant decided to starve the city into surrender; began **Siege of Vicksburg** in mid-May
• Facing starvation, city surrendered on July 4

D. Confederate and Union troops struggled for dominance in the Far West.
• Union halted attempts by Confederate armies to control lands west of the Mississippi in Colorado and Arizona in 1861
• Confederates failed to take border state of Missouri, losing Battle of Pea Ridge in 1862
  — Cherokee Native Americans aided the Confederates, hoping that they would give them greater freedom.
• Pro-Confederate forces remained active in region throughout the war, forcing Union commanders to keep troops in area
IV. Daily Life during the War
   • The lives of many Americans were affected by the Civil War.

A. The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in Confederate states.
   • Millions of enslaved African Americans were at the heart of the nation’s bloody struggle.

   • Abolitionists wanted Lincoln to free the slaves.

   • Lincoln found emancipation, or freeing of slaves, a difficult issue.
      — Did not believe he had constitutional power
      — Worried about the effects

B. Proclamation and Reaction
   1. Emancipation Proclamation
      • Democratic Party opposed

      • Abolitionists said war was pointless without freedom for African Americans.

      • Some predicted it would anger voters.

      • On September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves only in areas controlled by Confederacy, effective January 1, 1863

   2. Reaction
      • African Americans gave thanks.

      • Abolitionists rejoiced.

      • Some noted that system of slavery still existed

      • Encouraged many enslaved African Americans to escape when Union troops came near

      • Loss of slaves crippled the South’s ability to wage war
C. African Americans participated in the war in a variety of ways.
   • African Americans volunteered to fight.
   
   • The War Department gave *contrabands*, or escaped slaves, the right to join the army in South Carolina.
   
   • The mainly African American *54th Massachusetts Infantry* was celebrated for its bravery.
   
   • About 180,000 African Americans served with the Union army.

D. President Lincoln faced opposition to the war.
   1. Copperheads
      • *Copperheads* were northern Democrats who began speaking against the war.
      
      • Many were midwesterners who sympathized with the South and opposed abolition.
      
      • Lincoln suspended *habeas corpus*, or protection against unlawful imprisonment, to jail the enemies of the Union.
   
   2. Northern Drafts
      • Critics erupted when Congress approved the draft, or forced military service. For $300, men could buy their way out of service. For unskilled workers, this was a year’s wage.
      
      • Bloody rioting broke out in New York, killing 100 people.

E. Life was difficult for soldiers and civilians alike.
   • Civil War armies fought in ancient battlefield formations that produced massive casualties.
      — Endless rows of troops fired directly at one another.
      — Many men died to gain every inch of ground.
   
   • Doctors and nurses saved many lives.
      — They had no medicines to stop infections.
   
   • The biggest killer in the war was disease, such as typhoid, pneumonia, and tuberculosis.
• Military prisoners on both sides lived in misery.
  — They had little shelter, food, or clothing
  — Starvation and disease killed thousands.

F. Life as a Civilian
• The war effort involved all levels of society.

• Women and males too young or too old for military service worked in factories and on farms.

• Women were the backbone of civilian life on farms, performing daily chores usually done by men.

• Union volunteer Clara Barton organized the collection of medicine and supplies for delivery to the battlefield.

• In the South, Sally Louisa Tompkins established a small hospital that became a major army hospital.
V. The Tide of War Turns
   • Union victories in 1863, 1864, and 1865 brought the Civil War to an end.

A. The Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 was a major turning point in the war.
   • Largest and bloodiest battle of Civil War
   • More than 51,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, captured, or went missing in three days.
   • It was an important victory for the Union because it stopped Lee’s plan of invading the North.

B. Battle of Gettysburg
   1. First Day
      • Lee’s forces were gathered at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1, 1863.
      • Ran into Union forces under General George G. Meade, starting Battle of Gettysburg
      • Union took up defensive positions

   2. First Day
      • Lee’s forces were gathered at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1, 1863.
      • Ran into Union forces under General George G. Meade, starting Battle of Gettysburg
      • Union took up defensive positions

   3. Third Day
      • Lee planned attack on center of Union line
      • General George Pickett led 15,000 men in Pickett’s Charge, a failed attack on Cemetery Ridge.
      • Lee began planning retreat to Virginia
C. Aftermath of Gettysburg

1. Turning point.
   - Gettysburg was turning point of war—Lee would never again attack in the North
   - Some 23,000 Union and 28,000 Confederate casualties
   - Victory came same day as Union capture of Vicksburg
   - Britain and France refused to aid South after battle

2. Gettysburg Address
   - Lincoln gave speech called Gettysburg Address at dedication of battlefield cemetery
   - Praised bravery of Union soldiers and renewed commitment to winning the war

D. During 1864, Union campaigns in the East and South dealt crippling blows to the Confederacy.
   - Lincoln was impressed with Grant’s victories; gave him command of Union army
     —Grant forced Lee to fight series of battles in Virginia that stretched Confederate soldiers and supplies to limit

   - Wilderness Campaign: series of battles designed to capture Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, in 1864
     —Grant kept moving toward Richmond but suffered huge casualties.
     —Failure to capture Richmond by election of 1864 distressed Lincoln

E. Sherman Strikes the South
   - Lincoln needed victory for Union army to help him win reelection in 1864
   - General William Tecumseh Sherman’s campaign to destroy South’s railroads and industries provided Lincoln his victory
• Sherman’s 100,000 troops marched south from Tennessee in spring of 1864 to capture Atlanta, Georgia, in September, and Savannah in December
• Sherman practiced total war, destroying civilian and economic resources, in the hope of ruining the South’s economy and ending its ability to fight. He hoped this would speed the end of the war.

F. Union troops forced the South to surrender in 1865, ending the Civil War.
• Grant broke through Confederate defenses at Petersburg, Virginia, and Lee retreated to Richmond on April 2, 1865.

• Grant surrounded Lee’s army.

• Lee surrendered to Grant at the small town of Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, on April 9, 1865.

G. Effects of the War
• Civil War had deep and long lasting effects
  — Almost 620,000 Americans killed

• South’s defeat ended slavery
  — Majority of former slaves, however, had no homes or jobs

• Southern economy in ruins

• Tremendous amount of hostility remained
  — Questioned how the United States could be united again