



Lincoln's Cabinet

study guide



Introduction:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the house to fall - but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other."

-Abraham Lincoln

The American Civil War (also known as War Between the States) was virulent and probably the most important thing in America's history. The war was fought between 1861 and 1865 in order to ascertain the endurance of the Union or independence for the Confederacy. In 1861, seven southern states declared their withdrawal from the United States and established a whole new nation which is Confederate States of America known as the Confederacy or The South. Then four states joined this new nation. On the other hand the states that stay within the US known as The Union or The North.

Under the conditions of war, slave labor became an immense profit to the Confederate cause, which their Union rivals hoped to remove. Early in the war, the U.S. Congress took steps toward this end. In a series of Confiscation Acts, it declared that slaves used by southerners for the welfare of the rebellion could be licitly taken by Union forces. The second Confiscation Act, of July 1862, enunciated all slaves behind Union lines "forever free." **Definition of Key Words:**

Abolitionist: Someone who wishes to abolish or get rid of slavery.

Antebellum: (pronounced *an-tee-bel-uhm*) A term often used to describe the United States of America before the outbreak of the Civil War.

Arsenal: A place where weapons and other military supplies are stored.

Artillery: Cannon or other large caliber firearms; a branch of the army armed with cannon.

Blockade: The effort by the North to keep ships from entering or leaving Southern ports.

Border States: The states of Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, and Missouri. Although these states did not officially join the Confederacy, many of their citizens supported the South.

Campaign: A series of military operations that form a distinct phase of the War.

Casualty: A soldier who was wounded, killed, or missing in action.

Cavalry: A branch of the military mounted on horseback. Cavalry units in the Civil War could move quickly from place to place or go on scouting expeditions on horseback, but usually fought on foot. Their main job was to gather information about enemy movements. Until the spring of 1863, the Confederate cavalry force was far superior to its Federal counterpart.

Charge: To rush towards the enemy.

Commutation: Stipulation adopted by both the Union and Confederate governments which allowed certain draftees to pay a fee in order to avoid military service.

Because the fee was higher than the average worker's annual salary, this provision angered less-wealthy citizens on both sides of the war.

Company: A group of 50 to 100 soldiers led by a captain.

10 companies = 1 regiment,
about 4 regiments = 1 brigade,
2 to 5 brigades = 1 division, 2
or more divisions = 1 corps, 1
or more corps = 1 army.

Confederacy: Also called the South or the Confederate States of America, the Confederacy incorporated the states that seceded from the United States of America to form their own nation. Confederate states were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Confederate: Loyal to the Confederacy. Also Southern or Rebel.

Conscript: A draftee. The military draft became a necessity on both sides of the conflict.

Coup de Main: (pronounced *koo-duh-mahn*) A French term used to describe a quick, vigorous attack that surprises the enemy.

Federal: Loyal to the government of the United States. Also known as Union, Yankee, or Northern.

Fortification: Something that makes a defensive position stronger, like high mounds of earth to protect cannon or spiky breastworks to slow an enemy charge. (**Attack**)

In Detail: To destroy the enemy piece by piece — by attacking smaller segments one at a time — instead of attacking the entire force all at once. **Infantry:** A branch of the military in which soldiers traveled and fought on foot. **Juggernaut:** An overwhelming, advancing force that crushes or seems to crush everything in its path.

Militia: Troops, like the National Guard, who are only called out to defend the land in an emergency.

Navy: A branch of the military using ships to conduct warfare.

North: Also called the Union or the United States the North was the part of the country that remained loyal to the Federal government during the Civil War.

Northern states were: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin. West Virginia became a Northern state in 1863 and California and Oregon were also officially Northern but they had little direct involvement in the War.

Rebel: Loyal to the Confederate States. Also Southern or Confederate.

Republican Party: A political party created in the 1850s to prevent the spread of slavery to the territories. Eventually Republicans came to oppose the entire existence of slavery. Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president. Very few Southerners were Republicans.

Secession: Withdrawal from the Federal government of the United States.

Slavery: The state or condition of being a slave; a civil relationship whereby one person has absolute power over another and controls his life, liberty, and fortune.

South: Also called the Confederacy, the Confederate States of America, or (by Northerners) the Rebel states, the South incorporated the states that seceded from the United States of America to form their own nation. Southern states were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

States Rights: This doctrine held the powers of the individual states as greater than the powers of the Federal government.

Territory: Land within the mainland boundaries of the country that had not yet become a state by 1861.

Total War: A new way of conducting war appeared during the Civil War. Instead of focusing only on military targets, armies conducting total war destroyed homes and crops to demoralize and undermine the civilian base of the enemy's war effort.

Union: Also called the North or the United States, the Union was the portion of the country that remained loyal to the Federal government during the Civil War.

Historical Background:

In the middle of 19th century, during the time The United States of America was growing enormously, there was a huge difference between the North and the South economically. In the North, manufacturing was well established and agriculture was limited to small farms. On the other hand the South's economy was mostly based on the farming which counted on black slaves to grow harvest like cotton and tobacco. After 1830s, the number of abolitionist were growing fast, and northern's being against to the extention of slavery into the new territories made the South anxious about their economy since the slavery was the backbone of it.

In 1854, the U.S. Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which fundamentally opened all new territories to slavery by asserting the rule of popular sovereignty over congressional edict. Pro- and anti-slavery forces struggled violently in "Bleeding Kansas," while opposition to the act in the North led to the formation of the Republican Party, a new political entity based on the principle of opposing slavery's extension into the western territories. After the Supreme Court's ruling in the Dred Scott case (1857) confirmed the legality of slavery in the territories, the abolitionist John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry in 1859 convinced more and more southerners that their northern neighbors were bent on the destruction of the "peculiar institution" that sustained them. Lincoln's election in November 1860 was the final straw, and within three months seven southern states—South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas—had seceded from the United States.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views:

Abraham Lincoln:

Abraham Lincoln grew up in a log cabin in rural Kentucky and went on to become the 16th President of the United States. In 1858, he decided to challenge Stephen Douglas for his seat in the U.S. senate. Though Lincoln lost the election, he got the attention of national Republican Party leaders and won the party's nomination for President in 1860. In the national race, he again faced Stephen Douglas. Lincoln won the election but his views on slavery did not make him a welcome leader in the south. By his inauguration in March, 1861 seven Southern states had seceded from the Union. At first, Lincoln made the war about maintaining the union so as not to offend the loyal slave states. But eventually, he shifted the cause to abolishing slavery and on January 1st, 1863 Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shot the president at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C.

Jefferson Davis:

Jefferson Davis occupies a unique place in American history, as he was a prominent political figure who became the president of a nation formed in rebellion to the United States. Before siding with the rebellion of the slave states in 1861, Davis had a fairly illustrious career. He had served in the U.S. Army and had been wounded while serving heroically in the Mexican War. Serving as secretary of war in the 1850s, his interest in science inspired him to import camels for use by the U.S. Cavalry. He also served as a U.S. Senator from Mississippi before resigning to join the rebellion. Many might have believed that Jefferson Davis would one day become president of the United States.

Republican Party:

Republican Party, byname Grand Old Party (GOP), in the United States, one of the two major political parties, the other being the Democratic Party. During the 19th century the Republican Party stood against the extension of slavery to the country's new territories and, ultimately, for slavery's complete abolition. During the 20th and 21st centuries the party came to be associated with laissez-faire capitalism, low taxes, and conservative social policies. The party acquired the acronym GOP, widely understood as "Grand Old Party," in the 1870s. The party's official logo, the elephant, is derived from a cartoon by Thomas Nast and also dates from the 1870s.

Democratic Party:

Democratic Party, in the United States, one of the two major political parties, the other being the Republican Party. The Democratic Party has changed significantly during its more than two centuries of existence. During the 19th century the party supported or tolerated slavery, and it opposed civil rights reforms after the American

Civil War in order to retain the support of Southern voters. By the mid-20th century it had undergone a dramatic ideological realignment and reinvented itself as a party supporting organized labour, the civil rights of minorities, and progressive reform. Since Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal of the 1930s, the party has also tended to favour greater government intervention in the economy and to oppose government intervention in the private noneconomic affairs of citizens. The logo of the Democratic Party, the donkey, was popularized by cartoonist Thomas Nast in the 1870s; though widely used, it has never been officially adopted by the party.

Timeline of Events:

1861

January: The South Secedes. Immediately after Abraham Lincoln is elected President, South Carolina calls a state convention to remove itself from the United States of America. South Carolina is quickly followed by Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas. Later, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina also secedes, forming the Confederate States of America.

April 12, Battle of Fort Sumter Charleston Harbor, South Carolina
The bombardment/siege and ultimate surrender of Fort Sumter by Brig. General P.G.T. Beauregard was the official start of the Civil War.

June 3, Battle of Philippi, (West) Virginia

A skirmish involving over 3,000 soldiers, Philippi was the first battle of the civil war.

June 10, Battle of Big Bethel, Virginia

July 11, Battle of Rich Mountain, (West) Virginia

July 21, First Battle of Bull Run Manassas, Virginia

Also known as First Manassas, the first major engagement of the civil war.

November 7–8, Battle of Port Royal Sound, South Carolina

The battle of Port Royal was one of the earliest amphibious operations of the American Civil War.

November 7, Battle of Belmont, Missouri

General Ulysses S. Grant took command and began his Civil War career.

1862

February 8, Roanoke Island, North Carolina

March 8–9, Battle Of Hampton Roads, Virginia

First battle between the ironclad warships, *Monitor & Merrimack*.

April 5–May 4 Siege of Yorktown, Virginia

June 26, Beaver Dam Creek, Virginia*

June 27, Gaines Mill, Virginia*

June 27–28, Garnett's Farm and Golding's Farm, Virginia*

June 29, Savage Station and Allen's Farm, Virginia*

June 30, White Oak Swamp, Virginia*

June 30, Glendale, Virginia*

July 1, Malvern Hill, Virginia*

(*Collectively known as the Seven Days Campaign or Seven Days Battles.)

August 9, Battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia

August 28–30, Second Battle of Bull Run Manassas, Virginia

September 12–15, Harpers Ferry, (West) Virginia

September 14, Battle of South Mountain, Maryland

September 17, Battle of Antietam / Sharpsburg

September 19–20, Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia

Union General George McClellan pursued Robert E. Lee through three mountain passes during the Maryland Campaign. December 11–15, Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia

February 6, Fort Henry, Tennessee

February 11–16, Siege of Fort Donelson, Tennessee

March 3–April 8, Siege of New Madrid and Island No. 10, Missouri (Mississippi River)

April 6–7, Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee

May 25–30, Siege of Corinth, Corinth, Mississippi

Henry Halleck took Corinth after a month-long siege.

June 28, Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi

August 29, Battle of Richmond, Kentucky

October 3–4, Battle of Corinth, Mississippi

Two years after the Siege of Corinth, Maj. General William S. Rosecrans defeated the Confederate Army.

October 5, Hatchie's Bridge, Tennessee

October 8, Battle of Perryville, Kentucky.

Account of the 21st Wisconsin Infantry Regiment's harrowing fight.

December 31–January 2, Battle of Stones River / Murfreesboro, Tennessee

The culmination of the Stones River Campaign, the battle of Stones River had the highest casualty rates on both sides. March 8, Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas

October 4, Battle of Galveston, Texas

1863

April 30–May 6, Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia

May 3, Fredericksburg, Virginia

July 1–3, Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

April 10, Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

Account of the bloody confederate slaughter in Franklin, Tennessee.

May 18–July 4, Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi

September 18, Battle Of Chickamauga, Georgia

November 23-25, Battle Of Chattanooga, Tennessee November 24, Lookout Mountain (Chattanooga), Tennessee

1864

May 5–7, Battle Of The Wilderness, Virginia

May 6–7, Port Walthall Junction, Virginia

May 8–21, Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, Virginia

May 15, Battle of New Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia The Confederates, along with cadets from VMI, drove Union General Franz Sigel out of the Shenandoah Valley.

May 31-June 12, Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia

June 15–18, Battle of Petersburg, Virginia

July 30, Battle of the Crater, Siege of Petersburg, Virginia

September 21–24, Battle of Fisher's Hill, Virginia

Union Major General Philip H. Sheridan attacked the seemingly impregnable heights of Fisher's Hill, grandly known as the 'Gibraltar of the Shenandoah Valley.'

April 12, Battle of Fort Pillow, Tennessee

Nathan Bedford Forrest led a massacre in Tennessee.

May 7–13. Rocky Face, Georgia

May 13–15, Battle of Resaca, Georgia

Major General William T. Sherman took on Joseph E. Johnston during the Atlanta campaign.

July 22, Battle of Atlanta, Georgia

December 15–16, Battle of Nashville Nashville, Tennessee

The battle of Nashville was the last major battle in the Western Theater and a major victory for the Union.

December 24–27, Fort Fisher, North Carolina

August 5, Battle of Mobile Bay **1865**

April 5, Amelia Springs, Virginia*

April 6, Rice's Station, Virginia*

April 6, Saylor's Creek, Virginia*

April 6–7, High Bridge, Virginia*

April 7, Cumberland Church, Virginia*

April 8, Appomattox Courthouse at Appomattox Station, Virginia* April

9, General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia (*Collectively known as the

Appomattox Campaign.) **Bibliography:**

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