
History 1301
U.S. to 1877

Unit 4 - Lecture 2

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The Civil War

The Central Event in US History:

- 1870s - Irrepressible Conflict: theory about not being able to be avoided. “House divided can not stand” Freedom vs. Slavery - caused by Southern Immorality ~ a morality war
- 1890s – Northern capitalism vs. Southern slave based plantations. Slavery was central issue ~ a economic model / economic culture war.
- 1920s – Both Northern capitalists and Southern slave agriculture trying to manipulate the National Gov’t to protect each special interests ~ a political war
- 1950s – Two different nations inside one country. Not merely economic, but social and cultural differences ~ a people’s and culture war
- Revisionists – the war was avoidable, Slavery was modifiable, bad political leadership. The evolution to the sectional party system led to political impasses ~ a waste of human resources
- Today – all those and more. Slavery begins to evolve and become successful in new crops and in industrial settings ~ a war for socio-economic leadership (?)

Secession and beginnings:

- Reaction to Lincoln's victory
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- Dec 20, 1860 to Feb 1861 - 7 Southern States seceded – SC, MS, FL, AL, GA, LA, TX
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 - Off-shore Fed installations and resources didn't fall
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 - Non-violent withdrawal - Republicans wait
- Washington Gov't tried to find a compromise
 - Republicans wouldn't allow extension of slavery
 - Constitutional amendment guaranteeing slavery in states already having it. Passes congress, but not enough for South
 - Crittenden Compromise – Missouri Compromise but Republicans refuse to have slavery in Territories
 - Lincoln said Federal property must be maintained, and re-supplied Ft. Sumter
 - Confederate National Gov't order PGT Beauregard to take Fort Sumter
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 - Lincoln calls for 75K 90 day volunteers
 - Remaining boarder states seceed VA, AK, TN, NC
 - Slave states, MD, DL, KY, and MO stay in Union

The Threshold of war

- Why they fought:
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 - “Black Republicans” v “Cotton Confederacy”
 - North – preservation of the Constitution
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 - South – defense of the rights of self-gov’t and “property”
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- Opposing camps:
 - North – all material advantages
 - 3X the non-slave population
 - 22M vs 6M white & 3M slaves
 - 75% of produced wealth / 75% of farm acreage
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 - 16K Much of military admin – but decapitated & old
 - Navy of 42/ 92 ships – but Blue Water – no River Navy
 - Border States “more productive” than Upper South
 - South – under manned, under equipped and smaller
 - Fighting a defensive war & beginning morale
 - European need for Cotton / Smuggling tradition
 - Upper South VA, TN, NC Very vulnerable to attack
 - 50% of manufacturing & food production
 - 50% of horses, mules / 40% of Army

Mobilization of the North:

- Economics: “Free from the bondage of Cotton”
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 - Homestead Act of 1862 – 160 acres of land for filing fee after living on it for 5 years
 - Morrill act gave public land to states for public education – Land Grant Colleges
 - As the war progressed banking, transportation and manufacturing were strengthened, but weakened merchants
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 - Transcendental Railroad at Fed expense
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 - National Banking Acts 1863 & 4
 - 33% of assets in Gov’t securities which paid interest in gold
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 - Financing the war through Income tax and bonds
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 - \$400M war bonds / \$2.6B in institutional debt
 - Raised the Army – over 2M total
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 - March 1863 Draft law - \$300 exemption (46K drafted)
 - Units local and discharges honored

Northern Political response:

- Lincoln's leadership:
 - Initially seen as weak player
 - National Republican cabinet
 - Balanced Republican & War Dem opinions in cabinet
 - Minimized conflict with Great Britain
 - Good relationships with "War Democrats"
 - Extra-constitutional actions
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 - Suspended Habeas Corpus – mostly boarder states
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 - Elections of 1862 & 1864
 - 1862 elections - lost ground but not majority
 - Sacks McClellan after elections
 - 1864 referendum on Lincoln's leadership and pulled out by Sherman's Atlanta victory
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- Toward Black Emancipation:
 - Effort was never about integration or social equality
 - Radical Republicans wanted the war to abolish slavery (half of cabinet)
 - - Freemont in Missouri Sept 1861
 - Adm Hunter on occupied Carolina Coast – May 1862

Emancipation and African Americans

- Emancipation
 - Conservatives wanted to keep border states in & prevent social and economic chaos in South
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 - 1862 Congress Abolish. Slavery in DC / Territories
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 - 1862 Confiscation Act – property of rebellious were confiscated & President could enlist Blacks
 - Union Army led popular opinion about abolition and about the employment of Black soldiers
 - September 1862 Emancipation Proclamation
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 - Took affect on 1 January 1863
 - De-facto object of the war was abolition of slavery
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- African-Americans
 - 165K officially served Union cause / many unofficial
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 - Used mostly as support, engineers or garrison
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 - Freedmen's Inquiry of March 1863
 - Needed help – land, education and justice
 - Suggested 40 Acres for each freedman
 - Sherman's Special Order 15 – Jan 1865

South's reaction:

- Seen as a 2nd Revolutionary War
- Capitol moved to Richmond in June, 1861
- President Jefferson Davis – thought of himself as a military genius
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- 1863 – Income tax but used paper money for war
- 1861 – Volunteers – 1862 Draft law
 - Raised 500K soldiers
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 - 1865 decision to draft blacks
- Social impact of war:
 - Lack of manpower to run agriculture & industry
 - Cities, Industrialization & Banking grew
 - Significant war weariness & class tension
 - Slaveholder exemption causes social dissention
 - Increasing inflation kills pre-war elites
 - Tax in kind / Cotton smuggling
 - Lack of labor gave black labor some recognition
 - Food production / distribution – couldn't feed itself
 - Unionist partisans / "Backwater" dissidents
 - Chaos & anarchy during military failures / deserters

War:

- Northern war objectives – destroy Confederacy’s ability to resist:
 - 1864 became the destruction of the South’s society
 - Grant understood – unremitting attacks and war of attrition
 - Develop the River-borne industrial navy for invasion
- South war objectives – win recognition and protect nation from invasion
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 - Keep the war going long enough for Union to become discouraged
 - Win foreign recognition – British Navy as savior
- Technology
 - Mini-ball percussion musket – accurate and rapid
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 - Armored warships / submarines / “River Navy”
 - Trench & “prepared” defensive warfare
 - Railroad and telegraph provide centralized control and coordinated widely decentralized actions and massive logistical feats
 - Mass factory production

Early War:

- 1861 Strategy:
 - Union must hold Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee – try to control Mississippi River
 - Union drive to conquer Richmond as Confederate Capital
- First Bull Run July 1861:
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 - Timely reinforcements from Joseph E Johnston dispersed Union attack
- Western theater till June, 1862:
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 - Fort Henry & Donnellson in Feb 62 – Grant gives Union Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers
 - Shiloh in April 62 – A.S. Johnston Killed
 - Bloodiest day so far 10K killed each side
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 - Memphis June 62 – Farragut
- Eastern theater in 1862:
 - McClellan – builds massive Army of the Potomac
 - Peninsula Campaign – April through July 1, 1862
 - Jackson in the Valley during June 1862
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 - Second Bull Run – August, 29-30 1862 Lee vs. Pope
 - Antietam – Sept. 17, 18 62 Lee vs. McClellan
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- Union Blockade tightened
 - Merrimac vs. Monitor April 62
 - Alabama and other commerce raiders

1863 - 65:

- 1863 Eastern Theater:
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 - Chancellorsville May 18 63 – Lee vs. Hooker
 - Jackson dies
 - Gettysburg July 1863 Lee vs. Meade becomes the “high water mark” of the rebellion
- 1863 Western Theater:
 - Vicksburg Campaign defeated western Confederate Army
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 - Union freedom to invade central south at will
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- 1864 Grant takes unified command:
 - War of attrition and destruction of enemy will
 - Two pronged attack
 - Tightened Blockade
 - Wilderness to Petersburg May – June 1864
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 - Makes Hood’s 1864 drive into Tennessee irrelevant
- 1865
 - Sherman destroyed the infrastructure & plunders at will
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 - The end of the fighting
 - Lee Surrenders at Appomattox Courthouse, VA April 9, 1865
 - Johnston surrenders in Greensboro, NC, April 13–18, 1865
 - Lincoln killed April 14th