

Nuts and Bolts of Civil War/Reconstruction Unit

Sectionalism

Differences between the various regions of the United States had a great impact on the events leading up to the Civil War.

The North

- Industrialized
- Largest cities
- More Transportation networks
- More immigrants

The South

- Plantation farming
- After Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin, cotton became the major cash crop
- Plantation system relied heavily on slave labor

Competition over the West

The North and the South tried to maintain a balance of slave states and free states (because of Senate representation), so they fought over slavery status of western territories.

Missouri Compromise (1820)

- Banned slavery in the Louisiana Territory over the 36 degree 30'N latitude
- Missouri entered the Union as a slave state and Maine entered as a free state

Compromise of 1850

- California entered the Union as a free state
- **Fugitive Slave Law**-required that escaped slaves be returned to their owners
- **Popular Sovereignty**-(the vote of the people living in the territory) would decide whether a territory in the Mexican Cession would be slave or free

Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

- Overturned the Missouri Compromise
- Allowed Kansas and Nebraska to decide the slavery issue by **popular sovereignty**
- **Bleeding Kansas**-people rushed into the territory to vote on the issue and violence broke out

Nullification Crisis

The government was first faced with the issue of **nullification** (states declaring laws voids) in 1789. After the federal government passed the controversial **Alien and Sedition Acts**, the **Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions** were passed in those states, declaring that Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional (violating the First Amendment) and that they had a right not to follow them.

The issue of nullification came up again more forcefully in the 1820s. Southern states opposed the **Tariff of 1828** because they thought it favored the industrial North. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina argued that states had the right to nullify any federal law they deemed unconstitutional. President Jackson declared South Carolina's actions treasonous but the issue was never fully resolved.

The Dred Scott Case

In the case of **Dred Scott v. Sanford** (1857), the Supreme Court ruled that African-Americans were not citizens and therefore were not entitled to constitutional protections. They ruled that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional because slaves were property and Congress could not deprive people of their property (slaves) by forbidding slavery in a territory.

Abolition Movement

Abolition was an antislavery movement. Some of its major leaders were:

- Frederick Douglass
- Harriet Tubman (**Underground Railroad**)
- Sojourner Truth
- William Lloyd Garrison
- John Brown (led a raid of a federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry with the intention of arming a slave revolt; unsuccessful and was executed for treason)
- Nat Turner (led a massive slave revolt and was later convicted and executed for it)

The Election of 1860

- Democratic Party was split between North and South and each side ran its own candidate for president
- Republican **Abraham Lincoln** won with only 39% of the popular vote
- Lincoln opposed the extension of slavery
- Southern states were angered by his election and threatened to **secede** (leave the Union)

Secession

- South Carolina was the first state to secede in December 1860
- Eventually, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas seceded as well, forming the **Confederate States of America**.

The Civil War

Firing on Fort Sumter

Fighting began on April 12, 1861 when the South seized Fort Sumter and Lincoln sent Federal troops to put down the rebellion.

Lincoln's Primary goal was to preserve the Union.

Northern Advantages in Civil War

- More industry and natural resources
- More troops
- Better transportation network

Southern Advantages in Civil War

- Fighting largely defensive war
- Good Military leaders
- Believed strongly in their cause

The Battle of Antietam

- Lee and Davis marched across Maryland to invade North
- North and South fought major battle at Antietam Creek
- 6,000 soldiers killed in one single day
- **Bloodiest** single day of the war
- Lee retreated to Virginia;

The Battle of Gettysburg

- Turning point in the war-last time the South attacked on Northern soil
- **Gettysburg Address**-Lincoln gave a speech at the Union military cemetery at Gettysburg about the meaning of the Civil War.

The Battle of Vicksburg

- Union forces capture New Orleans
- Union worked their way up the Mississippi eventually dividing the South in two

The Emancipation Proclamation

- Freed all slaves in those areas in rebellion against the United States
- Symbolic value but could not be enforced at the time

The End of the War

The war ended with Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender at **Appomattox Court House** on April 9, 1865.

Lincoln's Assassination

- Weeks after the surrender of South
- Assassinated on April 15, 1865
- Shot by John Wilkes Booth
- Had he lived, he was prepared to forgive the South and to work together as Americans dedicated to a system of government based on liberty, equality, and unity.

Reconstruction Era (1865-1877)

Politics of Reconstruction Plans

- **Lincoln's Plan:** lenient treatment of South: 10% of voters swear allegiance to Constitution, state would be readmitted.
- **Johnson's Plan:** allowed Southern state governments to be made up of former Confederates. States passed "Black Codes" which restricted freedmen's rights.
- **Radical Reconstruction Plan:** a group of Congressmen sought to punish the South.
 - **Reconstruction Act** imposed harsh treatment with military rule in South.
 - **Civil Rights Act** and Fourteenth Amendment gave rights to freedmen.
 - **Impeachment-** Radical Republicans tried but failed to impeach President Johnson.

Civil War Amendments

To be readmitted to the Union, each Southern state had to approve these amendments:

- **Thirteenth Amendment (1865):** abolished slavery in the nation.

- **Fourteenth Amendment (1868):** guaranteed states give citizens basic civil rights and equality, including “due process of law” and “equal protection of the law.”
- **Fifteenth Amendment (1870):** gave the right to vote to former slaves (but not women).

Despite these amendments, Southern states deprived African Americans of their rights when Northern troops withdrew in 1877.

Reconstruction in South

- **Freedmen’s Bureau:** Federal agency to help former slaves
 - Provided food, clothing and health care.
 - Set up schools to educate freedmen.
- **Carpetbaggers and Scalawags:** Northerners took control of Southern governments during reconstruction with freedmen.
- **Hiram Rhodes Revel:** was the first African American elected to Congress
- **Sharecropping System:** Freedmen occupied plantation owner’s land in exchange for landowner getting a share of the crop. Served to keep freedmen in virtual slavery.

The West: Opening Great Plains

- **Homestead Act (1862):** made cheap land available to settlers
- **Morrill Act (1861):** set up agricultural and mining colleges to help settle the West.
- **Transcontinental Railroad (1869):** made travel easier to the West.
- **Dawes Act (1887)** and “**Indian Wars**”: removed Indians to government reservations in the West.

The North: Second Industrial Revolution

- Civil War stimulated growth of nation’s industries, immigration and cities.
- New technologies, like Bessemer Process and laying railroad lines, promoted industry.
- Period saw rise of national labor unions

