

CHAPTER 20

North And South At War, 1861–1865

(Note: The last two chapters focused on the key questions of the avoidability and/or inevitability of the monumental Civil War. If people before the war had had historical foresight and could have seen the true horror of the four-year fight to the death which was to follow, do you think that leaders might have worked harder to find a compromise solution? Might the North have let the South go in peace?)

1. Lincoln, Fort Sumter, and War Aims (pp. 434–438)

a. Read the Lincoln quote leading off the chapter carefully. Lincoln had a unique opportunity and responsibility to define the objectives of the conflict from the Union perspective. He clearly does not say that an objective of the war is to free the slaves. What is the “central idea” for Lincoln? *** Why did he think that letting the South go in peace would make the idea of popular government “an absurdity”?

b. List three of the more practical reasons for resisting southern secession mentioned by the authors in the first section. *** Then put a (+) or a (–) by each one, depending on whether or not you feel that the problem was serious enough to have used force to keep the South in the Union.

(+) or (–)

(1)

(2)

(3)

c. Lincoln’s problem of uniting the North to resist southern secession was aided when southern soldiers fired first, on the federal Fort _____ in the harbor at _____, South Carolina, in _____ of 1861. He knew that the balance of power could be tipped by the crucial border states of _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____. How were Lincoln’s stated war aims designed to appeal to these slave-holding border states?

2. Balance of Forces (pp. 438–441) List below some of the relative strengths of both the North and South (assuming that a strength of one side is a weakness of the other) going into the war.

SOUTH

NORTH

3. Foreign Involvement (pp. 441–444)

a. How do the authors define the differing attitudes toward southern independence between the European aristocracy and the masses of working people?

(1) Aristocracy:

(2) Masses:

b. Two incidents almost brought Britain, which needed cotton imports from the South, into the war. One was the _____ Affair in which the U.S. took two Confederate diplomats off an English ship. The other involved the willingness of the British to build ships for the South, which could be used for raids such as that of the _____ (ship name), on northern shipping.

4. Lincoln and Liberties (pp. 444–447)

a. The authors imply here that Lincoln’s personality and temperament were better suited to national leadership in an emergency than Jefferson Davis because Davis was too particular about following his own Constitution. List two examples of Lincoln’s exercise of arbitrary power. *** What do you think of such actions in wartime?

(1)

(2)

(3) Opinion:

b. Although most fighting men on both sides were volunteers, the _____ (North or South) had a deeper pool of manpower. Looking at the draft laws, cite an example for both North and South to support the charge that it was “a rich man’s war but a poor man’s fight.”

(1) North:

(2) South:

5. Economic Aspects of War (pp. 447–450)

a. (Note: You should have a basic understanding of who pays the huge cost of fighting a war. Especially try to grasp the inflationary impact of a government just printing more paper currency to pay its bills.) The _____ (North or South) was better able financially to pay for the war. As you read the section beginning on p. 447, put a (+) in the column of the side that relied most heavily on each of these three means of financing, and a (–) in the other column.

NORTH

SOUTH

(1) Taxes and tariffs:

(2) Bonds and borrowing:

(3) Printing money:

b. Compare and contrast how the North and the South emerged from the war economically.

(1) North:

(2) South:

c. During the war, many women went into industrial employment for the first time. In the “caring professions,” Dr. Elizabeth _____ helped organize the U.S. _____ Commission (predecessor to today’s Red Cross) and Clara _____ helped expand and transform the _____ profession.

CHAPTER 20 TERM SHEET

North and South at War

Pages 434–438

Fort Sumter (April 1861)

Richmond, Va.

Border states

North's war aims

Pages 438–441

Robert E. Lee

“Stonewall” Jackson

Ulysses S. Grant

Pages 441–444

Trent Affair (1861)

The *Alabama*

The “Laird rams”

Dominion of Canada (1867)

Maximilian/Mexico (1863)

Pages 444–447

Jefferson Davis

Blockade

Writ of Habeas Corpus

Conscription Law (1863)

“Three-hundred dollar men”

Draft riots

Pages 447–450

Income tax

Morrill Tariff Act (1861)

“Greenbacks”

War bonds (Jay Cooke & Co.)

National Banking System (1863)

Homestead Act of 1862

U.S. Sanitary Commission