**Chapter 14**

The Civil War

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Fourteen should enable the student to understand:**

1. The reasons to reach a compromise in the time-honored way failed in 1860 and 1861.
2. The unique problems faced by the newly inaugurated President Lincoln, and his use of executive powers to solve them up to July 4, 1861.
3. The many interpretations of the causes of the Civil War advance by historians.
4. The ways in which the Confederate States of America compared with the United States in manpower, natural resources, finances, industrial potential, and public support.
5. The significant legislation enacted by Congress once southern members were no longer a factor.
6. The considerations involved in President Lincoln’s decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, and its reception in the North, in the South, and in Europe.
7. The basic structure of the government of the Confederate States of America, how it differed from that of the United States, and how it dealt with the vital questions of states’ rights.
8. The efforts of President’s Lincoln and Jefferson Davis to act as commanders in chief under their respective constitutions.
9. How other nations, particularly England and France, viewed the struggle, how their courses of action affected the outcome.
10. How the American Civil War was part of a worldwide movement to create large consolidated nations.

**Chapter 14**

**Pertinent Questions**

**THE SECESSION CRISIS**

1. On what constitutional interpretation was the concept of secession based? Which states were the first to secede and what

was the reaction of the United States government to this?

2. What compromises were proposed to bring these sates back into the Union, and why did they fail?

3. What was Abraham Lincoln’s opinion on the legality of secession, and how was that opinion reflected in his action

concerning Fort Sumter?

4. Lincoln’s decision to re-supply Fort Sumter presented the South with what dilemma? How did the Confederates react?

Faced with this action on the part of the South, what did Lincoln do, and how did the other slave states respond?

5. How have historians answered the question “Was the Civil War inevitable?” Who are the historians answering this question,

and what evidence dot hey use to support their answers?

6. What advantages did the Union have in the Civil War? What were the advantages of the Confederacy?

**THE MOBILIZATION OF THE NORTH**

7. How did the Republican Party act to expand the American economy during the war? To which pre-war part was their

program similar? Why were they able to enact it, whereas the previous party had not been?

8. How did the Union propose to finance the war? How successful was this? What was the effect on the economy?

9. How did the Union propose to raise troops? To what extent was it forced to use conscription? What was the reaction to this

and why was it so varied?

10. What were the characteristics of Lincoln as a leader? How were these characteristics reflected and in his selection and use

of his cabinet?

11. What was Lincoln’s view of the extent of presidential war powers? Who were the opponents of the war, and how did

Lincoln use these powers against them? What was the outcome?

12. For what reason was the “Union Party” created? Who were its candidates?

13. What were the two factions trying to control the Republican Party? What were their goals and which did Lincoln support?

14. How was the split in the Republican Party revealed in the debate over what to do about slavery? What action did each

faction propose? What did Lincoln do and why?

15. What factors, other than the political pressure, brought about the Emancipation Proclamation? What did the proclamation

really accomplish? When did full emancipation really come?

16. What role did African Americans play in support of the Union cause?

17. What impact did the Civil War have on the northern industrial economy?

18. What impact did the Civil War have on women in the North? What part did women play in the war effort?

**THEMOBILIZATION OF THE SOUTH**

19. Explain the origins of the Confederate government. How did its constitution differ from that of the United States? Who

were chosen as its leaders, what problems did they face?

20. How did the Confederacy attempt to finance the war? What problems did it face, and what were the results?

21. How did the Confederacy propose to raise troops for the war? How did these plans compare with those of the Union, and

how successful were they? Why?

22. Why was state’s rights the “great dividing force” in the Confederacy’s war effort? What caused this division, and what was

the effect?

23. How did the Civil War transform southern society? How was this transformation like that which took place in the North?

How was it different?

24. What impact did the war have on the lives and circumstances of women? Of slaves?

**STRATEGY AND DIPLOMACY**

25. Compare and contrast Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis—their backgrounds, abilities, and objectives. Why was

Lincoln more successful at organizing a command system than Davis?

26. What role did Lincoln propose for the United states Navy? How did the Confederacy attempt to overcome this naval

advantage, and what was the result?

27. What were the foreign policy objectives of the Union and the Confederacy? How did each attempt to achieve these

objectives, which was most successful and why?

28. How did the West play a continuing political, diplomatic, and military part in the conflict?

**THE COURSE OF THE BATTLE**

29. How did advances in the effectiveness of arms and artillery change the way the soldiers in the field fought?

30. What major engagements were fought in 1861? What did they reveal about the possibility of an early end to the struggle

and about the readiness of the two sides for a major conflict?

31. What was the Union plan for conquest of the West? How did the Confederates propose to defend this area? How did the

campaign advance, what battles took place, and which of the two armies more nearly achieved its objective?

32. What was the Union plan on the Virginian front in1862? Who was the general selected to carry this out? Who was the

Confederate general he faced and what was the relative strength of the two armies?

33. Outline the battle fought in the East in 1862. How did Lincoln’s actions towards his commanders affect the war effort?

What were the relative positions of the two armies at the end of 1862? Which sides had been more successful in achieving its

objectives?

34. Why was 1863 the “Year of Decision”? What took place in 1863 to swing the advantage to the side of the Union? Where

did these battles occur? Who were the generals involved? What did the battles accomplish? Why were they so important?

35. What was Grant’s grand strategy for 1864? Who was to be in charge of the armies involved, and what were their

objectives?

36. How was the Confederacy finally defeated? In what way did the Union forces destroy the South’s will to carry on the fight?

**WHERE HISTORIANS DISAGREE**

37. Explain the various interpretations that historians have advanced to explain why the Civil War took place?

38. How have these interpretations followed the general outlines laid down by Senator William H. Seward in 1858?

**PATTERNS OF POPULAR CULTURE**

39. How did baseball become the “national pastime”?

40. What did the popularity of baseball indicate about America at the time of the Civil War?