CHAPTER 4: THE UNION IN PERIL

BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE CIVIL WAR
1850-1877
THE DIVISIVE POLITICS OF SLAVERY

- Over the centuries, the Northern and Southern sections of the United States had developed into two very different cultural and economic regions.

- There were also differences in geography and climate, as well as religious differences.
THE SOUTH BEFORE THE WAR

- Rural plantation economy
- Relied on slave labor
- “Peculiar Institution” created tension
- Southerners feared that the loss of slavery would mean lose of culture
THE NORTH BEFORE THE WAR

- The North had a more diverse economy
- Industry flourished
- Openly opposed slavery in the South and the new territories
- More urbanized than South

BOSTON HARBOR
The issue of whether slavery in California and the West would be legal led to heated debates in Congress. Gold rush led to application for statehood for California.
COMPROMISE OF 1850

- Southerners threatened secession over issue
- **Henry Clay** again worked a Compromise
- For the North: California would be admitted as free state
- For the South: A more effective **fugitive slave law**
- Residents of New Mexico & Utah would vote themselves
FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW

- Under the law, runaway slaves were not entitled to a trial by jury
- Anyone helping a slave escape was jailed for 6 months and fined $1,000
- Northerners were upset by the harshness of the new law and often helped hide fugitive slaves

A HARMFUL FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW FURTHER INCREASED TENSIONS
CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,
You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as KIDNAPPERS AND Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, Shun them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

- Escape from slavery was dangerous and meant traveling on foot at night.
- As time went on, African Americans and white abolitionists developed a secret network of people who would hide fugitive slaves.
- "Conductors" would hide runaways in tunnels and even cupboards.
One of the most famous conductors was Harriet Tubman. Tubman escaped slavery and vowed to help others do the same. She made 19 trips back to South and freed over 300 slaves (Including her own parents).
TENSION BUILDS IN KANSAS

- After Stephen Douglas worked to pass the *Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854*, Kansas would vote to decide on whether slavery would be legal or outlawed.
- This contradicted the 36’ 30’ of the Missouri Compromise.
BLEEDING KANSAS

- The race for Kansas was on. . .both supporters and opponents attempted to populate Kansas to win the vote over slavery.
- As the election neared, a group of pro-slavery “border ruffians” from Missouri attempted to cross into Kansas.
- Violence erupted – Bleeding Kansas is the legacy.

Finally, after years of fighting, Kansas is admitted as a free state in 1861.
NEW POLITICAL PARTIES EMERGE

- The political landscape by 1856 was very different than it had been just a few years earlier
- Gone was the Whig Party
- The Democrats were still alive but faced increasing challenge from new parties
- An alternative was the Know-Nothing Party

Know-Nothing members answered questions by saying, “I know Nothing”
Another party that emerged in the mid-19th century was the Free-Soilers. They were northerners who opposed slavery in the territories. Free-Soilers objections to slavery were based on economics, not moral objection to slavery. They believed slavery drove down wages for white workers.
REPUBLICANS EMERGE AS LEADING PARTY

- In 1854, opponents of slavery in the territories formed a new political party, the Republican Party.
- As the party grew it took on Free-Soilers, some anti-slavery Democrats and Whigs, and Know-Nothings.

Republicans won all but 3 presidential elections from 1861-1933.
THE DRED SCOTT DECISION

- A major Supreme Court decision occurred when slave Dred Scott was taken by his owner to free states Illinois & Wisconsin.
- Scott argued that that made him a free man.
- Finally in 1857, the Court ruled against Dred Scott citing the Constitution’s protection of property.
- The decision increased tensions over slavery.

DRED SCOTT LOST HIS CHANCE AT FREEDOM
Lincoln – Douglas Debates

- The 1858 race for U.S. Senate in Illinois was hotly contested between Republican Lincoln and Democratic Douglas.
- One of the most celebrated debates in history ensued as the topic was slavery in the territories.
- Douglas favored popular sovereignty while Lincoln wanted a Constitutional Amendment.

“The Little Giant vs. “Honest Abe”
While politicians debated the slavery issue, John Brown plotted a major slave revolt.

On October 16, 1859, he led a band of 21 men, black and white, into Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

He hoped to seize a large federal arsenal, but troops put down the rebellion.

Brown was tried and executed.
1860 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

- Republicans nominated Abe Lincoln while the Democrats split
- **Lincoln won** the 1860 election with less than half the popular vote and no Southern electoral votes
- The Southern states were not happy
1860 ELECTION RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Electoral Vote</th>
<th>Popular Vote</th>
<th>Percent of Popular Vote</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abraham Lincoln (Republican)</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>1,865,593</td>
<td>39.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>John C. Breckinridge (Southern Democrat)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>848,356</td>
<td>18.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Bell (Constitutional Union)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>592,906</td>
<td>12.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen A. Douglas (Northern Democrat)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1,382,713</td>
<td>29.5</td>
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</table>
Lincoln’s victory in 1860 election convinced Southerners that they had to act quickly.

South Carolina led the way, seceding from the union in December of 1860.

Mississippi was next, then Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, & Texas.

Southern delegates met in February, 1861 and formed the Confederate States with Jefferson Davis as President.
The Civil War Begins: Section 2

- The first battle of the Civil War (1861-1865) was fought at Fort Sumter, South Carolina on April 12, 1861.
- Soon after, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee seceded (Confederate states = 11).
- Virginia split on whether to leave Union (West Virginia formed).
NORTH HAD ADVANTAGES

- The North and South were not evenly matched
- The North had many advantages including;
  - More people
  - More factories
  - More food production
  - More railroads
  - Better communication
The South had advantages over the Northern forces:

- First rate military leadership
- Highly motivated soldiers
STRATEGIES

- The Northern strategy going into the war included a naval blockade, a plan to split the Confederacy by going down the Mississippi river, and Capturing the Confederate capital city of Richmond, Virginia.

- The South was content to have a defensive strategy.

U.S.S. St. Louis, First Eads Ironclad Gunboat
THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN

First major bloodshed of the war occurred at Bull Run near Washington, D.C. – Summer 1861

This battle made Confederate General Thomas Jackson famous

Nicknamed “Stonewall Jackson” he inspired the Confederates to hold firm

Confederate victory boosted moral

ACTUAL PHOTOS OF BULL RUN AND GENERAL JACKSON
THE CLASH AT ANTIETAM

- Union General George McClellan confronted Confederate General Robert E. Lee in Antietam, Maryland.
- The single bloodiest day in American history --- 26,000 died.
- Lee and the Confederates retreated, McClellan did not follow-Lincoln fires him.
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

- As the war progressed, Lincoln used his powers to end slavery
- Just as Union troops could seize Confederate supplies, Lincoln authorized the army to emancipate slaves
- Emancipation was not just a moral issue; it became a weapon of war
JANUARY 1, 1863
CONSCRIPTION ISSUES

- Both sides dealt with social unrest during the Civil War
- Both President Lincoln and Confederate leader Davis suspended *Writ of Habeas Corpus*
- Draft riots occurred in New York City as some thought draft process was unfair

DEPICTION OF NEW YORK CITY DRAFT RIOTS
WE INTERRUPT THIS POWERPOINT FOR A COMPARISON BETWEEN ABE LINCOLN AND JOHN KENNEDY
LINCOLN AND KENNEDY: A COMPARISON

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.
Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.
John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.
The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters.
Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.
Both wives lost their children while living in the White House.
Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.
Both were shot in the head.
Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy.
Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.
Both were assassinated by Southerners.
Both were succeeded by Southerners.
Both successors were named Johnson.
Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808.
Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.
John Wilkes Booth, accused of assassinating Lincoln, was born in 1839.
Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of assassinating Kennedy, was born in 1939.
Both assassins were known by their three names.
Both names comprise fifteen letters.
Booth ran from the theatre and was caught in a warehouse.
Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theatre.
Booth and Oswald were both assassinated before their trials.
AFRICAN AMERICANS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

- Although only 1% of the North’s population, by the end of the war 180,000 African Americans fought for the Union (10% of Union Army).
- Though they were segregated and earned lower wages.
- See: *Glory*
SOLDIERS SUFFERED ON BOTH SIDES

- Heavy casualties on both sides were worsened by conditions on the field.
- **Disease**, poor nutrition, and inadequate medical care were common features of the war.
DISEASE ACCOUNTED FOR 76% OF DEATHS IN CIVIL WAR
WOMEN WORK TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS

- While women were not in combat, 3,000 women served as Union nurses
- Carla Barton was a famous Union nurse
- Known as the “Angel on the Battlefield” she went on to form the American Red Cross after the war
THE NORTH TAKES CHARGE: SECTION 3

- In a small town in Pennsylvania, the most decisive battle of the war was fought.
- Gettysburg was a three-day battle fought in July of 1863.
- Union soldiers had 90,000 troops under George Meade and 75,000 troops under General Lee.
GETTYSBURG

- The three-day battle produced staggering losses: 23,000 Union soldiers and 28,000 Confederate soldiers were wounded or killed.
- After the Confederate retreat, Lee gave up any hope of invaded the North and retreated.

ROBERT E. LEE
In November 1863, a ceremony was held to dedicate a cemetery in Gettysburg. Abe Lincoln spoke for less than two minutes, but inspired a nation with his address. Some say his Gettysburg Address “remade America.”
ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE DEDICATION
OF THE CEMETERY AT GETTYSBURG

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

November 19, 1863.
In the Spring of 1863 Union General Ulysses S. Grant fought to take Vicksburg, Mississippi. Grant ordered two frontal attacks on Vicksburg. He succeeded in splitting Confederate forces.
CONFEDERACY WEARS DOWN

- After the twin defeats at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the Confederate forces morale was destroyed
- Many Southern soldiers had deserted
- Grant and General Tecumseh Sherman were now in control of the Union Army
- They aimed to destroy the will of the Confederates

UNION GENERAL SHERMAN
SHERMAN’S MARCH

- In the spring of 1864, Sherman began his march southeast through Georgia to the coast.
- His troops created a path of destruction as they burned homes, destroyed livestock and railroads.
- After reaching the sea, his troops (included 25,000 former slaves) turned Northward.
ELECTION OF 1864

- Despite the war, politics continued as the North held a presidential election in 1864.
- While some Northerners were dismayed as to the length of the war and Lincoln was pessimistic about his re-election, he defeated General McClellan easily.
SURRENDER AT APPOMATTOX

- On April 3, 1865, Union troops conquered Richmond, the Confederate capital.
- On April 9, 1865 in a Virginia town called Appomattox, Lee and Grant met to arrange a Confederate surrender.
- At Lincoln’s request the terms were generous.

LEE SURRENDERS TO GRANT
DEADLY WAR BRINGS CHANGES

- The Civil War was the deadliest war in American history
- Over 620,000 died - nearly as many as all other U.S. wars combined
- The role of the federal government increased
- Economically, the gap between North and South widened

U.S. CIVIL WAR 1861-1865
The Union armies had from 2,500,000 to 2,750,000 men. Their losses, by the best estimates:

Battle deaths: 110,070

Disease, etc.: 250,152

Total 360,222

The Confederate strength, known less accurately because of missing records, was from 750,000 to 1,250,000. Its estimated losses:

Battle deaths: 94,000

Disease, etc.: 164,000

Total 258,000
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<th>War</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>% of Total War Deaths</th>
<th>Year for Population Estimate</th>
<th>Estimated Population</th>
<th>Deaths/Population</th>
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<td>Revolutionary War</td>
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<td>1865</td>
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<td>73,565,688</td>
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<td>1945</td>
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<td>3%</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>159,725,011</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
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<td>Vietnam War</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>210,274,081</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
THE 13\(^{TH}\) AMENDMENT

- Lincoln believed a Constitutional Amendment was needed to ensure freedom for slaves
- The 13\(^{th}\) Amendment outlawing slavery was ratified in 1865
LINCOLN IS ASSASSINATED

- On April 14, 1865 Lincoln was shot in the head while attending a play in Washington, D.C.
- He was the first president ever assassinated
- His killer, John Wilkes Booth escaped, but was shot and killed later
- More than 7,000,000 Americans turned out to mourn -1/3\textsuperscript{rd} of population

The play was a British comedy called, *My American Cousin*
RECONSTRUCTION: SECTION 4

- The Civil War had ended. Slavery and secession were no more. Now what?
- How does the Union integrate the South back into American society?
- How do 4 million newly freed African slaves integrate themselves into society?

1865-1877
The politics of Reconstruction was complicated by the fact that Lincoln, his VP and successor Andrew Johnson, and the Congress all had different ideas of how Reconstruction should be handled.
Lincoln made it clear that he favored a lenient Reconstruction policy.

His Ten Percent Plan called for a pardon of all Confederates who would swear allegiance to Union (oath).

When 10% of the voting population of a state took the oath, a state would be readmitted into the Union.
JOHNSON’S PLAN

- After Lincoln’s death, his VP & successor Andrew Johnson announced his own plan.

- It differed only slightly from Lincoln’s: He excluded high ranking Confederates and wealthy planters from the oath, but did pardon 13,000 while contending that “White men alone must manage the South.”
Congress worked hard to shift the focus of Reconstruction from the President to the Congress.

In 1866, Congress overrode President Johnson’s veto and passed the Civil Rights Act, the Freedmen’s Bureau Act, passed the 14th Amendment and the Reconstruction Act - 1867.
One of the important acts passed by Congress was the Civil Rights Act -1866

This law gave African Americans citizenship and forbade states from passing laws discriminating against former slaves (Black Codes)

FROM HARPERS’S MAGAZINE 1866 – BLACKS CELEBRATE
Congress also passed the Freemen’s Bureau Act which provided much needed aid to African Americans.

Included in the Act was money for education, hospitals, social services, churches, and help with labor contracts and discrimination cases.

Education was an important part of the Bureau.
14th Amendment

- In 1866, Congress passed the 14th Amendment which provided legal backing to the Civil Rights Act.
- It prevented states from denying rights to people based on race.
- This nullified the Dred Scott decision.
RECONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1867

- Congressional Republicans again joined forces to pass the Reconstruction Act
- This act voided the state governments formed in the South under the Presidential plans and instead divided the south into 5 military districts
- The states were required to grant black men the right to vote and to ratify the 14th Amendment

This image depicts an artisan, a businessman and a soldier standing in line to cast their first ballot.
Radical Republicans felt Johnson was blocking Reconstruction efforts.

Thus, they looked for grounds to impeach him.

They found grounds when he fired a cabinet member in violation of the “Tenure of Office Act.”

He was impeached, but not convicted and served out his term.
1868 ELECTION

- Civil War hero U.S. Grant ran as a Republican against Democratic nominee Horatio Seymour
- Grant won by a margin of 300,000 in the popular vote
- 500,000 African Americans voted – 90% for Grant
Soon after Grant’s election, Congress passed the 15th Amendment.

This amendment stated that no one could be kept from voting because of “race, color, or previous servitude.”

The 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870.
RECONSTRUCTING SOCIETY

- The South went through significant changes after the war.
- The economy was in ruins and they lost hundreds of thousands of young men.
- Republicans now dominated politically, but often with conflicting goals.

MANY SOUTHERN CITIES SUFFERED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE
3 groups made up the bulk of Southern Republicans

1) **Scalawags**: These were white farmers (Small farms)

2) **Carpetbaggers**: These were Northerners who came South in search of opportunity after the war

3) **African Americans**: Former slaves - 90% of whom were Republican
AFRICAN AMERICANS

- African Americans took an active role in the political process in the South
- They voted in record numbers and many ran for office
- Hiram Revels was the first black Senator
Despite Sherman’s promise of “40 acres and a mule” few former slaves received anything.

Republicans considered property to be a sacred right.

Therefore, most plantation owners kept their land.

SPIKE LEE’S PRODUCTION COMPANY IS CALLED 40 ACRES AND A MULE
SHARECROPPING AND TENANT FARMING

- Without land of their own, Southern African Americans could not grow their own crops.
- Thus, many became sharecroppers—a system by which families were given a small plot of land to work in exchange for some of the crops.

ARKANSAS SHARECROPPERS
THE COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION

- While some Southern whites participated in the new governments, voted in elections, and reluctantly accepted African Americans---others were very resentful and formed hate groups

- Most famous vigilante group was the Ku Klux Klan
KU KLUX KLAN

- The Klan was formed by disgruntled Confederate soldiers whose goals included destroying the Republican Party, aiding the planter class, and preventing blacks from integrating into society.

- Estimates range as high as 20,000 murders attributed to the Klan whose membership peaked at almost 4 million in the 1920s.
When Congress passed the *Amnesty Act* returning voting rights to 150,000 Confederates and allowed the Freedmen’s Bureau to expire—it became clear that Southern Democrats were back in political control.
DEMOCRATS “REDEEM SOUTHERN CULTURE”

- Lack of Republican unity in the South and an economic downturn that diverted attention from Southern issues, caused Democrats to regain control of the South.
- Called “Redeemers” these politicians were out to reclaim Southern Culture and tradition.
- The Reconstruction Era was over.