The Civil War, 1861-1865

• Election of Lincoln, 1860
  – South Carolina draws up secession charter
  – 10 more states follow
    • Confederate States of America
• Fort Sumpter, S.C. fired upon
  – April 12, 1861
  – Lincoln calls for 75,000 troops
  – Jefferson Davis calls for 100,000

The Civil War, 1861-1865

• First major Battle: Bull Run, July, 1961
  – Started well for North
  – Afternoon, tide turns
    • Thomas J. Jackson “Stonewall” earns nickname
    • Stands firm, rallies men onto victory
  – Two consequences:
    • South – “We can beat the coward Yankees”
    • North – “This will be a very long affair”

The Civil War, 1861-1865

• South –
  – Defensive Strategy
    • Did NOT have to occupy Washington, D.C. to “win this war”.
    • Had to prolong war long enough to stop North from fighting
      – Gaining political recognition from Europe would be most helpful.
      – Tried to lure British/French to recognize C.S.A.
The Civil War, 1861-1865

• North –
  – Had the decisive advantage:
    • Industry – Nearly all up north
    • Population – more than 2 to 1 advantage
  – North had to bring the fight to the South
    • Tougher on the North
    • “Musical Chairs” with commanding generals

The Civil War, 1861-1865

• North – “Anaconda” plan –
  – Stranglehold on Southern ports and major cities
  – Cut South in two
  – Strategy would be for a long conflict
• 1862 –
  – Continued Southern Success
    • South earning reputation – especially her generals
    • Important Naval battle: Monitor and Merrimac

The Civil War, 1861-1865

• Hampton Roads, Virginia
  – First battle of “IronClads”
  – Rest of Naval world would become obsolete
  – Confederate “Merrimac”
  – Union “Monitor”
    • Monitor had rotating turret
    • Merrimac had fixed guns
      – “Salemate” but Merrimac left and Confederate Navy burned her.
The Civil War, 1861-1865

• Robert E. Lee –
  – Given command of Army of Northern Virginia
  – Seen as most brilliant commander of entire war
  – One of America’s greatest generals, period.
    • Virginia gentleman
    • West Point graduate – 2nd highest in class
    • Brilliant officer and military career
    • Example of “Southern” Gentleman at its best

The Civil War, 1861-1865

• U.S. Grant –
  – Barely passed West Point
  – Early career stalled; left, returned
  – Opposite of Lee in many ways
    • Best quality – could not “shake” him
    • Kept his cool under pressure
    • Understood North’s advantages and exploited them.
      – Could lose men 2 to 1 to Lee and still win

The Civil War, 1861-1865

• Brutality of “Modern” War
  – The Civil War brought about changes to warfare
  – Many still under spell of “Napoleonic Era”
  – Rifles, Cannons, Mortars, much better
  – Casualties: America lost more men in Civil War than all other wars combined
    • About 650,000 total
The Civil War, 1861-1865

• Emancipation Proclamation, 1863
  – War takes a broader aim, higher cause
• Tide turns for North in 1863
  – Gettysburg, July 1-3
  – Vicksburg, July 4th
• Lincoln initiates draft
  – Riots in New York
  • $300 could buy one’s way out of war

The Civil War, 1861-1865

• Neither side struck decisive blow after victory
  – North should have pursued Lee after Gettysburg, did not…
  – War would drag on until 1865
• 1864 –
  – Sherman’s march to the Sea
  • Atlanta to Savannah, “Total war” – to break the South’s will to fight.

The Civil War, 1861-1865

• End of the War
  – April 9th, 1865 at Appomatox Courthouse, VA
  – Terms are generous
    • Southern soldiers are allowed to keep arms
    • Mood is positive and hope the nation can be bound together
    • Lincoln happily receives news
      – Decides to celebrate by attending a play on Good Friday, April 14th, 1865 at Ford’s Theatre

Lecture notes, Chapter 15
The Civil War, 1861-1865

• Lincoln assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a southern sympathizer
  – Booth believes he’s “helping” southern cause
  – Part of a larger murder plot: Vice Pres, Secy of State, Speaker of House, all were to be killed.
  • Only Booth carried out his task.
  • Cornered and shot, barn set afire to get him out.
  – Nation would mourn and task of Reconstruction would be much harder now.