

# The Legacy of the War

## MAIN IDEA

The Civil War brought great changes and new challenges to the United States.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The most important change was the liberation of 4 million enslaved persons.

## TERMS & NAMES

Thirteenth Amendment

John Wilkes Booth

## ONE AMERICAN'S STORY

In the spring of 1864, a year before the end of the Civil War, the Union army was running out of cemetery space to bury its war dead. The secretary of war ordered Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs to find a new site for a cemetery. Without hesitation, Meigs chose Robert E. Lee's plantation in Arlington, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

Meig's decision to turn Lee's plantation into a Union cemetery was highly symbolic. The Union soldiers who died fighting Lee's army would be buried in Lee's front yard. That site became Arlington National Cemetery.



During the Civil War, the government turned Robert E. Lee's Virginia plantation into a graveyard.



## Taking Notes

Use your chart to take notes about the effects of the Union's victory in the Civil War.

Emancipation Proclamation
War's Impact
Northern Victories in Battle
Union Wins Civil War

## Costs of the War

Many Northerners shared Montgomery Meigs's bitter feelings toward the South. At the same time, many Southerners felt great resentment toward the North. After the war, President Lincoln hoped to heal the nation and bring North and South together again. The generous terms of surrender offered to Lee were part of that effort. Hard feelings remained, however, in part because the costs of the war were so great.

The Civil War was the deadliest war in American history. In four years of fighting, approximately 620,000 soldiers died—360,000 for the Union and 260,000 for the Confederacy. Another 275,000 Union soldiers and 260,000 Confederate soldiers were wounded. Many suffered from their wounds for the rest of their lives.

Altogether, some 3,000,000 men served in the armies of the North and South—around 10 percent of the population. Along with the soldiers, many other Americans had their lives disrupted by the war.

### ReadingHistory

#### A. Contrasting

How did government spending during the Civil War compare to that during previous years?

The war also had great economic costs. Together, the North and South spent more than five times the amount spent by the government in the previous eight decades. Many years after the fighting was over, the federal government was still paying interest on loans taken out during the war.

## The Thirteenth Amendment

One of the greatest effects of the war was the freeing of millions of enslaved persons. As the Union army moved through the South during and after the war, Union soldiers released African Americans from bondage. One of those released was Booker T. Washington, who later became a famous educator and reformer. He recalled the day a Union officer came to his plantation to read the Emancipation Proclamation.

### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

After the reading we were told that we were all free, and could go when and where we pleased. My mother, who was standing by my side, leaned over and kissed her children, while tears of joy ran down her cheeks. She explained to us what it all meant, that this was the day for which she had been so long praying, but fearing that she would never live to see.

**Booker T. Washington**, quoted in his autobiography, *Up from Slavery*

The Emancipation Proclamation applied primarily to slaves in the Confederacy, however. Many African Americans in the border states were still enslaved. In 1864, with the war still under way, President Lincoln had approved of a constitutional amendment to end slavery entirely, but it failed to pass Congress.

In January 1865, Lincoln urged Congress to try again to end slavery. This time, the measure—known as the **Thirteenth Amendment**—passed. By year's end, 27 states, including eight in the South, had ratified the amendment. From that point on, slavery was banned in the United States.

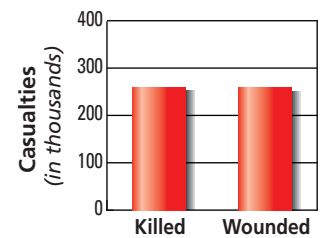
## Lincoln's Assassination

Lincoln did not live to see the end of slavery, however. Five days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the president and his wife went to see a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. During the play, a Confederate supporter, **John Wilkes Booth**, crept into the balcony where the president sat and shot him in the back of the head. Booth then jumped over the railing and landed on the stage. Although he broke his leg in the leap, he managed to escape the theater.

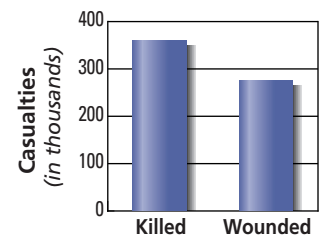
### CONNECTIONS TO MATH

## Costs of the Civil War

### CONFEDERATE CASUALTIES



### UNION CASUALTIES



Source: *World Book; Historical Statistics of the United States; The United States Civil War Center*

### ECONOMIC COSTS

- Federal loans and taxes to finance the war totaled \$2.6 billion.
- Federal debt on June 30, 1865, rose to \$2.7 billion.
- Confederate debt ran over \$700 million.
- Union inflation reached 182% in 1864 and 179% in 1865.
- Confederate inflation rose to 9,000% by the end of the war.

### SKILLBUILDER

#### Interpreting Graphs

1. About how many Confederate soldiers were killed in the Civil War?
2. Approximately how many soldiers were wounded in the war?

### ReadingHistory

#### B. Making

**Inferences** Why was an amendment needed to free enslaved persons even after the Emancipation Proclamation?

## WALT WHITMAN 1819–1892

One of the greatest American poets, Walt Whitman (below) was a large, bearded man whose poetry captured the American spirit. His most famous book of poems, *Leaves of Grass*, praised the values of freedom and democracy.

Whitman was 41 when the Civil War began. Too old for the army, he offered his services as a nurse when his younger brother was wounded at Fredericksburg. He stayed on after that to help at hospitals in Washington, D.C.

Whitman wrote a book of poetry about war. Later editions of the book, which appeared after Lincoln's assassination, included several poems about the president.



That same evening, an accomplice of Booth stabbed Secretary of State William Seward, who later recovered. Another man was supposed to assassinate Vice-President Johnson, but he failed to carry out the attack.

Although Booth had managed to escape after shooting the president, Union troops found and killed him several days later. Soldiers also hunted down Booth's accomplices, whom they either hanged or imprisoned.

After Lincoln was shot, he was carried to a house across the street from the theater. The bullet in his brain could not be removed, however. The next morning, April 15, 1865, the president died. He was the first American president to be assassinated.

Lincoln's murder stunned the nation and caused intense grief. In Washington, D.C., people wept in the streets. One man who mourned the nation's loss was the poet Walt Whitman. In one poem, Whitman considered the president's legacy.

### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

This dust was once the man,  
Gentle, plain, just and resolute, under whose cautious hand,  
Against the foulest crime in history known in any land or age,  
Was saved the Union of these States.

Walt Whitman, *This Dust Was Once the Man*

The loss of Lincoln's vast experience and great political skills was a terrible setback for a people faced by the challenge of rebuilding their nation. In both the North and the South, life would never be the same after the Civil War.

## Consequences of the War

In the North, the war changed the way people thought about the country. In fighting to defend the Union, people came to see the United States as a single nation rather than a collection of states. After 1865, people no longer said "the United States *are*" but "the United States *is*."

The war also caused the national government to expand. Before the war, the government was relatively small and had limited powers. With the demands of war, however, the government grew larger and more powerful. Along with a new paper currency and income tax, the government established a new federal banking system. It also funded railroads, gave western land to settlers, and provided for state colleges. This growth of federal power continued long after the war was over.

The war also changed the Northern economy. New industries such as steel, petroleum, food processing, and manufacturing grew rapidly. By

**Vocabulary**  
**accomplice:**  
someone who aids a lawbreaker

**ReadingHistory**  
**C. Summarizing**  
How did Americans react to the assassination of Lincoln?

**Background**  
In the 1850s, an improved way of making steel—the Bessemer process—had been perfected, allowing for the mass production of steel.

**CAUSE AND EFFECT: The Civil War, 1861–1865**

CAUSES	IMMEDIATE EFFECTS
Conflict over slavery in territories	Abolition of slavery
Economic differences between North and South	Devastation of South
Failure of Congress to compromise	Reconstruction of South
Election of Lincoln as president	LONG-TERM EFFECTS
Secession of Southern states	Growth of industry
Firing on Fort Sumter	Government more powerful
	Nation reunited

**SKILLBUILDER Interpreting Charts**

1. What military event is among the causes of the Civil War?
2. What effect did the Civil War have on the federal government?

**Background**

Some people have called the Civil War the first modern war because of the use of machines, the destructiveness, and the effects on civilians, which would be repeated in later wars.

the late 1800s, industry had begun to replace farming as the basis of the national economy.

For the South, however, the war brought economic disaster. Farms and plantations were destroyed. About 40 percent of the South’s livestock was killed. Fifty percent of its farm machinery was wrecked. Factories were also demolished, and thousands of miles of railroad tracks were torn up. Also gone was the labor system that the South had used—slavery.

Before the war, the South accounted for 30 percent of the nation’s wealth. After the war it accounted for only 12 percent. These economic differences between the North and the South would last for decades.

The country faced difficult challenges after the war. How would the South be brought back into the Union, and how would four million former slaves be integrated into national life? You will read more about these challenges in the next chapter.

**Section 4 Assessment**

**1. Terms & Names**

**Explain the significance of:**

- Thirteenth Amendment
- John Wilkes Booth

**2. Using Graphics**

Use a chart like the one below to record the social, economic, and political legacy of the Civil War.

Legacy of the Civil War

Society	Economy	Politics

Is the legacy of the Civil War still apparent today? How?

**3. Main Ideas**

- a. What were some of the human costs of the Civil War?
- b. What did the Thirteenth Amendment achieve?
- c. What was the state of the Southern economy after the Civil War?

**4. Critical Thinking**

**Making Inferences** How do you think the assassination of President Lincoln affected the nation?

**THINK ABOUT**

- the reaction of ordinary citizens
- its impact on government

**ACTIVITY OPTIONS**

**MATH**  
**TECHNOLOGY**

Read about the postwar economy. Create a **database** on industry in the North or make a **storyboard** for a video on the problems in the South.