Chapter 4: The Civil War

Bloody fighting during the first two years of the Civil War made it clear to both, North and South, that the struggle would be long and difficult. The North and the South both had advantages and disadvantages that made a quick victory for either, impossible.

  I. From Bull Run to Antietam
    A. The battles of Bull Run and Shiloh proved this war would be long and difficult.
    B. At the beginning of the war the South's basic war strategy was to prepare and wait.
      1. The South was also hoping to build alliances with France and Britain
        a. The textile mills of France and Britain depended on Southern cotton.
        b. Southern leaders expected that European industrialist would pressure their governments to support the South, to keep the cotton flowing to Europe.
        c. European leaders did not support the South, they simply turned to India and Egypt for their supply of cotton.
    C. Union forces in the west were led by Ulysses S. Grant. In the west the north was able to gain control of important water routes with victories at Fort Henry, and Fort Donelson.
    D. The South (General Lee in command) prepares to invade the North, with the desire to win a battle on Northern soil. The South is defeated at the battle of Antietam. Both sides endure heavy losses of life.

The Union and the Confederacy struggled to raise and support their armies and to provide for the well-being of their citizens. The Emancipation proclamation had a profound effect on both those efforts.

  II. Life Behind the Lines
    A. The North
      1. Lincoln's main goal during the early part of the war was to preserve the union.
      2. Republicans passed many laws to make the federal government more powerful.
      3. Congress passes a law calling for the construction of a railroad from Nebraska to the Pacific Coast.
    B. Emancipation Proclamation
      1. All slaves in the confederate states are set free.
    C. African Americans Join the War
      1. The Emancipation Proclamation had the effect of encouraging African Americans to join the Union army.
      2. The serve in segregated units for less pay than white soldiers.
    D. The Hardships of War

Despite Southern victories at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the tide of the war turned in the summer of 1863. Northern momentum began to build with the victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

III. The Tide of the War Turns

A. Victories for General Lee
1. Lee's brilliant victory at Chancellorsville was due to the daring military tactic of dividing his forces.
B. The Battle of Gettysburg
1. Lee crossed into Pennsylvania looking for supplies and a military victory on Northern soil.
2. The three day battle at Gettysburg cost the South one-third of their army, in a crushing defeat by Union forces.
C. Vicksburg
1. Military strategy in the west centered on gaining control of the Mississippi river.
2. Vicksburg was a strategic town located on a bluff overlooking the river.
3. Grant is able to surround the city and capture it after a long siege.
D. The Importance of 1863. By July 4th a Northern Victory was in sight
1. Lee had just lost one-third of his army at Gettysburg and were now in retreat.
2. Grant had just captured Vicksburg.
3. The Mississippi river was now in Union control, effectively cutting the South in two.

After years of fighting, countless casualties, and considerable devastation, the South finally surrendered in April 1865.

A. The Election of 1864
1. Lincoln gained much needed voter support to win the 1864 election after Sherman's victories in the south, while capturing Atlanta.

B. A New Birth of Freedom
1. The reelection of Lincoln in 1864 showed that most Northern voters approved of his stand against slavery.
2. Passage of the 13th Amendment (Ending of Slavery in the US) showed that congress also agreed with Lincolns views on slavery.
C. The End of the War
1. Sherman moves his army north to South Carolina. He treats South Carolina harshly because they were the first state to secede from the Union.
2. Grant is able to gain the surround Lee's army