

THE END OF THE WAR IN THE WEST

- A. Vicksburg campaign lasted seven months
 - 1. Vicksburg last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River.
 - 2. July 4, Confederate army surrendered to Grant; 29,500 men.
 - 3. Significance: Split the Confederacy in two and gave Union total control of Miss. River -- Boosted Union morale in the face of the Union victory at Gettysburg
- B. Sherman marches through Georgia
 - 1. William Tecumseh Sherman -- Pushed his way through GA after the battle of Kennesaw Mountain and captured and burned Atlanta in Sept. 1864.
 - 2. "March to the Sea": After taking Atlanta, cut a 60-mile-wide swath through the heart of Georgia before emerging at Savannah on the sea in December, 1864.
 - a. Aimed to destroy supplies destined for the Confederate army and weaken morale of the men at the front by waging war on their homes.
 - b. Pioneer of "total war" -- Despite brutality, war probably shortened thus saving lives.
 - c. Determined to inflict the horrors of war on the South to break its will -- "War is hell"
 - 3. Turned northward into South Carolina where destruction more severe than in Georgia
 - a. Capital city of Columbia set aflame.
 - b. Sherman's army reached deep into North Carolina by war's end.

END OF THE WAR IN THE EAST: Grant's Virginia Campaign

- A. Grant promoted to head of all Union armies after Lincoln's dismay with Meade after Gettysburg
 - 1. Grant's strategy → attack the enemy's armies simultaneously thus not allowing them to assist one another; Confederate army would be destroyed piecemeal.
 - 3. Campaign would result in 50,000 Union casualties
- B. Wilderness (May & June, 1864) Grant embarked for Richmond with over 100,000 men.
- C. Spotsylvania Courthouse: 24,000 casualties
- D. Cold Harbor (June 3, 1864)
 - 1. Grant ordered frontal assault at a frightful cost.
 - 2. 7,000 Yankees killed in a half-hour; Confederate losses less than 1,500.
 - 3. Public opinion in North appalled at the losses; Critics: "Grant the Butcher"
 - 4. Grant determined to continue the grind; Lincoln supported him
- E. Siege of Petersburg (June-Oct. 1864)
 - 1. Contained all railroads that served Lee's army & Richmond from the south.
 - 2. Lee arrived in time to defend Petersburg; Grant lay siege to the city for 9 months.
 - 3. Along with Richmond, fell on April 2, 1865
- F. Siege of Richmond (July-Oct. 1865)
 - 1. Grant hoped to divert Confederate forces from Petersburg
 - 2. Lee sacrificed several detachments in rear guard to evacuate both Richmond & Petersburg successfully.

- G. Early 1865, Confederates attempted to negotiate for peace between the "two countries." -- Lincoln not willing to accept anything short of unconditional surrender.
- H. Lee's surrender
 - 1. Confederate army surrounded near Appomattox Court House in VA.
 - 2. April 9, 1865 -- Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia.
 - a. War in Virginia officially over.
 - b. Remaining Confederate armies surrendered within the next few weeks.
 - 3. Terms of surrender were generous
 - a. The 30,000 captured Confederates were paroled and allowed to go home so long as they vowed never to take up arms against the Union again.
 - b. Confederates allowed to keep their own horses for spring plowing.
 - Officers could keep their sidearms
 - 4. Grant: "The war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again."

Lincoln assassinated on night of April 14, 1865 (Good Friday)

- A. Only five days after Lee's surrender, Lincoln assassinated at Ford's theater by John Wilkes Booth
- B. Lincoln died at the apex of his fame thus becoming a martyr.
- C. Although initially jubilant over his death, the South came to view it as calamitous.
 - 1. Lincoln's approach to reconstruction moderate compared to the later actual policy.
 - 2. Assassination increased bitterness in the North against the South especially with rumors that Jefferson Davis had plotted it.

Results and costs of the Civil War

- A. 620,000 soldiers dead (2% of population!); over 1 million total casualties; unknown civilian casualties -- South lost the cream of its youth and potential leadership
- B. Slavery abolished
- C. Total cost of war: \$15 billion (over \$1.5 trillion in today's dollars) -- Does not include pensions and interest on the national debt.
- D. States righters were henceforth crushed as the Civil War served as the greatest constitutional decision in U.S. history -- Nullification and secession died with the Confederacy
- E. Ideal of Union and nation triumphant -- Dangers of two nations and balance of power politics averted
- F. Monroe Doctrine now had more teeth in it -- U.S. would now look to the hemisphere and beyond to expand its influence.