

Summary: A Nation at War

North Against South

Eleven southern states left the Union and formed the Confederacy. Four border states stayed in the Union. The North wanted to keep the Union together. They planned to stop the Confederacy from trading with other nations. They would attack the South from the East and West at the same time. The North had more people, more factories, and more railroads. The South planned to fight off northern attacks until the Confederacy could survive as a nation. The South had good military leaders. They hoped France and Britain would help because these countries needed southern cotton. Most of the war was in the South, so Confederate soldiers knew the land. Both sides thought they could win quickly. In July 1861, at the first Battle of Bull Run they learned the war might last a long time.

The War's Leaders

General Robert E. Lee stopped the Union army from capturing Richmond. He invaded Maryland. The Union army stopped him at Antietam in September 1862. There were at least 23,000 casualties in the battle. Union General Ulysses S. Grant captured Confederate forts in the West and defeated the Confederates at Shiloh. Because the ports were blocked, the South was low on food, weapons, and money. The Confederacy had to draft soldiers. In the North, rich people could pay to get out of the draft. People who were too poor to pay protested. So did people who opposed the whole war.

Turning Points

In 1863, Lincoln made the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the enslaved people. The Union captured Vicksburg and won control of the Mississippi River. Lee attacked the North, and the Union beat him at Gettysburg.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

border states *noun*, slave states that stayed in the Union

casualties *noun*, soldiers who are killed or wounded in war

draft *noun*, the way a government forces people to become soldiers

emancipation *noun*, the freeing of enslaved people



After You Read

REVIEW What was the Confederacy's plan for winning the war? Highlight the sentence that tells what the South planned to do.

REVIEW Why did people in the North oppose the draft? Underline the sentences that tell you the answer.

REVIEW Why was the victory at Vicksburg important to the Union? Circle the sentence that tells you the answer.