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Subject: the draft

Posted by [KIRBY098](#) on Mon, 02 Jun 2003 16:25:42 GMT

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A-Level History

American Civil War: Overview

Important features

The two main theatres of land warfare

West of Appalachians centring on Mississippi

East of Appalachians centring on the area between the rival capitals Washington and Richmond

Strategy and tactics

This is often called the first modern war.

By the 1860s muskets with rapid fire and rifled barrels (accurate range of 600 yards instead of previous 60) were changing the nature of land warfare. They could easily destroy drilled infantry still advancing in close formation as in the Napoleonic Wars. At Gettysburg defenders in secure positions shot Pickett's disastrous charge to pieces and ensured it was the last display of old-style tactics.

Until 1863 warfare was dominated by an army's need to maintain a line of communication with its supply base. But Grant and Sherman in the South showed the terrible effectiveness of striking into enemy territory and living off the land, the invaders plundering and devastating it as they marched.

At sea, warfare was in transition. Steam was replacing sail and both sides experimented with ironclad ships.

Casualties

Half a million men were killed.

Resources

Most advantages were with the Union

an organised government

twice the manpower of the South

most of the industry

command of the seas (hence successful blockade of South)The Confederacy had one main advantage

it was the world's main supplier of cotton

Fast Forward

1861 Southern states withdraw (secede) from the Union on election of anti-slavery president Lincoln  
1861 Feb Provisional government of Confederacy is set up with Jefferson Davis as President  
1861 April Confederacy starts war by attacking Fort Sumter, Union garrison in Southern territory  
1861 July At 1st battle of Bull Run in Virginia Confederate general 'Stonewall Jackson' holds off Union forces  
1862 September Confederate general Lee's attempted invasion of North is defeated at Antietam in Virginia  
1862 Union executes pincer movement on Confederacy west of Appalachians - Grant defeats Confederates at Shiloh in North and Farragut captures New Orleans in South  
1863 July Lee's second invasion of North is defeated at Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, spelling beginning of end for Confederacy  
1863 May-July Grant takes Union army down Mississippi and captures Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg, cutting South in two  
1864 July-Dec Sherman invades Georgia and burns Atlanta - his 'march to the sea' bisects South again  
1864 Grant wears down Lee's reserves and besieges Richmond  
1865 Sherman invades Carolinas while Grant drives Confederates from Richmond  
1865 April Lee surrenders at Appomattox

Source: History Channel

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