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**Course Number: 3**

**Course Title: The Civil War (1861-1865)**

**Introduction**

The Civil War occurred between the Northern states or **“the Union”,** which was industrial and the Southern ones **“the Confederacy”** which nature was agrarian mainly over the issue of slavery. The South was proslavery due to the huge plantations and its agrarian nature as opposed to the North that was against slavery (cons). However, there were other reasons that led the nation to the bloodiest war in the history of the United States of America.

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| **Long-term causes:** | **Immediate causes** |
| 1. **Expansion of slavery (America’s peculiar institution**) especially as a result of the movement of Westward Expansion and the belief in the idea of Manifest Destiny (1840-1850) 2. **Popular Sovereignty:** is defined as the right of every territory to choose whether to be a *free* or a *slave* state. 3. **States’ rights vs. Federal Power:** the North wanted a strong central government while the South preferred each state to retain power. 4. **Uncle Tom’s Cabin:** is an anti-slavery novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe. It helped lay the ground for the Civil War and influenced many people in the North to abolish it. | 1. **The election of Abraham Lincoln**: He did not win a single voice from the South but still he won the vote. Therefore, southern states wondered why they should remain part of the nation. 2. **Lincoln’s aim was not to fight the Civil war but** to preserve the Union. 3. **The Attack on Fort Sumter:** took placeon April 12, 1861, which officially started the Civil War. |

**Key terms:**

* **Conscription:** forced enlistment except wealthy people who were substituted (Teddy Roosevelt). However, people revolted like what happened in New York City Draft Riots (1863). Hundreds of people were killed mostly Irish, and African Americans. Consequently, a slogan developed: **“it was a rich man’s war but a poor man’s fight”**
* **Contraband:** is related to escaped-slaves who crossed over into the Union from the South and worked at Campus. They fought in the war on behalf of the Union.
* **Copperheads:** are Democrats that spoke out against the war with the South.
* **Secession:** isthe withdrawal of 11 states from “the Union”. They seceded in the following order: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and finally Tennessee. They seceded after the election of Abraham Lincoln although he promised not to end up slavery but at last, he would fight in the future. The issue is that those states’ economy wholly depended on slavery so they felt the real threat and so they seceded.

**Key strategies:**

* **Union Blockade of the South:** somepeople argued that Lincoln abused his powers. It was a strategy of the United States to prevent the Confederacy from trading.
* **The Anaconda Plan:** developed by General Winfield Scott (shape of snake). It blockaded the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico and this is to undercut the South economically during the war.
* **The War of Antietam:** is the bloodiest day of the war. The South lost the war to the North. It was a turning point because it helped persuade Europe not to intervene on behalf of the South. It also helped lead to issue of Emancipation, Proclamation.
* **Emancipation, Proclamation:** was issued on January 1, 1863. It freed slaves only in areas of rebellion not slaves everywhere mainly not in Border States. It freed states in the Confederate States of America such as slaves in New Orleans (Under the Union) were not freed.
* **Border States:** between the North and South (had slaves but did not secede): Missouri, West Virginia, Mary Land, Delaware, and Kentucky. They fought with the Union even though they had slaves.
* **Gettysburg Address:** Lincoln dedicated the Battlefield as a cemetery. His speech was mostly about abolishing slavery.
* **African Americans in the War:** in the beginning of 1862, African Americans were enlisted in the war. They fought in segregated units often commanded by white leaders. They also did manual labor. Unfortunately, they were paid less than whites were.
* **Women in the War:** as man fought in the war, women joined the field of work (teachers, factories, nursing). They claimed for their right to vote and abolish slavery.

1. **Clara Barton:** she provided medical supply, as she was the founder of the Red Cross.

* **Personal liberties:** they tend to go down in the war.

1. **Habeas Corpus:** nobody can be jailed without a trial. Lincoln suspended this law. The Court tried to suspend it but Lincoln ignored the decision. Lincoln also shut down newspapers that criticized him.

**Conclusion:**

On April 9, 1865, General Lee Robert surrendered. The Civil War came to an end. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865 and President Johnson became President. It is true that the Civil War put an end to slavery through the 13th amendment but it left the nation divided against itself. It caused more than 600.000 death; the biggest number in the nation’s history. America then was in need for a plan to rebuild the nation through Reconstruction.