

American Civil War Part II: Life During War Time

- African Americans Fight for Freedom
 - African Americans played an important role in ending slavery
 - Some where:
 - Soldiers
 - At the beginning of the war
 - When the Civil War first broke out it was a white man's war and African Americans could not be soldiers
 - in 1862 Congress had passed a law allowing African Americans to serve in the military
 - Once the Emancipation of Proclamation was passed many African Americans enlisted
 - African Americans made up only 1% of the Union's population but made up nearly 10% of the Union Army by 1864
 - African Americans still suffered from discrimination even though they were soldiers
 - African Americans served in separate regiments which were commanded by white officers
 - Many African Americans did not rise above the rank of captain
 - African Americans only earned \$10 a month rather than \$13 and did not receive a clothing allowance like the white soldiers
 - Several African Americans protested the pay difference and by 1864 all men were paid equal
 - The death rate for African Americans was higher than the white soldiers
 - This was mainly because of the jobs the African Americans were assigned to
 - Their jobs were normally very labor intensive, in the garrisons
 - Here they were more likely to catch typhoid, pneumonia, malaria or some other deadly disease
 - As well, when captured by Confederate soldiers African American soldiers were not treated as prisoners of war and were either executed on the spot or returned to slavery
 - The Confederacy even considered drafting slaves to fight in the war, since many felt the slaves were the cause of the fight as thus they should fight and share the burden but it never happened
- The War Affects Regional Economics
 - Southern Shortages
 - The Confederacy soon faced a food shortage due to three factors:
 - The drain of manpower into the army

- The Union occupation of food-growing areas
 - The loss of slaves to work in the fields
- Meat became a once a week luxury a best and rice and corn even became a shortage
- The Union blockade of Southern ports created shortages of other items:
 - Salt
 - Sugar
 - Coffee
 - Nails
 - Needles
 - Medicines
- Many Confederates would smuggle cotton into the North in exchange for gold, food and other goods
- Northern Economics Growth
 - The war's effect on the economy in the North was much more positive
 - Cotton textiles did decline but many other industries boomed because of:
 - The Army's need for uniforms, shoes, guns, and other supplies
 - The economy boom had a dark side though:
 - Wages did not keep up with the prices and many people's standard of living declined
 - Congress decided to help pay for the war by tapping its citizens' wealth
 - 1863 Congress enacted the tax law that authorized the nation's first income tax

Politics of the War

- Britain Remains Neutral
 - A number of economic factors made Britain no longer dependent on Southern cotton
 - Britain had found new sources of cotton in Egypt and India
 - Britain decided that neutrality was the best policy
 - At least for a while
 - The Trent Affair
 - In the fall of 1861 an incident occurred to test the neutrality Britain claimed to have
 - The Confederate government sent two diplomats in a second attempt to gain support from Britain and France
 - Two men traveled aboard a British merchant ship and were captured by an American warship
 - The British threatened war against the Union and even dispatched 8,000 troops to Canada
 - Lincoln knew the Union could not fight two wars at a time a decided to let the prisoners go

- Political Problems
 - Dealing with dissent
 - Lincoln dealt forcefully with disloyalty
 - Lincoln suspended the **writ of habeas corpus**
 - A court order that requires authorities to bring a person held in jail before a court to determine why he or she is being jailed
 - The draft
 - Originally both armies relied on volunteers but heavy casualties and desertions led to conscription
 - Which would force certain members of the population to serve in the army
 - Confederate draft started in 1862
 - Union draft started in 1863
 - Confederate draft
 - Drafted all able bodied white men between the ages of 18 to 35
 - But by 1864 they had changed the limits to 17 to 50
 - Those who could afford were allowed to hire substitutes to serve in their place
 - Planters were also exempted if they owned 20 or more slaves
 - Many poor Confederates claimed it was a “rich man’s war but a poor man’s fight”
 - Union draft
 - Drafted white men between 20 and 45 for three years
 - Those who could afford could also hire substitutes
 - Men could even pay \$300 not to be in the draft
 - Though thousands were drafted only 46,000 actually went into the army