

The Strain of War

Essential Question

How did the events at Gettysburg and Vicksburg change the course of the war?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

entrench (p. 499) siege (p. 505)

Academic Vocabulary

nevertheless (p. 501) encounter (p. 502)

Key People and Events

54th Massachusetts (p. 501)

Pickett's Charge (p. 503)

Gettysburg Address (p. 505)

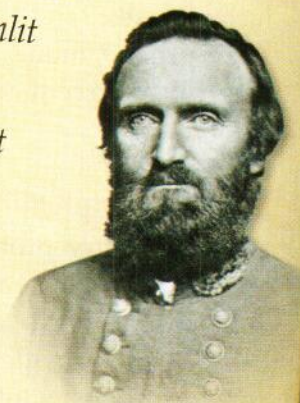
Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read, use a chart like the one shown below to write at least one important fact about each of these battles.

Battle	Importance
Fredericksburg	
Chancellorsville	
Gettysburg	
Siege of Vicksburg	

American Diary

The battle at Chancellorsville raged well into the moonlit night. In the confusion, Confederate soldiers shot their own general, hero Stonewall Jackson. An officer recalls the confusion: "To hear shell whizzing and bursting over you, . . . and not know from whence death comes to you, is trying beyond all things."



Stonewall Jackson

—from *The History of a Brigade of South Carolinians*



Southern Victories

Main Idea In the winter of 1862 and the spring of 1863, the South seemed to be winning the Civil War.

History and You How do leadership qualities make a difference to what happens in life? Read to learn the qualities of some Civil War battle commanders that led to victories and to defeat.

Southern victories in the East were largely the result of the military leadership of generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Through knowledge of the terrain and the ability to inspire troops, these two managed to defeat larger Union forces. Jackson's death at Chancellorsville not only removed one of the South's great strategists, it affected the morale of its army and its citizens. As Jackson lay dying, Lee said, "He has lost his left arm; I have lost my right."

Battle of Fredericksburg

After Antietam, Robert E. Lee moved his army out of Maryland into Virginia. This encouraged Union leaders to attack. The new Union commander, General Ambrose

Burnside, boldly marched his troops toward the Confederate capital at Richmond.

Lee chose to intercept the Union troops near the town of Fredericksburg. He moved his forces to hills south of the town and ordered them to dig trenches so they could fire down on the enemy from a protected position. On December 13, 1862, the Union army attacked. Lee's **entrenched** forces drove the Union troops back soundly. Devastated by his failure, General Burnside resigned and was replaced by General Joseph Hooker.

Battle of Chancellorsville

In May 1863, Lee again used strategy brilliantly. He divided his forces in Virginia in response to General Hooker's having done the same thing—even though Hooker had twice as many men. Some Confederate troops stayed to defend Fredericksburg, and some confronted the main Union force at Chancellorsville. A third group made a daring maneuver that caught the Union army by surprise. Under the leadership of Stonewall Jackson, Confederate troops marched around the side of Hooker's position.

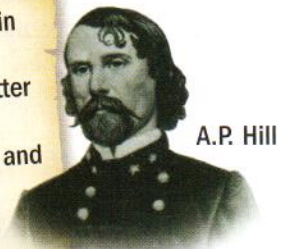
Primary Source West Point and the Civil War

Thomas Jackson is, "quite a smart youth in every respect for his age and opportunity."

This description comes from Jackson's letter of recommendation to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. Jackson and 21 other graduates of the class of 1846 served as Union and Confederate generals during the Civil War.

Soldiers who trained together now faced each other in battle. Confederate general A.P. Hill led forces against Union general George McClellan, "as if Mac were the most hated of his enemies, rather than the dear roommate of his West Point years."

—from *The Class of 1846: From West Point to Appomattox*



A.P. Hill

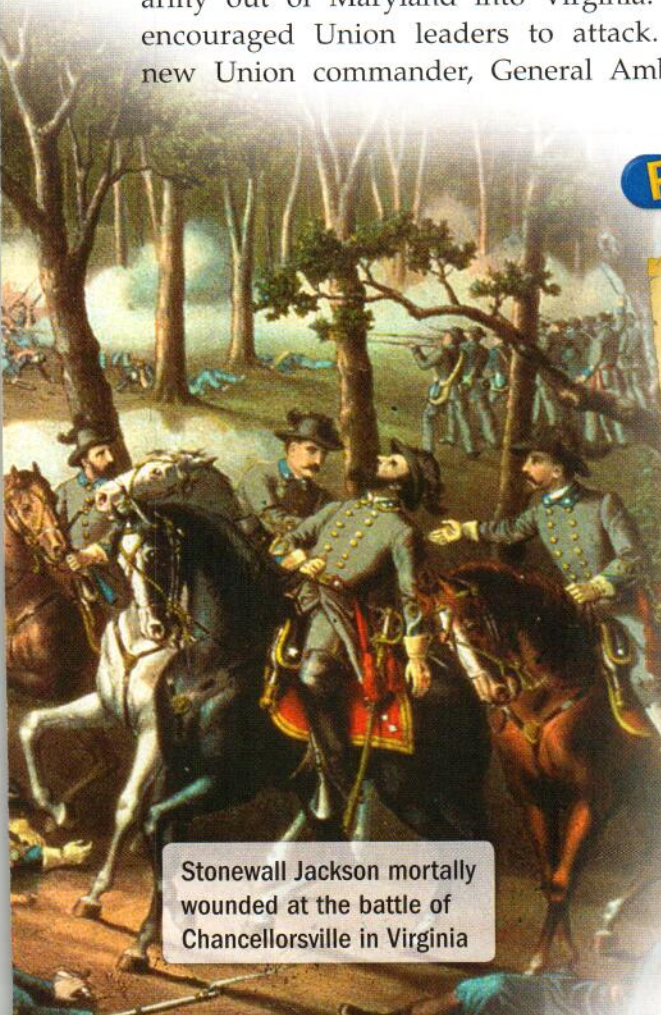


George McClellan

Critical Thinking

Speculating What do you think is the main reason some leaders decided to fight for the Confederacy? For the Union?

Stonewall Jackson mortally wounded at the battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia



Then, suddenly, Jackson's army turned and attacked the Union forces in the rear. At the same time, Lee struck from the front. Sandwiched between the two Confederate forces, Hooker eventually withdrew his men. One of the Confederate companies fired on Stonewall Jackson's company by mistake, wounding the general in the left arm. Jackson's arm had to be amputated, and he died a week later.

Weak Union Generals

In less than a year, three different generals led the Union forces. Lincoln was frustrated by their conduct of the war. Major General George McClellan commanded the Union forces at the Battle of Antietam in March 1862. He prepared well but was reluctant to engage the enemy. Said Lincoln, "If McClellan doesn't want to use the army, I'd like to borrow it for awhile."

The last straw came when, after victory at Antietam, McClellan failed to obey Lincoln's order to follow the retreating Confederate troops and "destroy the rebel army."

Lincoln pushed his next commander, General Ambrose Burnside, to take aggressive action. Burnside quickly lost the president's favor after a crushing loss at Fredericksburg.

Next, Lincoln appointed Major General Joseph Hooker, who had often been critical of other generals. Hooker's attitude matched the president's.

PRIMARY SOURCE

"May God have mercy on General Lee, for I will have none."

—General Joseph Hooker to his staff, April 1863

Words, however, were not enough to defeat Lee, who crushed Hooker's forces at Chancellorsville. Within two months, Hooker resigned.

Lincoln's next commander needed to prove himself quickly. Major General George Meade assumed command three days before one of the most important battles of the war.

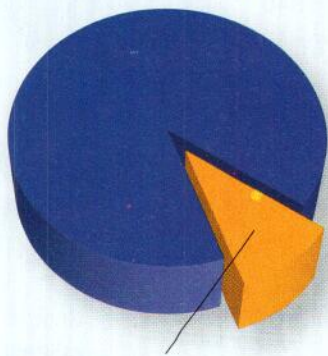
Reading Check **Synthesizing** What strategies did General Lee use to defeat Union armies that were much larger than his?

Primary Source African American Soldiers

Union Recruits Of the more than 2 million soldiers who served in the Union army and navy, nearly 200,000 were African American. As news of the Emancipation Proclamation spread, many African Americans from the North and the South enlisted. More than half were formerly enslaved.

▼ Union soldiers

Union Army



Nearly 10% of the soldiers in the Union army were African American.

Union Navy



About 18% of sailors in the Union navy were African American.



African Americans in the War

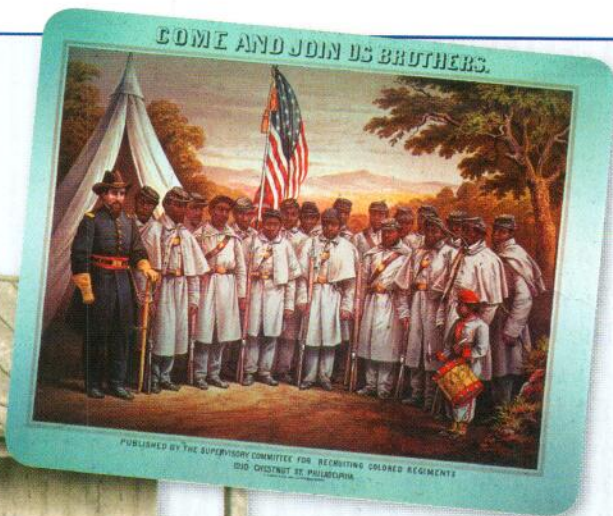
Main Idea African Americans showed courage and skill as soldiers in the Union army.

History and You What does it mean to act bravely? Read to learn about the 54th Massachusetts regiment and the battle for Fort Wagner.

At first, both the North and the South barred African Americans from serving in their armies. As time passed, the North relaxed its rules.

In the South

African Americans made up more than 30 percent of the Southern population, but Confederate leaders never seriously considered allowing them to enlist. Confederate leaders feared that African American soldiers, once armed, would attack their fellow troops or even begin a general revolt. The Confederates felt that the advantage of having more soldiers in their army did not justify this risk.



▲ Recruitment poster

Critical Thinking

Speculating Do you think using enslaved African Americans as soldiers would have helped the Confederacy win the war? Why or why not?

History ONLINE

Student Web Activity Visit glencoe.com and complete the Chapter 16 Web Activity about African Americans in the war.

In the North

President Lincoln at first resisted appeals to enlist African Americans in the Union army. He feared that such a policy would be resented in the border states. By 1862, though, it was evident that the North needed more soldiers, and many Union African Americans were eager to fight. As a result, Congress decided to allow the formation of all-African American regiments.

These new soldiers were in a tough position. Many white regiments from the North doubted their fighting ability. Others resented their presence. Many Southern troops hated the African American soldiers and often focused their fiercest gunfire on African American Northern regiments.

Still, African Americans joined. By the end of the war, they comprised about 10 percent of the Union army. Some were freed people from the North; others were runaway enslaved African Americans from the South. These men fought hard and effectively, too. As one white Union officer wrote about an all-African American Kansas regiment:

PRIMARY SOURCE

"They make better soldiers in every respect than any troops I have ever had under my command."

—Union general James G. Blunt

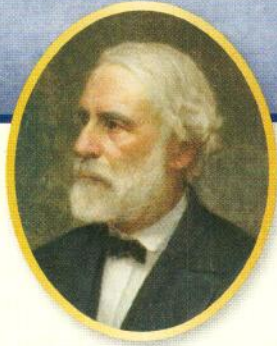
The 54th Massachusetts

The best-known African American regiment was the **54th Massachusetts**. In 1863 this regiment took part in an assault on Fort Wagner in South Carolina. The 54th served in the front lines of this battle. Confederate gunfire battered the men, causing nearly 300 casualties in this regiment alone. **Nevertheless**, the soldiers bravely fought on. Though the Union could not capture the fort, the 54th became famous for the courage and sacrifice of its members.

Reading Check Comparing and Contrasting

How were Union and Confederate policies regarding African American soldiers alike and different?

YOU DECIDE



Should Lee Have Invaded the North?

The war was fought in Southern territory for the most part. Lee's first invasion was turned back at Antietam. In 1863 he tried again.

The Alternatives

Play it safe

Should the South continue its defensive strategy?

Be bold

Should Lee launch a second invasion of the North?

Considering the Consequences

If the invasion fails

- The Confederacy makes no further attempt to invade the North.
- The tide of war turns in favor of the North.

If the invasion succeeds

- The Confederacy likely gains support from Europe.
- Union antiwar feeling grows.

The Decision

Could Lee's forces conquer the army of the Potomac on its own soil? Confident after the brilliant victory at Chancellorsville, Lee decided to invade the North.

The Results

- Lee's army in northern Virginia is defeated.
- The Confederacy makes no further attempt to invade the North.
- The tide of war turns in favor of the North.

DBQ Document-Based Questions

1. **Analyzing** In your opinion, did Lee have valid reasons for invading the North?
2. **Explaining** What do you think was the best reason for not invading the North?

The Tide of War Turns

Main Idea The Battle of Gettysburg marked a turn in the war as the Union forces defeated the Confederates.

History and You Have you ever made a decision that seemed right at the time but turned out to be disastrous? Read to learn what happened when General Lee decided to invade the North.

In spring of 1863, the South had the upper hand, but that was soon to change. The Confederate victory at Chancellorsville ruined Union plans for attacking Richmond. Robert E. Lee, emboldened by his victories, decided to take the war into the North. A win there might impress France and Britain.

The South's strategy recalled that of the colonies in the Revolutionary War—though far outnumbered, they were aided by France and had won. Now, France and Britain missed the goods—especially cotton—they were accustomed to buying from Southern planters. If the Confederates appeared to be winning, those nations might help.

The Battle of Gettysburg

In July 1863, a small town in southern Pennsylvania became the site of one of the most decisive battles in the Civil War. Gettysburg was not a capital, a strategic port, or the location of an important fort. That such serious fighting took place there was almost an accident.

The Confederates entered the town for much-needed supplies. General Lee hoped to avoid fighting troops in an unfamiliar area. However, the two sides **encountered** one another. When Lee's armies crawled out of Gettysburg four grueling days later, it was after sustaining 25,000 casualties. The Union—the victor—suffered the loss of 23,000.

The battle started at 5:30 A.M. on July 1. Outnumbered, Union troops retreated to a section of high ground called Cemetery Ridge. Reinforcements for both sides arrived, and on the second day of fighting, Southern generals

tried to dislodge Union forces from hills named Round Top and Little Round Top. However, after furious fighting, Union forces under the command of General George Meade held their positions.

That night, Meade made the decision not to retreat. The next day, Lee also made an important decision. He ordered an attack designed to “create a panic and virtually destroy the [Union] army.”

The Confederates started by firing nearly 140 cannons at the Union lines. Then, under the leadership of General George Pickett, thousands of Confederate troops attacked the Union’s center position at Cemetery Ridge. Putting themselves directly in the way of musket and artillery fire, they advanced across open land.

At first, it seemed that **Pickett’s Charge** might work—the Confederates broke the first line of Union defense. In the end, however, three-quarters of those who started the attack

lay dead or wounded on the ground. Lee later wrote:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“The army did all it could. I fear I required of it impossibilities.”

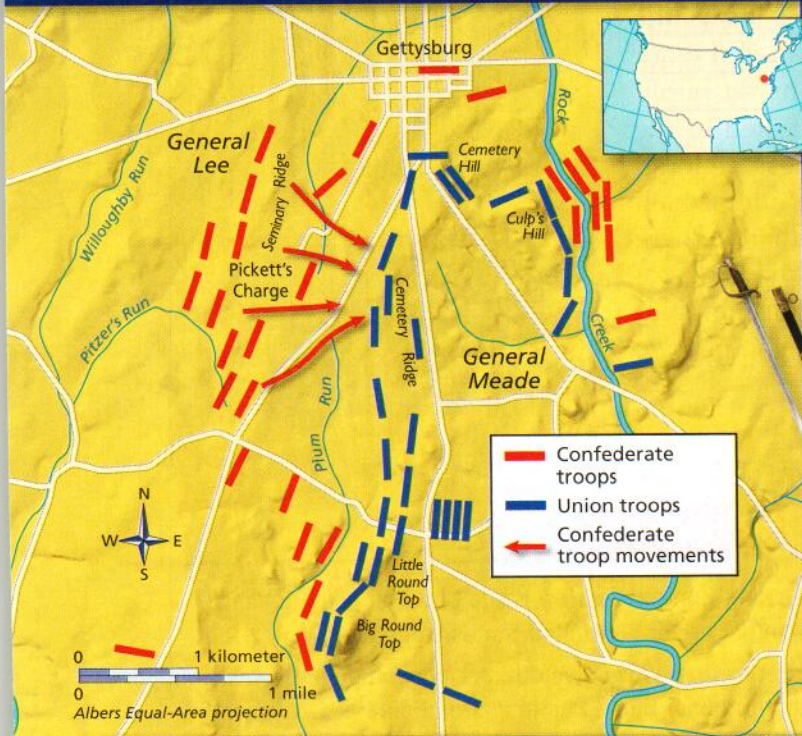
—from *Memoirs of Robert E. Lee*

Gettysburg put an end to one goal of Confederate foreign policy: gaining help from Britain and France. The South hoped to receive from the British two ironclads that would be used to sweep Union shipping from the Atlantic. However, in October 1863, the British government decided not to release the ships.

The Vicksburg Siege

On July 4, the day that Lee retreated from Gettysburg, the Confederacy suffered another major military blow. The important river city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, fell under the control of Union troops led by Ulysses S. Grant.

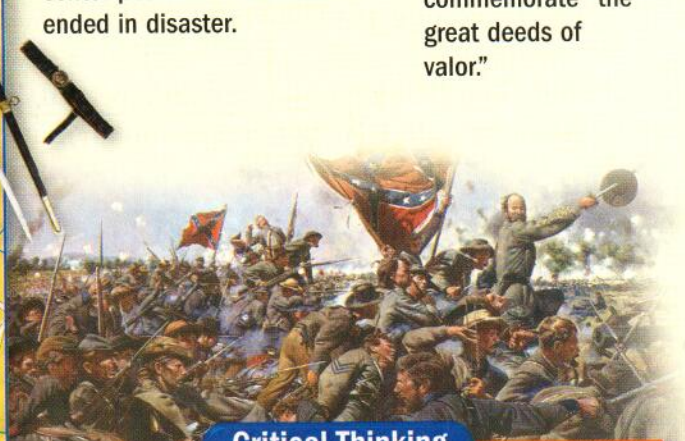
The Battle of Gettysburg, Day 3



Pickett's Charge came at the height of the three-day battle. More than 12,000 Confederate troops marched across an open field to attack the Union's center position. The effort ended in disaster.



▲ Today, the Gettysburg battlefield's 1,400 monuments commemorate “the great deeds of valor.”



Critical Thinking

Concluding Why did Pickett think that the North did not want to celebrate the victory?

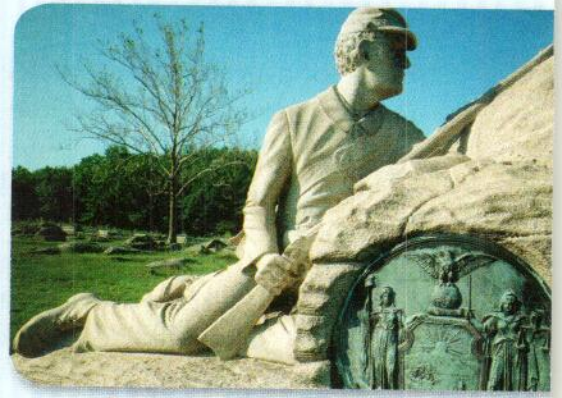
“The sacrifice of life on that blood soaked field . . . was too awful for the heralding of victory, even for our victorious foe.”

—George E. Pickett, in a letter to his fiancée

Primary Source

The Gettysburg Address

On November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln gave a short speech at the dedication of a national cemetery on the battlefield of Gettysburg. His simple yet eloquent words expressed his hopes for a nation divided by civil war.



▲ Monument at Gettysburg

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long **endure**. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not **consecrate**—we can not **hallow**—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly **resolve** that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Lincoln is referring to the nation declaring its independence in 1776–87 years before.

Union soldiers were fighting to keep the nation (North and South) together.

The soldiers who died made the supreme sacrifice. Lincoln believes it is up to those who are still living to carry on their unfinished work.

The U.S. government was created to serve the people. People are the source of the government's power.

VOCABULARY

score: twenty

proposition (PRAH • puh • ZI • shun): an idea or a belief

endure: to continue or last

consecrate (KAHN • suh • KRAT): to dedicate to a sacred purpose

hallow (HA • LOH): to respect greatly

resolve: to make a firm decision

Critical Thinking

- 1. Making Inferences** How is the Civil War going to “test” whether or not the United States can endure?
- 2. Interpreting** Why do you think Lincoln thought it was so important to honor those who fought and died at Gettysburg?
- 3. Finding the Main Idea** According to Lincoln, why was the war being fought?

Grant first launched his attack in April, surrounding the 30,000 Confederate troops holding Vicksburg. In May, Grant began a **siege** against the town, blockading it to prevent food and supplies from entering. Union gunships on the river supported Grant's 77,000 troops by firing thousands of mortar shells into the city.

During the 47-day siege, both sides suffered heavy casualties. More than 9,000 Confederate and 10,000 Union troops died, many of disease or starvation. Remarkably, fewer than 20 civilians were killed in the siege.

The bad news did not end there for the South, though. A few days later, it lost Port Hudson in Louisiana, its last stronghold on the vital Mississippi River. The Union strategy to split the South in two had succeeded. Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas were now cut off. In a single month, July 1863, the Civil War reached a major turning point.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

On November 19, 1863, Soldiers' National Cemetery was dedicated at Gettysburg. At the ceremony, former governor of Massachusetts

Edward Everett delivered a two-hour speech. After him, President Abraham Lincoln spoke for about two minutes. In 272 words, Lincoln was able to honor the soldiers and the cause for which they had fought and died, as well as state his vision for the country.

PRIMARY SOURCE

"These dead shall not have died in vain. . . . Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

—from the Gettysburg Address

Reactions to Lincoln's **Gettysburg Address** in the press were mixed. Everett, along with the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Springfield (Mass.) Republican*, thought the speech was a success. The *Republican* wrote, "His little speech is a perfect gem; deep in feeling, compact in thought and expression, and tasteful . . . in every word and comma."

Reading Check **Explaining** How do the events of this section demonstrate that the "tide" of war turned?

Section 4 Review

History ONLINE
Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com.

Vocabulary

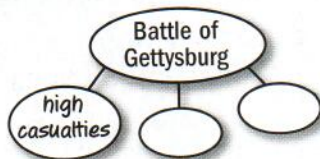
1. Define each of these terms in a sentence that will help explain its meaning: **entrench**, **nevertheless**, **encounter**, **siege**.

Main Ideas

2. **Explaining** Why was the battle of Chancellorsville important?
3. **Contrasting** How were African American soldiers treated differently than white soldiers?
4. **Explaining** In the Gettysburg Address, what did Lincoln say was the duty of "the living" to accomplish?

Critical Thinking

5. **Making Inferences** Why do you think many leaders called for African Americans to be allowed to fight in the Civil War?
6. **Organizing** Using a graphic organizer similar to the one below, list the results of the Battle of Gettysburg.



7. **Expository Writing** Refer to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in this section. Write an essay discussing Lincoln's ideas on freedom and the importance of saving the Union.

8. **Answer the Essential Question**
How did the events at Gettysburg and Vicksburg change the course of the war?