

The War's Final Stages

Essential Question

What events led to the end of the war?

Reading Guide

Content Vocabulary

total war (p. 507) resistance (p. 509)

Academic Vocabulary

series (p. 507) interpret (p. 509)

Key People and Events

David Farragut (p. 509)

March to the Sea (p. 510)

Appomattox Court House (p. 512)

Reading Strategy

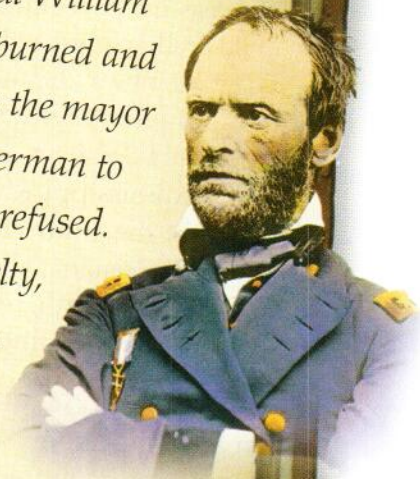
Taking Notes As you read, take notes on the significance of battles late in the war.

| Battle | Importance |
|--------|------------|
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American Diary

After Union forces took control of Atlanta on September 2, 1864, General William Sherman ordered the city burned and the citizens to leave. When the mayor of Atlanta pleaded with Sherman to change his mind, Sherman refused. He responded: "War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it. . . . You might as well appeal against the thunderstorm as against these terrible hardships of war."

—from Memoirs of General William T. Sherman



Atlanta and many other Southern cities, including Richmond as shown here, suffered large-scale destruction as the war continued.

Total War Strikes the South

Main Idea After a long, bloody summer, Union forces captured major Southern strongholds, and as a result, Lincoln won reelection.

History and You Have you ever had a goal that was difficult to reach? Did you have a strategy to reach your goal? Read to learn how Grant and the Union forces executed their plan.

General William Sherman's destruction of Atlanta and other areas of the South was part of a deliberate strategy to bring the horrors of war—terror, starvation, violence, and homelessness—to the Southern people. This systematic destruction of an entire land—not just its army—is called **total war**.

Union Strategy

By 1864, Union forces surrounded the South. Union ships blocked the Confederate coast, strangling its export economy and cutting off supplies. The Union controlled the Mississippi River, and the western Confederate states were cut off. A bold plan of attack was needed. General Grant would be the one to draw up such a plan.

Grant in Charge

Ulysses S. Grant was only an average student and a failure as a farmer and businessperson. At soldiering, however, he was brilliant. He chalked up victories at Shiloh and Vicksburg and at another important battle in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In March 1864, President Lincoln put General Grant in charge of all the Union armies.

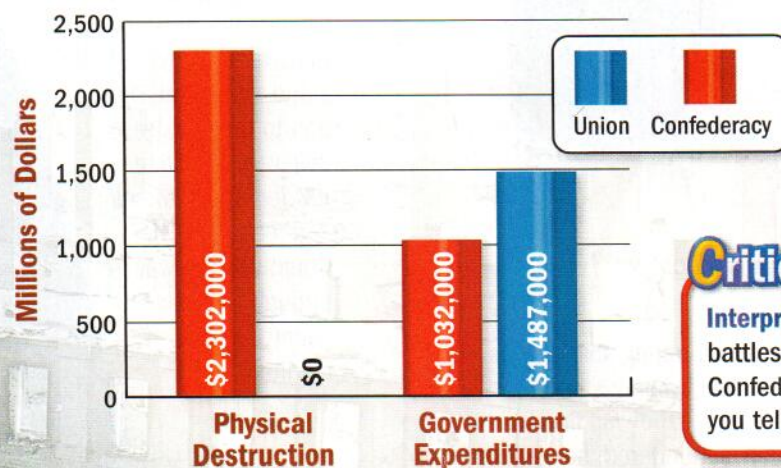
Grant then devised his plan. He would deliver killing blows from all sides. His armies would move on to Richmond, the Confederate capital. At the same time, William Tecumseh Sherman would lead his troops in attacks across the Deep South.

Grant soon put his strategy into effect. In May and June of 1864, Grant's army of 115,000 men smashed into Lee's 64,000 troops in a **series** of three battles near Richmond, Virginia—the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, and Cold Harbor. Each time Confederate lines held, but each time Grant quickly resumed the attack.

"Whatever happens, there will be no turning back," Grant promised Lincoln. He was determined to march southward, attacking Lee's forces relentlessly until the Confederacy surrendered.

By the Numbers Costs of the War

The South in Ruins By the end of the war, many Southern roads, railroads, farms, and industrial plants were in ruins.



Source: EH.Net Encyclopedia

Critical Thinking

Interpreting Were most battles fought on Union or Confederate soil? How can you tell?

The Wilderness Campaign

In the northeast corner of the Confederacy, about halfway between Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia, lay an area of dense woods called the Wilderness. Here, on May 5, 1864, the six bloodiest weeks of the war began. For two days, the forces of Grant and Lee struggled among a tangle of trees through which they could scarcely see. Said a Union private, "It was a blind and bloody hunt to the death."

Lee had only about 60,000 men to Grant's more than 100,000. Both sides suffered huge casualties. Grant, who lost 17,000 men, cried in his tent at the end of the second day. Meanwhile, brushfires raged through the forest, burning alive 200 wounded men. On the morning of the third day, with no clear winner, Grant moved his forces south toward Richmond.

The next battles were fought at nearby Spotsylvania Courthouse and at Cold Harbor. On June 2, the night before this third battle began, a Union general observed that men were "writing their names and home addresses on slips of paper and pinning them to the backs of their coats" to help people identify their bodies. The war seemed hopeless. Grant, however, was determined. He explained to the White House:

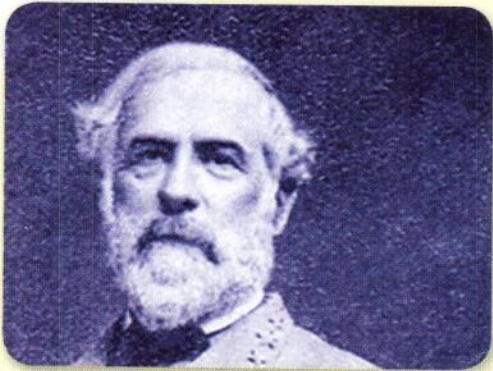
PRIMARY SOURCE

"I propose to fight it out on this line, if it takes all summer."

—Dispatch to Washington, May 11, 1864

Grant's critics in the North called him a "butcher" because of the huge loss of life among his own troops—50,000 in 30 days. Lincoln, however, said, "I can't spare this man. He fights."

People IN HISTORY



Robert E. Lee

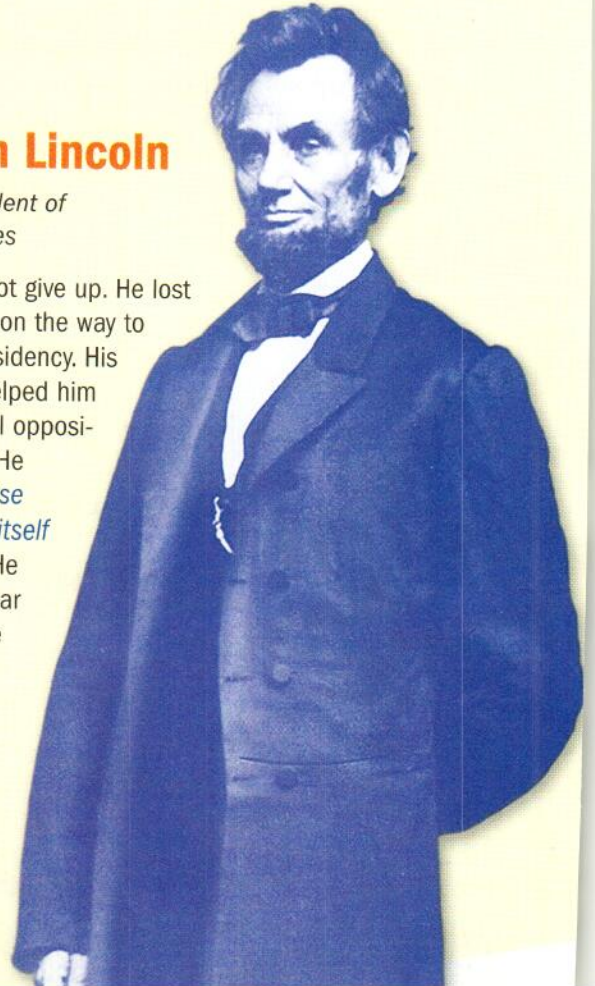
General, commander in chief of the Confederate armies

Lee, a brilliant scholar and a daring soldier, was willing to take risks. However, when his orders caused enormous loss of lives, he was filled with sadness. When he finally surrendered, he told his troops he had "unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country."

Abraham Lincoln

Sixteenth president of the United States

Lincoln would not give up. He lost seven elections on the way to winning the presidency. His perseverance helped him stand against all opposition to the war. He believed, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." He would see the war through until the country was reunited.



The Petersburg Siege

Continuing his movement south, Grant went on to Petersburg, a railroad center that was vital to the Confederate movement of troops and supplies. If Grant could take Petersburg, then Richmond would be cut off from the rest of the Confederacy. Grant laid siege. The Confederates defended the city, but they could not win. Trains brought food and reinforcements to the Union troops. The Confederates could get neither. For nine long months, however, they held out.

Sherman in Georgia

Meanwhile, William Tecumseh Sherman took off for Georgia. In early July, his troops circled Atlanta. There they faced the brilliant Confederate general, John Hood, whose forces put up major **resistance**. Sherman laid siege. Finally, on September 1, Hood abandoned the



Ulysses S. Grant

General of the United States Army and eighteenth president of the United States

Grant was a fearless soldier and an expert horseman at a time when soldiers rode horses in battle. Grant's strategy seemed ruthless at times, but he said, "*I have never advocated [war] except as a means of peace.*"

CRITICAL Thinking

- 1. Synthesizing** What characteristics do you think these three men shared?
- 2. Describing** Select a quote from one of the men described. What does the quote reveal about that person?

city. The mood in the South was desperate. Mary Chesnut, a Georgian who kept a diary throughout the war, wrote, "There is no hope, but we will try to have no fear."

Farragut at Mobile Bay

The highest-ranking officer in the Union navy was **David Farragut**, the son of a Latino military man. Young David Farragut joined the navy when he was only 12 years old. Now, in August 1864, he was leading a fleet of 18 ships through a narrow channel into Mobile Bay in Alabama. The Confederates had two forts on either side of the channel, and they had mined the waters with torpedoes. Guns were firing from both forts. What was Farragut to do? He gave his famous order, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

Farragut, who was suffering from dizziness, had himself tied to the ship's rigging so he could stay in the battle. His invasion was a success, and the last Southern port east of the Mississippi was blocked.

The Election of 1864

Through most of 1864, opposition to the war in the North grew stronger. A presidential election was coming up in November, and it looked unlikely that Lincoln would win reelection. His loss could mean an end to the war and recognition of the Confederate government as an independent country. Southerners clung to this hope.

After Atlanta fell and Mobile Bay was blocked, Northerners began to believe again that they could win. Lincoln won a second term handsomely—with 55 percent of the popular vote, 212 to 21 electoral votes.

Lincoln **interpreted**, or explained, his reelection as a clear sign from the voters to end slavery permanently by amending the Constitution. On January 31, 1865, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment, which banned slavery in the United States.

Reading Check **Summarizing** What was the Union strategy in 1864, and what were the results?

Battle Dates

The Wilderness

May 5–6, 1864

Cold Harbor

June 3, 1864

Petersburg siege

June 5, 1864–April 3, 1865

Kennesaw Mountain

June 27, 1864

Atlanta

July 20–Sept. 2, 1864

Franklin

Nov. 30, 1864

Nashville

Dec. 15–16, 1864

Wilmington

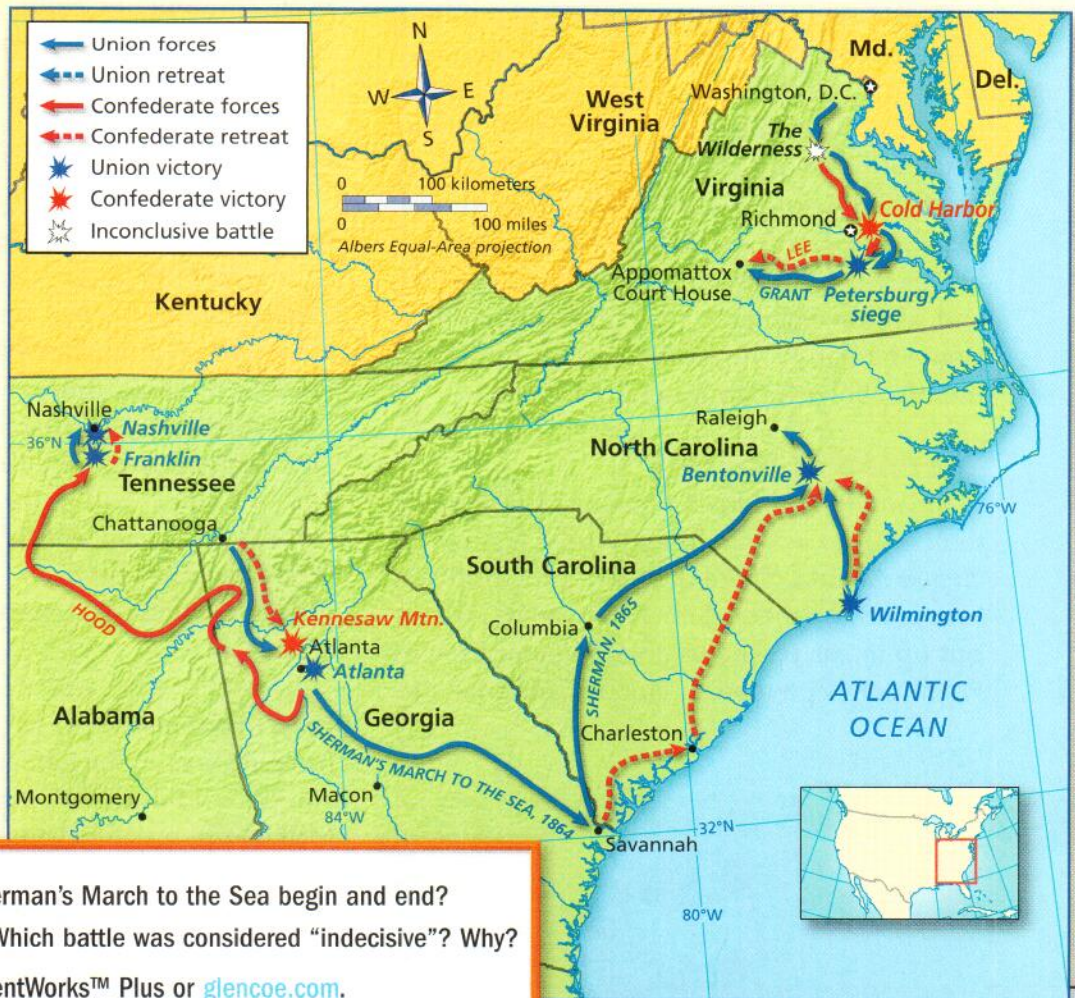
Feb. 12–22, 1865

Bentonville

March 19–21, 1865

Appomattox Court House

April 9, 1865



Map Skills

- 1. Location** Where did Sherman's March to the Sea begin and end?
- 2. Analyzing Information** Which battle was considered "indecisive"? Why?

Maps in Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

The War's End

Main Idea After four years of fighting against unfavorable odds, the South finally surrendered.

History and You How would you treat an enemy who said, "I give up"?

From the beginning of the war, the Union army wanted to capture the Confederate capital. When Grant finally drove Lee's army out of Petersburg, Virginia, Jefferson Davis knew that Richmond was doomed.

Sherman's March to the Sea

The last months of the war saw the Union determined to break the will of the South. Sherman and his men became destroyers.

Before Sherman's army left Atlanta in November, it burned much of this beautiful city. From Atlanta, Sherman's troops burned cities and farmlands as they marched across Georgia to the Atlantic coast. This trail of destruction is known as Sherman's **March to the Sea**.

Sherman continued his path of destruction through the Carolinas to join Grant's forces near Richmond. Union troops took what food they needed, tore up railroad lines and fields, and killed livestock in an effort to destroy anything that was useful to the South.

White Southerners deplored Sherman's march, but thousands of African Americans left their plantations to follow the protection of his army. For them, this was a march to freedom.

Union control
 Confederate control

The Union Advances



Early Stages Confederate troops won most of the battles in the first year of the Civil War.



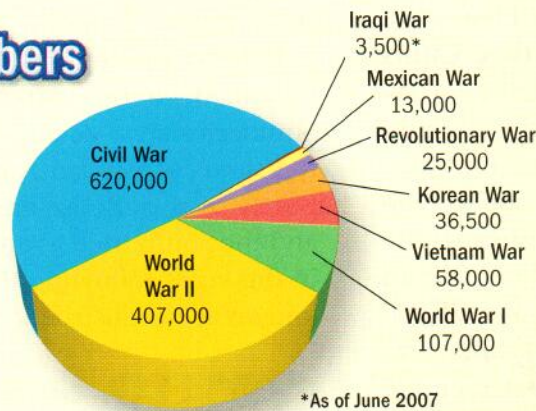
Union Gains Union control of the Mississippi River cut off Texas and Arkansas, the South's leading food producers, from the Confederacy.



Final Stages By 1865, the Union controlled large parts of the Confederacy.

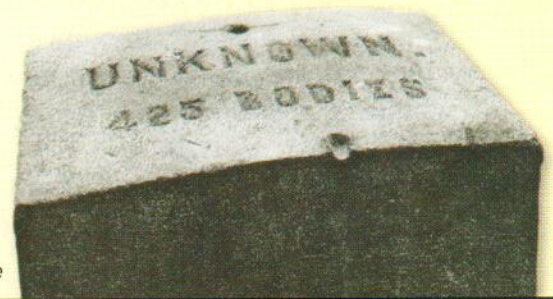
By the Numbers

Lives Lost More lives were lost in the Civil War than in any other major American conflict. Deadly weapons, poor medical practices, infection, and disease all contributed.



Sources: United States Civil War Center, For the Common Defense

Unknown Soldiers A gravestone in Gettysburg Cemetery commemorates the loss of 425 Civil War soldiers who were never identified.



The Fall of Richmond

Meanwhile, Grant continued the siege of Petersburg. Lee and his troops defended the town, but sickness, casualties, and desertion weakened them. Finally, on April 2, 1865, the Confederate lines broke and Lee withdrew.

Word of Lee's retreat came to the Confederate president. As the Union army marched toward Richmond, Davis and his cabinet gathered documents, gave orders that bridges and weapons useful to the enemy be set on fire, and fled the city. An observer wrote:

PRIMARY SOURCE

"The trains came and went, wagons, vehicles, and horsemen rumbled and dashed to and fro. . . . As night came on . . . rioting and robbing took place."

—from *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*

The armory, with its stores of ammunition, exploded. Boom after boom rang through the city, and fires raged out of control.

Two days later, President Lincoln and his son Tad arrived to tour the fallen capital. Said Lincoln, "Thank God I have lived to see this. It seems to me that I have been dreaming a horrid nightmare for four years, and now the nightmare is over."

Joyful African Americans followed Lincoln everywhere, singing, laughing, and reaching out to touch him. When one man knelt down to thank him, Lincoln replied, "Don't kneel to me. You must kneel to God only, and thank Him for your freedom."

At the Confederate president's house, Lincoln sat in a chair in Davis's office and "looked far off with a dreamy expression."

At Libby Prison, where the Union held Confederate prisoners of war, Lincoln was asked what to do with the prisoners and replied, "If I were in your place, I'd let 'em up easy, let 'em up easy."

Surrender at Appomattox

The formal end of the war came a few days later, on April 9, 1865. Two days earlier, Grant asked Lee to surrender, writing, "The result of last week must convince you of the hopelessness of further resistance."

Yet Lee believed he must fight on. However, when the Union captured the train carrying food to his troops and Lee was completely surrounded, he knew it was over.

In the little town of **Appomattox Court House**, Virginia, Grant met with Lee. They shook hands and talked a little. Then Grant offered his terms. Lee's soldiers could keep their small firearms, the officers could keep their horses, and no one would disturb the soldiers as they made their way home. In an act of generosity, Grant also gave 25,000 rations to feed Lee's troops. Dignity and compassion were the order of the day that ended America's deadliest war.

The Toll of War

More lives were lost in the Civil War than in any other conflict in American history. More than 600,000 soldiers died. The war cost billions of dollars. In the South, cities and farmlands were destroyed, and it would take years and a massive national effort to rebuild.

The war had other consequences as well. The North's victory saved the Union. The federal government was strengthened and was now clearly more powerful than the states. Finally, the war freed millions of African Americans. The end of slavery, however, did not solve the problems that the newly freed African Americans were to face.

Following the war, many questions remained. No one yet knew how to bring the Southern states back into the Union, nor what the status of African Americans would be in Southern society. Americans from the North and the South tried to answer these questions in the years following the Civil War—an era known as Reconstruction.

 **Reading Check** **Evaluating** What events led to Lee's surrender?

Section 5 Review

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

Vocabulary

1. Define each of the following terms, and use them in a paragraph about the last year of the Civil War: *total war*, *series resistance*, *interpret*.

Main Ideas

2. **Explaining** How did events on the battlefield affect Lincoln's reelection?
3. **Describing** Why did Sherman burn and destroy the South's land?

4. **Explaining** What were Grant's terms of surrender at Appomattox Court House?

Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing** Complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below to explain the effects of the Civil War on the nation.



6. **Descriptive Writing** Take on the role of a reporter living in Georgia during Sherman's March to the Sea. Write a brief article describing the Union's actions and their effects on the people living there.

7. **Answer the Essential Question** What events led to the end of the war?