

## Chapter 2: Manifest Destiny, Civil War, and Reconstruction

### Section 1: Reform and Westward Expansion

In the West, changes in suffrage laws gave most adult white men the right to vote. This new generation of voters elected Andrew Jackson President in 1828. Jackson's policies compelled thousands of Indians to leave their homes and endure a march to Oklahoma. So many died on the march that it became known as the Trail of Tears.

Conflicts between state and federal power increased, especially when the federal government imposed tariffs, or high taxes, on imported products to protect northern industry. Southerners argued that states had the right to nullify, or cancel, any federal law that went against their interests.

The religious movement known as the Second Great Awakening began sweeping across America in the 1820s. Many members of this movement began working for social reform. One of these was Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau was an abolitionist, someone who wanted to end slavery on moral grounds. He also encouraged people to practice civil disobedience by peacefully refusing to obey laws they considered immoral. Another abolitionist was the escaped slave Frederick Douglass, who eventually became a powerful speaker in the North.

The Missouri Compromise of 1820 balanced power between the slaveholding South and the non-slaveholding North in Congress. It allowed Missouri to enter the union as a slave state, so long as Maine was admitted as a free state.

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton helped organize the nation's first women's rights convention. Susan B. Anthony also worked to achieve greater rights for women.

Manifest Destiny, the idea that God intended the United States to stretch from the Atlantic Ocean all the way to the Pacific Ocean, brought many Americans westward. The westward movement of Americans caused tension with Mexico. This tension eventually erupted into the Mexican-American War. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended that war and awarded a large portion of the South-west, including California, to the United States.

### Section 2: The Union in Crisis

After the Mexican-American War, slavery emerged as a major issue. The Wilmot Proviso proposed that slavery be banned in the territory won from Mexico but continue in the South. Although the measure was defeated, it helped spur the rise of antislavery political parties, such as the Free-Soil Party.

California was admitted to the Union as a free state under the Compromise of 1850. In other territories acquired from Mexico, slavery would be decided by the voters themselves, an approach known as popular sovereignty. The Fugitive Slave Act, a provision of the Compromise, required citizens to help apprehend runaway slaves. Northern opponents of the law mounted an intense and disruptive resistance. Harriet Beecher Stowe further stirred opposition to slavery with her novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

In 1854, Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which divided the Nebraska Territory into Kansas and Nebraska. Popular sovereignty would decide the issue of slavery. Proslavery and anti-slavery settlers flocked to Kansas, causing violence to erupt between the two sides. Finally, in 1861, Kansas entered the Union as a free state.

A Supreme Court decision widened the growing divisions over slavery. In the 1857 case *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, the Court ruled that African Americans were not citizens. Furthermore, the Court ruled that the federal government did not have the power to ban slavery and that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional.

In 1859, white abolitionist John Brown and a small band of followers attempted to seize a federal arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia. They hoped to inspire local enslaved African Americans to join a revolt. The plan failed and Brown was eventually executed.

The Republican Party nominated Abraham Lincoln for President in 1860. A split in the Democratic Party over the slavery issue enabled Lincoln to win easily. To southerners, the election was a clear sign that the free states were now in a position to dominate national politics. South Carolina seceded, or broke away from, the Union. Ten other states joined South Carolina to establish the Confederate States of America. On April 11, 1861, Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, marking the start of the Civil War.

### **Section 3: The Civil War**

Between 1861 and 1865, the Union and the Confederacy fought each other in the Civil War. The urbanized North was able to produce the supplies necessary to wage war. Given such advantages, northerners anticipated a quick victory. By contrast, the more rural South had skillful and experienced military leaders, such as General Robert E. Lee.

The North adopted a strategy known as the Anaconda Plan, which aimed to starve the South into submission. For its part, the South hoped to wait out the war until northerners became tired of fighting. Although each side won some battles, a stalemate developed. The combination of new weapons and limited medical care led to a high number of casualties.

In 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in areas rebelling against the Union. Although it did not actually free any slaves, it redefined the war as being “about slavery.”

Some northerners opposed Lincoln’s conduct of the war. To deal with dissent, Lincoln suspended the constitutional right of habeas corpus, which guarantees that no one can be held in prison without specific charges being filed. Meanwhile, the South was struggling with economic problems. Doubts about the true value of Confederate money led to severe inflation, or price increases.

In the summer of 1863, Union General Ulysses S. Grant won several victories and split apart Confederate territory. In the East, Confederate troops were defeated in the Battle of Gettysburg. A

few months later, President Lincoln gave a speech known as the Gettysburg Address, in which he reaffirmed the ideas that the Union was fighting for.

In 1864, Union General William T. Sherman led more than 60,000 troops on a 400-mile march of destruction through the South. The march was part of a strategy of total war, which targeted all the resources needed to support an army. On April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered to General Grant. In the North, the Civil War helped modernize society by encouraging agricultural and industrial growth. By contrast, the South was in shambles. Because most of the battles took place in the South, much of its agriculture was destroyed.

#### **Section 4: The Reconstruction Era**

During the Civil War, Union politicians debated ways to achieve Reconstruction, or bringing the South back into the Union. For President Lincoln, the major goal was to reunify the nation. Some congressional leaders favored a harsh Reconstruction plan. However, Lincoln and Congress agreed to create the Freedmen's Bureau, an agency designed to aid freed slaves and relieve the South's needs.

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated and Vice President Andrew Johnson assumed the presidency. Johnson wanted to restore southern political power, if southerners accepted the Thirteenth Amendment, which ended slavery. In contrast, Radical Republicans wanted to punish the South and protect full rights for African Americans. Johnson and the Radicals in Congress clashed repeatedly. In 1868, Congress began impeachment proceedings against Johnson. Although Johnson was not removed from office, Ulysses S. Grant was elected President a few months later.

With Congress firmly in their control, Radical Republicans divided the South into five military districts. As a condition of re-admission to the Union, states had to grant the vote to African American men. Radicals also passed the Fourteenth Amendment, which guaranteed full citizenship status and rights to every person born in the United States. In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment was passed, guaranteeing male citizens the right to vote.

Most black farmers came to work under a system called sharecropping. In return for advancing materials to the sharecroppers, landowners received a share of the crop's value. Often, the crops did not cover the cost, leaving most sharecroppers in debt. Meanwhile, organized secret societies, such as the Ku Klux Klan, used terror and violence to prevent African Americans from voting.

The presidential election of 1876 signaled the end of Reconstruction. In exchange for becoming President, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes promised to withdraw all remaining federal troops from the South. Although the nation was reunited and the South began to rebuild, the political rights of African Americans continued to erode. Segregation, or legal separation of the races, became the law in all southern states.