**Guided Notes: The Civil War and Reconstruction**

**Causes of the Civil War:**

1. Slavery.
   1. Although **most Southerners didn’t own slaves**, and most Northerners were not abolitionists, slavery was at the heart of most major issues dividing the North and the South.
   2. **Abolitionists** spoke out actively against slavery. This fueled the fight between the North and the South. Some prominent abolitionists include Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.
   3. The **Underground Railroad** allowed slaves to escape to the North. Once the Fugitive Slave Act was passed, most slaves tried to escape to Canada for safety.
   4. ***Dred Scott vs. Sanford:*** Supreme Court case that stated that slaves don’t have a right to sue for their freedom.
2. Settling of Lands in the west
   1. Northern states wanted new territory to not have slaves. Southern states wanted slavery to expand across the country.
      1. States ended up being added to the Union in **pairs**: one free-state, and one slave state, as set up by the **Missouri Compromise**.
      2. Congress established 36’30, also known as the Mason-Dixon Line, as the dividing line between settling free and slave territory.
   2. **Compromise of 1850**: California entered as a free state, even though it was in the southern half of the U.S. Utah and New Mexico could decide on their own whether or not they wanted slavery, and the **Fugitive Slave Act** was passed. This required slaves to be returned south upon capture.
   3. **The Kansas – Nebraska Act** and Bleeding Kansas:
      1. Ignoring the previous 36’30 dividing line, Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, allowing them to set up their own state constitutions, and therefore decide whether slavery was legal or not.
      2. In Kansas, for the first time, people started killing each other over slavery. The fighting lasted all summer, and 200 people died. It is known in history as **bleeding Kansas**. It let both sides know that the time for compromise was over.
3. Way of Life.
4. The **north** was becoming increasingly **industrial**, using factories, railroads and new inventions of the age to their benefit. There were several large cities, which attracted immigrants from Europe.
5. The **south** had **few large cities** and had an economy based on **farming**. Small farmers would run their own farms, owners of large farms, or plantations, used slave labor to run their farms.

4. Free labor versus slave labor:

1. The northern economy was based on **free laborers** who could work where they chose and received a wage.
2. The southern economy was based on **slave laborers** who were not free to leave and received food and lodging but no wages.

5. States’ rights:

1. The north thought that no state had a right to leave the Union, or **secede.**
2. The south argued that a state could leave the union if it voted to do so.
3. After Lincoln’s election in 1860, one by one, **11** southern states left the union and formed the Confederacy.

6. **A few Confederate Facts:**

1. States within the Confederacy: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee.
2. President of the Confederate States of America: **Jefferson Davis**
3. Capital of the Confederate States of America: **Richmond, Virginia**
4. Major War general leading Confederate Troops: **Robert E. Lee**

**Why each side thought they could win….**

Advantages of the North:

1. **Population:** Even when the slave population is included, the North outnumbers the South by approximately 10 million people.
2. **More factories** to produce guns, uniforms, and military supplies
3. Navy and merchant marine
4. **Rail systems** are twice as large as the south’s. This allows for easier transportation of troops and supplies.
5. Most of the **banks** and cash in the United States were in the North.

Advantages of the South:

1. **Better military leaders**: many of the talented military leaders are Southern, and fight for the Confederacy.
2. Most of the war is fought in the South, meaning it was familiar terrain to Southerners, or **home field advantage.**
3. **More skilled horsemen** and riflemen.

**Tactics and Technology:**

1. Musket ball bullets were left for the **mini**é **ball**. The pointed bullets led to much more carnage.
2. Muskets were replaced with **rifles**, as they had a longer range and were more accurate.
3. **Ironclads** were naval warships covered in iron. They were faster and better protected than wooden ships.
4. Troops began digging **trenches** and using their hidden position as part of a battle strategy.
5. They also sought to fight on higher ground, so they could fire down on attackers.
6. **Railroads** revolutionized deployment of troops and supplies.
7. **Telegraph** became the first mass communication system.
8. **Clara Barton** helped revolutionize battlefield medicine with basic first-aid practices. Initially, there was little knowledge of germs so infection and disease spread rapidly. Twice as many soldiers died from **infected wounds and disease** as did in battle.

**How the war affected life on the home front:**

1. While both sides were upset about being drafted into the war, in the north, there were riots because wealthy men were legally able to pay someone else to fight in their place.
2. Since many of the battles took place in the South, many areas lay in ruins, and food and supplies were often hard for families to attain.

**Highlight reel of the War:**

**April 12, 1861** – Civil War begins when Confederates attacked **Fort Sumter, South Carolina**

**July 16, 1861** – First Battle of Bull Run: Both sides fight fiercely, but ultimately the south scares the north away with its **rebel yell**.

**March 9, 1862** – The first battle between two ironclads, the Monitor and the Merrimack, happens in the Atlantic. The Merrimack – Confederate Ship – retreats.

**April 6-7, 1862** – Battle of Shiloh. Ulysses S. Grant, who had been winning several river fort victories in the West, won this bloody Tennessee battle. Death toll: 13,000 Union, 11,000 Confederate.

**April 25, 1862** – General Farragut captures New Orleans, giving control of the majority of the Mississippi to the North, and essentially splitting the Confederacy in two.

**June 25-July 1, 1862** – McClellan is FINALLY going to attack Richmond, but Robert E. Lee sends troops to spy on him, and then attacks. This is known as the Seven Days Battle. Casualties: 15,849 for Union, 20,000 for Confederates. Union forced to retreat.

**September 16-17, 1862** – Lee decided to invade northern territory. Soon after, the Battle of Antietam is fought. After a day of fighting and 23,000 casualties, neither side gains any ground. Lee retreats. McClellan doesn’t follow to finish him off. Lincoln fires him.

**January 1, 1863 –** Lincoln issues the **Emancipation Proclamation**. This Changes the northern cause from preserving the Union to liberation. Slaves began escaping and joining Union forces.

1863 – West Virginia seceded from Virginia, and then joined the Union.

**July 1-3, 1863** – After victories at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Lee decides to invade Pennsylvania. At **Gettysburg,** Union troops, lead by George Meade, clash with Lee’s men for three days. North held high ground on cemetery ridge, and the south was trying to dislodge them. The tide of the battle turned when General Pickett tried to attack the Union line going uphill. Known as **Pickett’s Charge** this grave mistake lost the battle for the Confederacy. Lee retreated, and once again, he wasn’t followed. Lincoln was furious. Casualties: 23,000 Union and 28,000 Confederate. The confederacy never recovers from this loss.

**July 4, 1863** – Grant captures Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River. He had them under siege for 6 weeks. This was a major victory in the Anaconda Plan, as it officially cut the Confederacy in two and gave the North total control of the Mississippi River.

**November 19, 1863** – President Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address to dedicate the battlefield.

**March 9, 1864** – Ulysses S. Grant becomes general in chief of all Union armies. He is to try and take Richmond, VA while Sherman destroys the South.

**September 2, 1864** – General **William Tecumseh Sherman** occupies Atlanta, Georgia, and burns it down.

**November 9, 1864** – Lincoln wins re-election.

**November 15, 1864** – Sherman begins his “**March to the Sea**.” It is a 60 mile wide and 300 mile long path of destruction from Atlanta to Savannah. He waged total war: a war not only against enemy troops, but anything that supported the confederacy.

**December 21, 1864** – Sherman occupies Savannah, Georgia. He then heads north to meet Grant in Virginia

**February 9, 1865** – Lee made general in chief of all Confederate armies.

**April 2, 1865** – Confederates retreat from their capital, Richmond, Virginia

**April 9, 1865** – General Lee surrenders to General Grant at **Appomattox court House**. Grant offered generous terms of surrender. Confederate soldiers could take their personal possessions and return home. He even fed hungry soldiers.

**April 14, 1865** – Lincoln assassinated

**April 26**, **1865 –** John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln’s assassin, is shot and killed.

**How it changed the Nation**

1. State’s rights issue decided. States can’t just vote to leave the union.
2. Federal government expands its powers.
3. New **paper currency (**greenbacks), institution of the **income tax**, and establishment of a new federal banking system.
4. Northern industries such as steel, petroleum, and food processing grew rapidly, as did manufacturing in general
5. The **13th amendment** was ratified, officially banning slavery in the United States.

The twelve year period after the Civil War is known as **Reconstruction**. During this period, the nation faced the problem of rebuilding the Southand reuniting the States. Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson wanted to be gentle with former Confederates. However, many of the Southern States began passing laws that took freedom from African Americans. Congress wanted the South to accept the end of slavery. A group known as the **Radical Republicans**, led by Thaddeus Stevens, used federal power in Congress to make sure that **freed slaves were safe**, **that they could make a living**, and **be full citizens.**

**Historians divide Reconstruction into two states:**

1. **1865-1866:** Reconstruction was controlled by the **Presidents.**
2. **1866-1877:** Reconstruction was run by **Congress**, known as Radical Reconstruction.

The Presidential Plan:

In March 1865, President **Abraham Lincoln** signed a law passed by Congress that created the **Freedman’s Bureau.** Its purpose was to provide foodfor both blacks and poor whites in the South, to help former slaves **find jobs**, and to **protect them from discrimination**. They also established **schools** and **hospitals** to help.

After Lincoln was assassinated, his Vice President, **Andrew Johnson,** became president. He disagreed with Republicans in Congress about howto bring the Confederate States back into the Union and how to treat their leaders. Johnson pardoned most Southerners, including Confederate officials and army officers. These pardons permitted former Confederates to vote and hold office. Johnson even pardoned Alexander Stephens, the Confederate Vice President, so that he could serve in Congress. More thansixty members of the Confederate government were elected as U.S. Representatives. Radical Republicans in Congress did not like this. Congress set up a committee to decide if these members should seated.

President Johnson also wanted all states to sign the **13th Amendment** prior to re-entering the Union. He further demanded each state officially accept the supreme power of the federal government (this stems from the state’s rights debate.)

**Black Codes:**

Although slavery was abolishedin 1865**,** African Americans were not given full nights as citizens. Southern states passed laws to keep former slaves from **voting, testifying against whites in court, serving on juries, and joining the militia**. These laws were known as the **black codes.** Unfortunately,President Johnson was most concernedwith **readmitting states to the union** as quickly as possible, and didn’t attempt to meet the needs of formerly enslaved people by helping them to gain land, voting rights, and equal protection under the law.

**Radical Reconstruction:**

In order to re-enter the Union, Congress required each Southern state to ratify the **14th Amendment**. Only Tennessee did. Congress then divided the South—Except Tennessee—into five military districts. An army general and federal troops were sent to each district. Southern states were required to hold conventions with both black and white delegates to re-write their state constitutions.

**Carpetbaggers and Scalawags:**

After the war, many Northerners moved to the South. Some were missionaries and teachers who went to help the former slaves and suffering farmers. Others went to take advantage of the disorder. These people were often lumped together and called **carpetbaggers** because many carried suitcases made of carpet material. They were often accused, and unfairly so, of seeking wealth and power instead of seeking to help.

Southern Democrats used the word **scalawag**, meaning, rascal, to refer to Southern whites who supported the Radical Republicans during Reconstruction. Scalawags were the representatives elected to create new state constitutions when Radical Republicans demanded that be done.

**Reconstruction Legislation:**

1. **The 13th Amendment** freed the slaves (1865)
2. The Freedman’s Bureau was established by law (1866)
3. **The Civil Rights Act of 1866** declared that all persons born in the United States were citizens (except Native Americans) President Johnson vetoed this bill, and Congress overrode his veto.
4. **Reconstruction Acts of 1867**, divided the South into **five military districts**, and said that former Confederate States had to sign the 14th Amendment and create a new state constitution before rejoining the union.
5. **The Tenure of Office Act (1867)** said prohibited the President from removing government officials from office without Senate approval.
6. **The 14th Amendment** made all former slaves U.S. citizens, and gave them equal protection under the laws. (1868)
7. **The 15th Amendment** gave African-American men the right to vote (1870)
8. **The Force Acts of 1870 and 1871** (Ku Klux Klan Acts) protected African Americans from acts of terrorism.
9. **The Civil Rights Act of 1875** was aimed at ending Jim Crow laws. It was overturned by the Supreme Court in 1883.
10. **The Compromise of 1877** settled an undecided presidential election and **ended Reconstruction**. In return for making Republican Rutherford B. Hayes president, Southern Democrats were promised that federal troops would be removed from the South. Democrat Samuel Tilden lost the election. He had enough popular votes to win but not enough electoral votes.

**African –American Officeholders:**

Between 1869 and 1876, fourteen black men were elected to the House of Representatives, and two to the senate. Some of these men had been born slaves. Others had been born free, and several had attended college. During Reconstruction, more than **700 African Americans served in state legislatures**.

**Freedman’s Schools:**

Newly freed slaves took advantage of the fact that it was now legal form them to get an education. Children and adults alike flocked to **Freedman’s Schools,** which were started by the Freedman’s Bureau to help newly freed slaves prosper. By 1869, more than **150,000** people were attending schools and anxiously learning to read. Southerners fought against African Americans effort to educate themselves. They killed teachers and burned Freedman’s Schools to try and detour the movement.

**The Ku Klux Klan:**

The Ku Klux Klan was formed in Tennessee in 1866 by a group of Confederate veterans who claimed to be the ghosts of Confederate soldiers. The Klan was a secret society which appeared in public dressed in white robes and hoods that covered member’s faces. The Klan believed in the **supremacy** of the white race and tried to **terrorize African Americans** and the carpetbaggers and scalawags who supported them. To keep African Americans from voting, the Klan burned their homes and lynched them. By 1867, there were local units of the Klan in every state from Virginia to Texas.

**Jim Crow Laws:**

Jim Crow laws were passed by Southern states to **legalize segregation**. They created **separate areas** for blacks and whites in public waiting rooms, restaurants, schools, and hospitals. The name “Jim Crow” comes from a popular minstrel song, “Jump, Jim Crow.” Minstrels were usually white people who put black paint on their faces. They sang and danced and acted happy-go-lucky. There were Jim Crow laws until the 1960’s in many places in the United States.

**The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson:**

Congress and President Johnson fought bitterly over Reconstruction. Congress continually passed laws, and the President continually vetoed them. In most cases, Congress was able to override his veto. In 1867, Congress passed the Tenure of Office Act. It prevented the President from removing government officials without the consent of Congress. Johnson said the Constitution did not give Congress the right to pass such a law. He then proceeded to remove Secretary of War **Edwin M. Stanton** from office. The House of Representatives charged the President with “high crimes and misdemeanors” and voted to **impeach** him. Impeachment is an indictment or charge of a high ranking government official for a crime.

The senate held a trial and heard the evidence in the spring of 1868, but Johnson’s opponents did not have the two-thirds majority needed to convict him. He was **acquitted by one vote**, and allowed to serve out his term as President.

**Daily Life:**

Many freedmen strived to **own land**. They felt it truly gave them independence. While it was rumored that abandoned land would be parceled up among freedman (40 acres and a mule per family) this didn’t come to pass. Radical Republicans fought for land reform. They argued that **civil rights meant little without economic independence**. Unfortunately, they were unable to gain enough support in Congress to pass a land reform bill.

Unable to own land, some former slaves accepted plantation work under contract. Finding plantation owners were not always honoring their contracts, many former slaves turned to **sharecropping**. They lived on and farmed land owned by someone else and paid the landowner a share of the crop harvest in return. However, often these farmers were forced to grow cash crops like Cotton, and couldn’t raise their own food. After paying off the land owner, and buying their own food and clothes, many sharecroppers had no money left. **It perpetuated the cycle of poverty** and gave them little opportunity to economically advance.

**Ulysses S. Grant:**

As President, he **fought against the Klan** and tried to ensure that white and black men could vote in elections. After passing Anti-Klan legislation, elections became more peaceful. He even worked to ratify the **15th Amendment**, officially granting African American men the right to vote. Many suffragists were unhappy because the 15th Amendment didn’t include Native Americans or women.

Grant **picked poor advisors**. They were friends and family members, but they were unqualified and often took bribes. This weakened the unified Radical Republican front and Reconstruction began to falter.

**Panic of 1873:**

Several Eastern Banks made bad loans and ran out of money. People lost faith in banks all together and tried to withdraw all their money. The stock market collapsed, and an **economic depression** ensued for five years. More than 18,000 businesses folded and 500,000 people lost their jobs. Many blamed the Republican Party for this economic crisis, and **grew tired of hearing about the South’s problems**.

**Supreme Court:**

In 1876, in the case of **U.S. vs. Cruikshank, t**he Supreme Court ruled that the federal government could not punish individuals who violated civil rights of African Americans. Only states had that power. Southern states didn’t punish violators, and **violence dramatically increased**.

In **U.S. vs. Reese**, the court said that the 15th Amendment did not give everyone the right to vote, it just said it couldn’t deny them the right. Denying the right to vote couldn’t be based on race, but it could be based on other reasons. Therefore, southerners set up outrageous and **unfair literacy tests and poll taxes** to try and restrict African Americans from voting.

**Election of 1876:**

**Samuel Tilden** won the popular vote, but didn’t have enough electoral votes. This led to the **Compromise of 1877. Rutherford B. Hayes** would become President. However, troops had to be **removed from the south**. There were also promises of federal money to rebuild southern railroads and communities. Southerners promised to respect the rights of African Americans, but history proved that was an empty promise.