



Course Learning Outcomes for Unit V

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Judge the financial and industrial capabilities of both the North and the South and how each played a role in the ultimate outcome of the Civil War.
2. Explain the political ideology both the North and South held concerning the Civil War noting those in both regions who did not agree with the prevalent ideology of their area.
3. Determine the effect the black population had on the war noting both their use in the North as soldiers, but also their use in other auxiliary roles in both regions.
4. Compare and contrast the use of the draft in both the North and the South stating the rates and reasons for desertions in both regions.
5. Outline naval objectives for both regions and how naval effectiveness and limitations impacted the eventual outcome of the war.
6. Justify the results of the 1864 elections.
7. Elaborate on the important campaigns and leaders for both sides during this time period.

Reading Assignment

Chapter 7:
The Civil War, 1863-1865

Unit Lesson

Unit V is composed of Chapter 7 which outlines the Civil War from the years 1863 to its end in 1865. Lincoln's *Emancipation Proclamation* speech in the North began the year 1863, and was risky as many Northerners were outraged at fighting the war over this cause. However, despite its ability to fragment Northern society, a cry for freedom invigorated the war effort. At this trying time militarily, the North needed any source of new or renewed support.

The proclamation also paved the way for black soldiers to fight. This further increased the North's already superior manpower. The South would later attempt to arm its slaves, in an effort to tap this unused source of manpower. However, the South fought on the grounds that slaves were not truly men, and arming them was in contrast to this belief and was implemented out of desperation at the end of the war, thus having very little effect.

Black recruits could have been helpful to both armies because both armies suffered from disease, casualties, and desertion. These factors led both armies to employ other ways to man the war. Ironically, the South fighting for states' rights embraced national conscription on a much wider scale than the North.

One major problem with which the North struggled was morale. Of course, with famine and inflation rampant in the South, the Confederacy also suffered. Yet, prior to Sherman, she seemed to suffer more silently. The North struggled loud and clear, even into late 1863, as it became clear that the South could not win the war. Despite her inability to win it, the Northern populace wavered as she struggled to prolong the war.

Despite the crushing might of the North, the South continued to stalemate the war, and in doing so, the weary Northern population was subjected to incredible casualties, and these aided in their failed ability to appreciate the accomplishments of commanders such as Grant. Despite victory during the Battle of the Wilderness, he was soon known as a butcher willing to sacrifice the lives of uncounted men because despite heavy losses, the Northern soldier could be replaced.

This assessment of Grant, while harsh, is not altogether incorrect. The North with its larger numbers was able to sustain defeats like those witnessed at Chancellorsville and even massive losses during their victories, such as Gettysburg. Grant, though perhaps not loved by the Northern populace, was appreciated by Lincoln for his *bulldog* tenacity. Grant and, possibly even more instrumental in this, Sherman, engaged in warfare that affected not only the troops, but the citizens of the South.

The Union wore down the ability and the morale of the South and as the North began to bear its might on the South, the Confederacy began to crumble. Lincoln, who in 1862 had truly feared losing when he stated, the North “shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth,” (Millett & Maslowski, 2012) began to realize that perhaps this dream could be saved. The South could not secure foreign aid, Lincoln was reelected (thus ensuring a peace would not occur), the blockade damaged trade, and the sieges starved the civilian population of the South.

This warfare began to break through the last decaying remains of Southern resolve. Despite the North’s clear advantage at this stage in the war, many in the South refused to capitulate. The South did not admit defeat until Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse. The South had been battered by the March to the Sea and the Trek to the Carolinas.

Now surrendered, she feared the vengeance of the North. Yet, both sides were war weary and the South had little to fear from her Northern brethren. By winning the war, the North laid the foundation or perhaps more accurately, failed to lay the foundation for the South’s peaceable reentry into the Union and thus lost Reconstruction. It has often been noted that while the South lost the war, they won Reconstruction. The *Lost Cause* united the former Confederates to establish a culture in the South that would continue to deprecate the black population for years to come in a status many would argue was little improvement from slavery.

Reference

Millett, A. R., Maslowski, P., & Feis, W. B. (2012). *For the common defense: A military history of the United States from 1607 to 2012*. New York, NY: The Free Press.