

Year 11- Year 12 Summer Tasks: 1K, USA: The Making of a Superpower, 1865-1975

You have 3 tasks to complete for the USA side of the course.

These tasks are designed to help you understand the context of 1865, which is where our course begins. 1865 was the final year of the American Civil War which had seen the Southern States break away from the Northern States, mainly over the issue of slavery.

Firstly, take a look at the specification for 1K The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042/subject-content/1k-the-making-of-a-superpower-usa,-18651975>

Task 1 Skill-Chronological understanding

Create a timeline of U.S History from 1865-1920. It must contain a minimum of 15 key dates accompanied by detailed descriptions. Maximum of 30 dates.

Useful websites to help you:

<https://www.history.org.uk/podcasts/categories/297/podcast/561/the-rise-of-american-empire-1865-1920> A podcast on the rise of the American Empire

<https://millercenter.org/president> An overview of the Presidents of the USA

<http://www.american-historama.org/> A simple overview of American History

Task 2 Skill-Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding

Read the two articles on the next few pages. Summarise **each** into **exactly** 10 bullet points.

- A Brief Overview of the American Civil War: A Defining Time in Our Nation's History By *Dr . James McPherson*
- The Legacy of the Civil War by *Rick Beard and Richard Rabinowitz*

Task 3 Skill- Analyse and evaluate appropriate source material within its historical context.

Read sources A and B and identify the nature (type of source), origins (who made it/when) and purpose (why) of both in a detailed paragraph. Then, write a paragraph explaining why they give different views on Lincoln, using the knowledge you have acquired from the articles.

Source A: A letter from Frederick Douglass to Mary Todd Lincoln, August 1865.

‘Mrs. Abraham Lincoln:

Dear Madam: Allow me to thank you, as I certainly do thank you most sincerely for your thoughtful kindness in making me the owner of a cane which was formerly the property and the favourite walking staff of your late lamented husband the honoured and venerated President of the United States. I assure you, that this inestimable memento of his Excellency will be retained in my possession while I live - an object of sacred interest - a token not merely of the kind consideration in which I have reason to know that President was pleased to hold me in personally, but as an indication of his humane interest in the welfare of my whole race. With every proper sentiment of Respect and Esteem I am, Dear Madam, your Obedient Servant
Frederick Douglass.’

Source B: John Wilkes Booth writing in his diary, April 15th 1865.

‘This country was formed for the white not for the black man. And looking upon African slavery from the same stand-point, as held by those noble framers of our Constitution, I for one, have always considered it, one of the greatest blessings (both for themselves and us) that God ever bestowed upon a favoured nation. Our country owed all her troubles to him (Lincoln), and God simply made me the instrument of his punishment. The country is not what it was. This forced Union is not what I have loved. I care not what becomes of me. I struck for my country and that alone. A country that groaned beneath his tyranny, and prayed for his end.’

A Brief Overview of the American Civil War

A DEFINING TIME IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

BY DR. JAMES MCPHERSON



Abraham Lincoln (National Archives)

The Civil War is the central event in America's historical consciousness. While the Revolution of 1776-1783 created the United States, the Civil War of 1861-1865 determined what kind of nation it would be. The war resolved two fundamental questions left unresolved by the revolution: whether the United States was to be a dissolvable confederation of sovereign states or an indivisible nation with a sovereign national government; and whether this nation, born of a declaration that all men were created with an equal right to liberty, would continue to exist as the largest slaveholding country in the world.

Northern victory in the war preserved the United States as one nation and ended the institution of slavery that had divided the country from its beginning. But these achievements came at the cost of 625,000 lives--nearly as many American soldiers as died in all the other wars in which this country has fought combined. The American Civil War was the largest and most destructive conflict in the Western world between the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and the onset of World War I in 1914.

The Civil War started because of uncompromising differences between the free and slave states over the power of the national government to prohibit slavery in the territories that had not yet become states. When Abraham Lincoln won election in 1860 as the first Republican president on a platform pledging to keep slavery out of the territories, seven slave states in the deep South seceded and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. The incoming Lincoln administration and most of the Northern people refused to recognize the legitimacy of secession. They feared that it would discredit democracy and create a fatal precedent that would eventually fragment the no-longer United States into several small, squabbling countries.

The event that triggered war came at Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay on April 12, 1861. Claiming this United States fort as their own, the Confederate army on that day opened fire on the federal garrison and forced it to lower the American flag in surrender. Lincoln called out the militia to suppress this "insurrection." Four more slave states seceded and joined the Confederacy. By the end of 1861 nearly a million armed men confronted each other along a line stretching 1200 miles from Virginia to Missouri. Several battles had already taken place--near Manassas Junction in Virginia, in the mountains of western Virginia where Union victories paved the way for creation of the new state of West Virginia, at Wilson's Creek in Missouri, at Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, and at Port Royal in South Carolina where the Union navy established a base for a blockade to shut off the Confederacy's access to the outside world.

But the real fighting began in 1862. Huge battles like Shiloh in Tennessee, Gaines' Mill, Second Manassas, and Fredericksburg in Virginia, and Antietam in Maryland foreshadowed even bigger campaigns and battles in subsequent years, from Gettysburg in Pennsylvania to Vicksburg on the Mississippi to Chickamauga and Atlanta in Georgia. By 1864 the original Northern goal of a limited war to restore the Union had given way to a new strategy of "total war" to

destroy the Old South and its basic institution of slavery and to give the restored Union a "new birth of freedom," as President Lincoln put it in his address at Gettysburg to dedicate a cemetery for Union soldiers killed in the battle there.



Bodies in front of the Dunker Church - Antietam Battlefield (Library of Congress)

For three long years, from 1862 to 1865, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia staved off invasions and attacks by the Union Army of the Potomac commanded by a series of ineffective generals until Ulysses S. Grant came to Virginia from the Western theater to become general in chief of all Union armies in 1864. After bloody battles at places with names like The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg, Grant finally brought Lee to bay at Appomattox in April 1865. In the meantime Union armies and river fleets in the theatre of war comprising the slave states west of the Appalachian Mountain chain won a long series of victories over Confederate armies commanded by hapless or unlucky Confederate generals. In 1864-1865 General William Tecumseh Sherman led his army deep into the Confederate heartland of Georgia and South Carolina, destroying their economic infrastructure while General George Thomas virtually destroyed the Confederacy's Army of Tennessee at the battle of Nashville.

By the spring of 1865 all the principal Confederate armies surrendered, and when Union cavalry captured the fleeing Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Georgia on May 10, 1865, resistance collapsed and the war ended. The long, painful process of rebuilding a united nation free of slavery began

The Legacy of the Civil War

Rick Beard American Association for State and Local History

Richard Rabinowitz, American History Workshop

In 1961, *Life* magazine invited the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, poet, and literary scholar Robert Penn Warren to ruminate on the upcoming centennial of the American Civil War. His resulting 25,000-word essay—*The Legacy of the Civil War*—remains a brilliant and timely meditation on "our only 'felt' history—history lived in our national imagination." As the War's sesquicentennial arrives a half century later, Americans prefer a degree of concision and self-assuredness to their historical legacies that would surely have been anathema to so nuanced a thinker as Penn Warren. Type in "the legacy of the Civil War" on Google, and wiki.answers.com—the third site that pops up—will tell you that: "The civil war helped unify the union and free slaves." Simple! Declarative! Forestalling debate! And certainly not incorrect.

But there is a great deal more to be said about the legacies of what Penn Warren called "the greatest single event of our history." His Southern roots—Penn Warren was after all a native of Kentucky and a leading contributor to the Southern Agrarian manifesto *I'll Take My Stand*—bred an appreciation for the influence of a person's birthplace, race, political beliefs, and economic station in shaping their particular point of view about the War's legacy. He also knew that despite the many different, often contradictory, meanings Americans ascribe to the Civil War, there are certain elemental legacies that no thoughtful student of the War can dispute. The Civil War irrevocably transformed the social, political, constitutional, and economic landscape of the United States to a greater extent than any other event before or since. To the historian's eye, many of these changes were immediate and dramatic. The nation became bigger, more dynamic, more aggressive internationally, and more diverse within the space of only a few decades.

The financial and human costs of this transformational conflict were staggering. In 1861, the federal budget of \$80.2 million devoted \$36.4 million to defense: in 1865, the comparable figures were \$1.33 billion and \$1.17 billion. Defense spending did not drop below \$100 million again until 1871. During the four budget years most impacted by the war—1862 through 1865—a total of \$3.05 billion was devoted to defense spending. By war's end, the accumulated federal deficit had grown from \$90.6 million in 1861 to \$2.68 billion in 1865.

Year	Federal Budget	Defense Budget	Non Defense Budget	% Devoted to Defense	Annual Deficit	Accumulated Deficit
1860	\$78	\$29	\$49	37	\$13.4	\$64.8
1861	\$80.2	\$36.4	\$43.8	45	\$30.3	\$90.6
1862	\$485.9	\$437.9	\$48	90	\$425.6	\$524
Year	Federal Budget	Defense Budget	Non Defense Budget	% Devoted to Defense	Annual Deficit	Accumulated Deficit
1863	\$726.1	\$663.6	\$62.5	91	\$602	\$1,119.8
1864	\$878	\$781.5	\$96.5	89	\$600.9	\$1,815.8
1865	\$1,331.3	\$1,170.3	\$161	88	\$963	\$2,680.7
1866	\$536.2	\$343.4	\$192.8	64	-\$36.3	\$2,773.2

Table 1. Federal Budgets, 1860-1866

All monetary figures in millions

The cost in lives was equally stunning. Over 620,000 Union and Confederate soldiers lost their lives, two thirds of them from disease. In the Confederate states alone, one in every four males between the ages of 16 and 45 was either killed or incapacitated. Americans, both Northerners and Southerners, black and white, came face to face with battlefield slaughter and death as never before (or since) in the nation's history. A comparable loss today would result in the deaths of over 6 million Americans. And these casualty figures do not account for an undetermined number of civilians who were killed during the conflict.

This carnage dealt a mortal blow to the "slave power," an economic and social system that had horrific human consequences and had glaringly contradicted the aspirations of many of the Founders toward equality. More than four million men, women, and children who had known no other life than slavery suddenly found themselves freed. By the end of 1865, the 13th Amendment's succinct guarantee that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction" made moot the provisional nature of Abraham Lincoln's wartime Emancipation Proclamation. Within five years, the 14th and 15th Amendments solidified the newly emancipated slaves' autonomy with guarantees of citizenship and the right to vote. Despite these constitutional protections, most former bondmen and women soon found themselves driven by terror, peonage, and discrimination back into a world of circumscribed possibilities. It took another century until the full force of the federal government was brought to bear on behalf of constitutional guarantees of equal protection and voting rights for African Americans.

The war's most immediate legacy was growth: the federal government, the population, and the country itself all got bigger. The size and role of the federal government began a dramatic expansion, starting a trend that has never reversed. In 1860, the last full year before the fighting began, the federal budget was \$78 million. By 1867, the first year in which the war could be eliminated as a major economic factor, the federal budget had grown almost fivefold, to \$376.8 million. Federal spending never again dipped below \$300 million a year.

The Republican commitment to aggressive federal action to spur economic development was apparent from the war's outset. In 1862 alone, Congress passed the Homestead Act, the Morrill Land Grant Colleges Act, and the Pacific Railway Act, all of which helped pave the way for postwar industrialization, urbanization, and westward expansion. In the war's aftermath, a succession of Republican administrations--only Grover Cleveland [twice] broke the party of Lincoln's hold on the White House before Woodrow Wilson's 1912 victory over a fractured Republican Party--continued the high tariffs and other economic policies friendly to business that signaled an unwavering commitment to capitalism. Legal scholars posit that this political victory of the Republicans was paralleled by a judicial revolution, a veritable "Second American Republic," with a strong nation-state governing a populace of national--not state--citizens, whose rights would be guaranteed by the federal authorities.

Year	Population	Growth over past decade	% Growth over past decade	% urban population
1860	31,443,321			19.8
1870	38,558,371	7,115,050	22	25.7
1880	50,189,209	11,630,838	30	28.2
1890	62,979,766	12,790,557	25	35.1
1900	76,212,168	13,232,402	21	39.6
Year	Immigration totals over past decade		Immigration as % of growth over past decade	
1870	2,134,824		32.5	
1880	2,812,191		24	
1890	5,246,613		41	
1900	3,687,564		28	
Year Range	Growth over range	% Growth over range	Immigration totals over range	Immigration as % of growth over range
1860-1900	44,768,847	142	14,061,192	31

Table 2,3 and 4 U. S. Population Growth and Immigration, 1860 through 1900

As the table above illustrates, the nation's population growth kept pace with that of the central government. The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, the elimination of the threat of the extension of slavery, and the surge of immigration in the four decades after the war all spurred expansion to the Pacific coast. In the thirty years after the war's end, ten new states were admitted into the union. The country's population grew 142 percent between 1860 and 1900; 31 percent of that growth was due to immigration. The percentage of the population that was classified as city dwellers doubled, from 19.8 percent in 1860 to 39.6 percent in 1900, marking the emergence of an industrial, urban, increasingly diverse and economically dynamic nation.

Neither the states of the defeated Confederacy nor the former slaves benefitted from this explosion of growth or the Republican-led, business-friendly economic policies. The end of slavery, however overdue, represented the largest uncompensated confiscation of property in history-'property' assigned a market value as high as \$4 billion by some economists. The planter class, which before the war had embodied more than 50 percent of the nation's wealth, was in ruins, as were many of the South's major cities. High tariffs worked against the export of the South's primary staple crops-cotton and tobacco-and unsettled labor relations in the wake of emancipation created economic uncertainty throughout the region.

Former slaves proved especially vulnerable. After Andrew Johnson revoked General William T. Sherman's Special Field Orders, No. 15, providing 40 acres to former slaves, the federal government failed to provide any long-term, systemic economic support. The Freedmen's Bureau provided short-term assistance and sought to secure work opportunities for the former slaves, but the widespread opposition of former Confederates rendered the Bureau's efforts largely ineffectual. Those blacks who stayed in the South, and most did for the first fifty years after the war's end, quickly found themselves condemned to poverty by a system of sharecropping. Not until the Great Migration between 1910 and 1930, when over 1.75 million African Americans left the states of the former Confederacy, did blacks begin to break free of a way of life rooted in the 18th- and 19th-century plantation. It took almost a century after the signing of the surrender accords at Appomattox before the South began to match the prosperity of other regions of the nation.

Social and cultural factors exacerbated the regional differences already taking shape as a result of the growing economic disparity. The abrupt end of Reconstruction in 1877 removed federal troops and with it the guarantee of protection for former slaves in the South. In less than two decades, Southern political leaders had constructed the "Jim Crow" regime of racial segregation. In its 1896 *Plessy v Ferguson* decision, the Supreme Court posited the constitutional doctrine of "separate but equal" in public facilities and accommodations. Although its enforcement varied from state to state, "Jim Crow" came to define social interaction between whites and blacks throughout the former Confederacy as well as several states that had never seceded. It took the combination of the Supreme Court's landmark decision *Brown v Board of Education* in 1954, the willingness of both the Republican President Eisenhower and the Democrat President Kennedy to deploy federal troops to enforce it, and a series of legislative triumphs by President Johnson in the early 1960s, to put an end this long legacy of inequality.

The long struggle of ex-slaves and their children to reclaim their Reconstruction-era civil and political rights ultimately proved successful, but it met with stubborn resistance from Southern whites for decades. The commonplace notion that the South lost the war and won the peace was accepted because in large part it was true. The defeat of the Confederacy, ironically, fueled the defiance of white Southerners. The myth of the "Lost Cause" deserves considerable credit for the "resurrection." First postulated almost immediately after the war, and lent considerable momentum by former Confederate General Jubal Early during the 1870s and 1880s, the argument held that the South had fought for a noble cause; had a constitutional right to secede; had been led by morally superior leaders; had fallen short in its quest for independence due only to the North's superior resources; and had been motivated by the defense of the Southern homeland and states' rights, not chattel slavery. This genteel and decontaminated narrative of the Civil War justified both massive resistance to concepts of equality and the inferior social and economic position accorded African Americans.

The sesquicentennial years present a unique opportunity to assess anew the many legacies of the American Civil War. Some of these, such as the economic and physical growth spurred by the war, are beyond contesting. Others are not. The question of whether African Americans now may enjoy their full constitutional freedoms continues to vex many in public and private life and is often a contentious source of political and social debate. Some Americans continue to question the primacy of the federal government and sound the alarm on behalf of states' rights, especially when social and economic pressures are greatest. And still others contest the landscape of historical memory, challenging one another's narratives and too often ignoring the historical record in favor of comfortable tales passed down from one generation to the next. What Americans know about the Civil War, and what they believe about the Civil War, are sometimes uncomfortably far apart.