

camp, helped soldiers on leave, aided black fugitives, and recruited volunteer nurses.

The Civil War was the first war in which several thousand women served as nurses. Traditionalists on each side did not approve of women taking what had previously been considered a man's job. But in 1861 women had a new heroine. She was Florence Nightingale, who had earned fame caring for British soldiers several years earlier in the Crimean War. Altogether, some 3,000 women would serve as official Union army nurses. The Confederacy was slower to accept women nurses, but by 1862, they too were part of the Confederate army service.

## SECTION REVIEW

- 1. KEY TERMS** antiseptic, anesthetic
- 2. PEOPLE AND PLACES** Richmond, Baltimore, Robert E. Lee, Elizabeth Blackwell
- 3. COMPREHENSION** What advantages did the North have over the South?
- 4. COMPREHENSION** Why was the blockade an important part of northern strategy?
- 5. CRITICAL THINKING** What opportunities did the war create for women? How might these new opportunities have changed women's role in society?

## 4 The Agony of War

### ★ Section Focus

★ **Key Terms** Battle of Bull Run ■ Battle of Shiloh ■ Seven Days' Battle

★ **Main Idea** In the first two years of war, the Confederate army successfully held its line of defense on the eastern front. On the western front, however, the Union won significant victories.

★ **Objectives** As you read, look for answers to these questions:

1. What was the impact of the war's first major battle?
2. How did the Union triumph in the war at sea?
3. What was the impact of Union victories in the West?

On to Richmond! the northern papers cried. By capturing the Confederate capital, the Union hoped to crush the rebellion in a single, swift blow. But to win Richmond the Union army would first have to take Manassas Junction. This important railway center was only 30 miles south of Washington.

On July 18, 1861, Union troops began the march to Manassas. They were raw recruits, undisciplined and in poor physical condition, who had signed up for 90 days of service. It took them three days to reach the battle site.

On July 21 a bevy of sightseers and picnickers rode out from Washington to watch the battle. Among them were society women carrying ele-

gant gowns in trunks. They expected the day to end with a grand ball of celebration at Richmond.

### THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN

The two armies met at the stream called Bull Run, just north of Manassas Junction. The Union forces outnumbered the Confederates 30,000 to 20,000. By midday they had driven a Confederate flank back a mile. During a heavy Union barrage, a Confederate officer rallied his troops by pointing his sword to General Thomas J. Jackson. "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall! Rally behind the Virginians!" he is said to have cried. Thus Jackson, one of the Confederacy's most able generals, won the nickname of "Stonewall Jackson."



Civil War enthusiasts act out the Battle of Bull Run. The triumph of the Confederate army at Bull Run confirmed suspicions that the Union forces lacked training, and it shattered northern hopes for easy victory in the Civil War. **CULTURE** Why do many Americans remain fascinated by Civil War history?

And like a stone wall, Jackson's brigade held fast against the Union assault.

With the arrival of fresh troops, the Confederates then rallied and launched a countercharge. Attacking the Union line, they let out a bloodcurdling scream. The scream, later known as the "rebel yell," demoralized the Union troops. "There is nothing like it on this side of the infernal region," a northern veteran later recalled. "The peculiar corkscrew sensation that it sends down your backbone under these circumstances can never be told. You have to feel it."

The Union troops—discouraged, tired, and hungry—broke ranks and scattered. For raw recruits they had fought well, but they had reached their limit.

The retreating soldiers became entangled with the sightseers and picnickers. Convinced that the rebels were right behind them, the whole crowd panicked. Supplies were abandoned, horses were cut loose from their traces, and soldiers began to run. Yet the Confederate army did not pursue its

advantage. General Joseph Johnston later explained, "Our army was more disorganized by victory than that of the United States by defeat."

The **Battle of Bull Run** was a great shock to northerners. Confident of victory, they faced instead a sobering defeat. The day after the battle, Lincoln sent the 90-day militias home and called for a real army of 500,000 volunteers serving for three years. Three days later, he called for another 500,000. To command this army, Lincoln appointed George B. McClellan, who had won distinction fighting Confederate forces in West Virginia.

News of Bull Run electrified the South. "We have broken the backbone of invasion and utterly broken the spirit of the North," the *Richmond Examiner* rejoiced. But more reflective southerners saw that the South had won a battle, not the war. The victory "lulls us into a fool's paradise of conceit at our superior valor," Mary Chesnut wrote in her diary. She was right to be cautious. The war was far from over.

## THE NAVAL WAR

Although the great battles of the Civil War would take place on land, the ability of the Union navy to restrict southern shipping had a decisive effect on the outcome. The Union choked off southern shipping in two ways: by blockade and by seizing major harbors.

A number of southerners entered the lucrative business of blockade-running. From bases in the Caribbean the runners carried cargoes ranging from guns to hoop skirts. They used specially designed ships that were low in the water, fast, quiet, and painted gray. On the return voyage the blockade runners carried southern cotton.

In the first year of the war the Union blockade was practically useless—nine out of ten ships got through. But northern shipyards were soon busy turning out a fleet of new boats, including shore-hugging gunboats and deep-sea cruisers. For the crews, blockade patrol offered the chance of riches. Each cargo captured was divided between the ship's crew and the government.

Enforcing the blockade patrol became much easier as the Union captured most of the Confederacy's major harbors. By April 1862 the Union had control over every important Atlantic harbor except those of Charleston, South Carolina, and Wilmington, North Carolina. Steadily the blockade tightened. By 1865 only one runner out of every two managed to evade the Union patrols.

The war also hastened a revolutionary development in naval technology: the ironclad warship. In 1861 the Confederates took the captured Union frigate *Merrimack* and refitted it with iron sides. On a trial run in March 1862, the *Merrimack* (now renamed the *Virginia*) unexpectedly encountered a Union squadron at the mouth of Virginia's York River. The ironclad destroyed two wooden Union warships and ran one aground. At day's end the Confederates were exulting in their new weapon.

The next morning, however, the Confederate crew was amazed to see that a new craft had anchored nearby. The "tin can on a shingle" was the Union's own ironclad, the *Monitor*, which was on its way south from New York. In the first fight ever between ironclad warships, the *Virginia* and *Monitor* hammered away at each other for two hours before calling it a draw. Although both sides

built ironclads for bay and river fighting, the new ships had little effect on the war's outcome. The real importance of the *Virginia* and *Monitor* is that they were the forerunners of future navies.

## UNION VICTORIES IN THE WEST

Union troops in the West spent most of 1861 preparing for war. In February 1862, however, General Ulysses S. Grant made a bold move to take Tennessee.

Using new ironclad gunboats, Grant's forces captured two Confederate river forts, Fort Henry on the Tennessee and Fort Donelson on the nearby Cumberland. The seizure of Fort Henry opened up a river highway into the heart of the South. Union gunboats could now travel on the river as far as northern Alabama. When the people of Nashville heard the forts were lost, they fled the city in panic. A week later, Union troops marched into Nashville. It was the first major Confederate city to be captured.

Meanwhile, Earl Van Dorn, commander of a Confederate army in Arkansas, planned an end run around Union troops by marching into Missouri and taking St. Louis. With 16,000 soldiers, including three Cherokee regiments from the Indian Territory, Van Dorn headed north. Between Van Dorn and St. Louis, however, stood a Union army of 11,000. On March 7, 1862, the two armies collided at Pea Ridge, near the Arkansas-Missouri border. The Confederates could not hold out against the well-drilled and well-supplied Union troops. They broke ranks, high-tailing it in all directions. It would take two weeks for Van Dorn to reassemble his army.

## THE BATTLE OF SHILOH

After Grant's river victories, Albert S. Johnston, Confederate commander on the western front, ordered a retreat to Corinth, Mississippi. Grant followed, and in early April his troops encamped at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. There he awaited reinforcements. Johnston, however, was not about to wait for Grant to take the offensive. Marching his troops north from Corinth, on April 6, 1862, Johnston surprised the Union forces at the **Battle of Shiloh** (SHY-lo), named after a meetinghouse near the battlefield.

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## UNION VICTORIES IN THE WEST

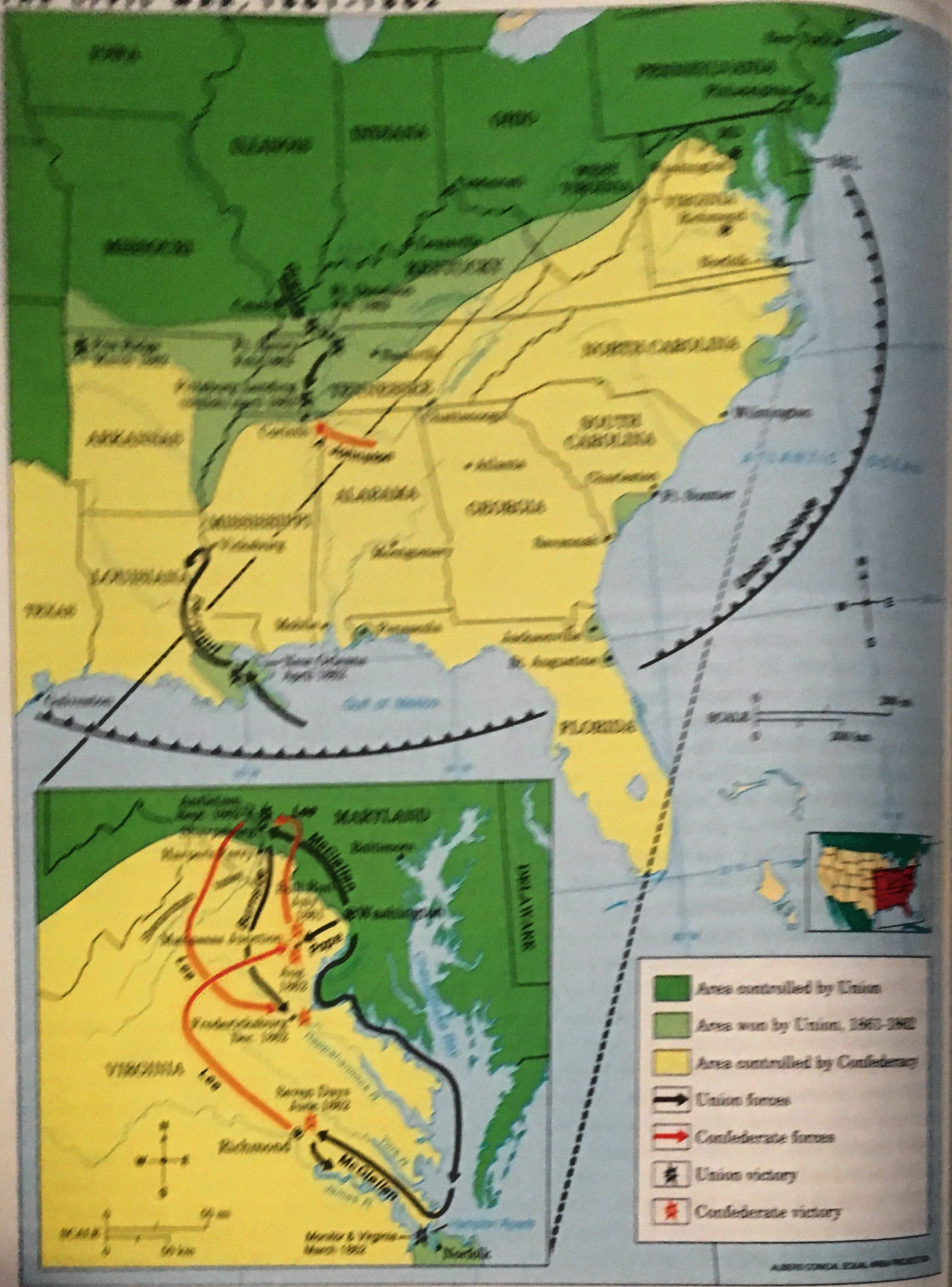
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- Area controlled by Union
- Area won by Union, 1861-1862
- Area controlled by Confederacy
- Union forces
- Confederate forces
- Union victory
- Confederate victory

It was the fiercest fighting the Civil War had yet seen.

Commanders on each side were in the pitch of battle to encourage their troops, most of whom had never fired at another human being. One Union general, William Tecumseh Sherman, had three horses shot out from under him. General Johnston was killed, and the command of the Confederates passed to General Pierre Beauregard. By the end of the day, each side was confident that dawn would bring victory.

That night a terrible thunderstorm passed over the battlefield. Rain fell in torrents. Lightning periodically lit up the battlefield, where soldiers dead and dying lay in water and mud. During that awful night, Union boats ran upriver to deliver reinforcements to Grant's camp. With fresh troops, Grant made a surprise attack at dawn and forced the exhausted Confederates to retreat.

The cost of the Union victory was dreadful. Union casualties at Shiloh were 13,000—about one-fourth of the army. The Confederates lost 11,000 out of 41,000 soldiers. Describing the piles of mangled bodies, General Sherman wrote home, "The scenes on this field would have cured anybody of war." But there would be more such scenes—and worse—before the war was over.

**"The scenes on this field would have cured anybody of war."**

*—General Sherman on the  
Battle of Shiloh, 1862*

### THE FALL OF NEW ORLEANS

The South was just absorbing the news of Shiloh, when more bad news arrived. On April 25, 1862, a Union squadron commanded by David Farragut

### MAP SKILLS

Farragut captured New Orleans in 1862 while Grant's troops pushed toward Mississippi. What did the two hope to accomplish? How did the Union blockade of southern ports affect the Confederacy? **CRITICAL THINKING** Why did much of the war's fighting take place in the Virginia-Maryland region (inset map)?

### BIOGRAPHY

**ROBERT E. LEE (1807–1870)** was the son of "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, a Revolutionary War hero. Lee married Martha Washington's great-granddaughter, Mary Custis. He fought in the Mexican War and in 1859 led the capture of John Brown at Harpers Ferry. When the Civil War began, Lee's loyalties lay with his home state, Virginia, so he joined the Confederate army. His bold strategies rank him among history's greatest generals. After the war he became president of Washington and Lee University.



had taken New Orleans. To do so, Farragut's ships had run a gauntlet of cannon fire and then dodged burning rafts set adrift on the river. As Farragut's men landed, the city's residents stood on the docks and cursed the Yankee invaders.

In despair, Mary Chesnut wrote in her diary: "New Orleans gone—and with it the Confederacy. Are we not cut in two?" Indeed, after the victories of Grant and Farragut, only a 150-mile stretch of the Mississippi remained in Confederate hands. Standing guard over that section was the heavily armed Confederate fort at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Vicksburg, however, would hold out against the Union forces for another year. By mid-1862 the Union offensive had come to a halt in the West.

### THE VICTORIOUS MEN IN GRAY

After Bull Run the eastern front had remained fairly quiet. McClellan built up the new Army of the Potomac, preparing for the day when the North would try once again to capture Richmond. McClellan had more men than the Confederates, but he was slow to move—afraid, some said, of failure. In the spring of 1862 he finally began a cautious offensive. Transporting his troops to the York Peninsula between the York and James rivers, McClellan planned to attack Richmond by way of the peninsula.

Robert E. Lee now commanded the Army of Northern Virginia. To assess Union strength, he sent Jeb Stuart on a cavalry reconnaissance. With

1,200 men, the dashing Stuart rode around the whole Union army in four days and reported its size and position to Lee. Lee attacked McClellan on June 26, 1862. The two armies clashed repeatedly for an entire week in what became known as the **Seven Days' Battle**. The Virginians suffered heavier losses, but it was McClellan's army that was forced to retreat.

In late August the Confederates won a second decisive victory at Bull Run, this time routing Union forces under General John Pope. With Washington in danger, Union troops withdrew from much of Virginia to protect the capital. By the end of the summer of 1862, Confederate troops once again stood on the banks of the Potomac.

## SECTION REVIEW

- 1. KEY TERMS** Battle of Bull Run, Battle of Shiloh, Seven Days' Battle
- 2. PEOPLE AND PLACES** Manassas Junction, Stone-wall Jackson, George B. McClellan, Ulysses S. Grant, Nashville, David Farragut
- 3. COMPREHENSION** What was the effect of the Battle of Bull Run on the North?
- 4. COMPREHENSION** Why were Union victories in the West strategically important?
- 5. CRITICAL THINKING** Explain why the naval war between North and South was as much an economic contest as a military one.

## 5 The Union Victorious

### ★ Section Focus

★ **Key Terms** Battle of Antietam ■ Emancipation Proclamation ■ Copperhead ■ Battle of Gettysburg ■ Battle of Vicksburg ■ total war

★ **Main Idea** Union forces stopped Lee's invasions of the North and invaded the South. In 1865 the Confederacy surrendered.

★ **Objectives** As you read, look for answers to these questions:

1. Why did Lee invade the North in 1862? In 1863?
2. Why did Lincoln free some of the slaves but not all of them?
3. How did the North force the Confederacy to surrender?

Riding a wave of Confederate victories, General Lee decided to invade the Union in the fall of 1862. It was a crucial time, for the fate of the Confederacy was at stake.

Lee had several motives for taking the war north. A significant victory in the enemy's territory would, he hoped, force Lincoln to negotiate peace. The invasion, too, would give northern Virginia a rest from war during the harvest season and at the same time let the hungry Confederates fill their stomachs with northern food. And, finally, Lee hoped the invasion would bring the diplomatic recognition the South so craved.

By now, both Britain and France were leaning

toward recognizing the Confederacy. They were impressed by Lee's military successes, and their textile mills were closing down for lack of cotton. The Confederates knew that diplomatic recognition would help ensure their survival. At the most, it would mean financial and military aid. At the very least, it would prompt the Europeans to try to convince Lincoln to leave the South alone.

### THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM

Lee's drive into the North was stopped on September 17, 1862, at Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The **Battle of Antietam** was the bloodiest single day of the war. The