Mid War at Home,
Wilderness
and Cold Harbor

Be sure you look over the schedule and the study terms for Unit Three.
Review

Gettysburg
  What—
  Why significant—

Chattanooga
  What—
  Why significant—

Foreign Policies

Laird Rams
Gettysburg

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Conclusion
THE DRAFTS

Two years into the war recruitment is a major issue.

Gone are the “three months men”

Frightened are the young men of every family.

Enlistment dwindles

Both sides begin to look for ways to draft armies.
Union Enrollment Act March 3, 1863

Able bodied men 20-45 eligible for draft—menat to stimulate voluntary enlistment

By October 1863, Union was paying a $300 bonus to enlist—combined with local bonuses some enlisted to the tune of $1,000. “Bounty jumpers’ created fraud.

Commutation fee—a drafted man could pay $300 to exempt himself from draft.

A long tradition and meant well as a menas of allowing certain classes to get out of the draft.

Fraud and corruption turned to the law into a failure.

The total draft in the Union army was less than 8% of the men.

Also created bad feelings among poor class families whose menfolk had no choice
July 13, 1863, new york city Draft riots begins—lasting four days

Mobs of Irsh workers burned the draft office, and homes of Republicans. Their target was the black population of the city. A dozen blacks were lynched and a “Colored Orphan House” was burned down.

Troops and police stepped in and over 120 died.

The cause is still difficult to assess. Poor Irsh were angry at free blacks working; and at the prevailing white attitidue that was anti-Irish. New Yorkers generally suported the draft and opposed anti-war Copperheads, so there was sympathy, but no support for violence.

The riots died down and the draft procceded—but the deaths becoame a symbol of a war weary land
Southern & Northern Politics
Confederate Elections—Fall 1863

No formal parties

Southerners felt this was a strength—but it weakened Davis’ abilities to gain war support—he had no formal loyalty and no patronage
Davis was criticized for the loss of Vicksburg

In the four months after Gettysburg—prices in the South jumped 70%

The elections brought 41 of 106 House seats as anti-Davis; and 12 of 26 Senators as anti-Davis

Some states like Georgia were opposed to the suspension of habeas corpus by Davis

Southern press in NC & GA were especially critical

More than 100 anti-war rallies were held in the south
Northern idealism

Lincoln and the Republicans in the North saw Davis’ issues and felt the time was right to begin reconstruction.

Lincoln’s basic idea was that secession was illegal—therefore the south never left the Union—all they did was illegally take over state governments—and the task was simply to put “loyal” officials back in power.

**December 8, 1863—Ten Percent Plan**—simple yet complex document

- Pardon & Amnesty to any who took an oath of allegiance
- High ranking confederates excluded
- Whenever such numbers reached ten percent of the state’s population
- A government could be formed ready for USA recognition
- Such new state constitutions had to recognize current laws regarding slavery

Republicans were split on how to handle this plan.

Radical Republicans, led by Thaddeus Stevens, said they ceased to exist and would become “conquered lands” when captured by the Union.
WHAT OF FREED PEOPLES

Throughtout 1863, 200,000 to 300,000 contrabands swelled the Union Armies.

Most settled in terrible camps filled with disease.

American Missionary Association; National Freedmen’s Relief Association and other volunteers helped bring order.

These reformers—mostly women—talked the War Department into creating a “Freedmen’s Inquiry Commission”—the forerunner to the Freedmen’s Bureau.

The Union put contrabands to work, gave some so-called “home-farms”, and in some cases put them back to work raising cotton. They were led by “labor superintendents” approved by the Freedmen’s Commission.

Frederick Douglass and others opposed this policy saying it re-instituted slavery.

These twin issues of freedmen and reconstruction would continue into 1864.
BLACK MEN IN BLUE

July 1862—"persons of African descent" as soldiers

Recruitment was quietly done, but politics erupted by Spring 1863

Copperheads—easier to criticize, criticized the use of Black Soldiers

Yet, African Americans served honorably and well

May 1862, Capt. Robert Smalls, stole the CSS Planter and turned her over to the Union blockade.

The War Department coordinated black recruitment through the “Bureau of Colored Troops” and ordered Union officers in occupied territory to form units.

“I am becoming so color blind that I cannot see why they will not make good soldiers”

Pay for black service men lagged that of whites, and often duties were menial, but many units distinguished themselves in battle. Nearly 60 Black Regiments had been organized by 1864
Civil War Medicine
175,000 wounds to the extremities received among Federal troops, about 30,000 led to amputation; roughly the same proportion occurred in the Confederacy.
Half of the deaths from disease during the Civil War were caused by intestinal disorders, mainly typhoid fever, diarrhea, and dysentery
Typical Field Hospital
In 1860 the entire Army Surgeon General’s staff was just over 100 men...

The Confederacy claimed 25 of the surgeons

The Union adopted a voluntary approach—

U. S. Sanitation Commission

roll bandages; pack food, collect lint
provide comfort; staff evacuation boats

The Confederacy no such organization but depended on local volunteers.
Sanitary Commission—Recovery Hospital
Union Sanitation wagon train with supplies.
The Confederacy started first—recruiting the best from each state. After several failures The South put Dr. Samuel Preston Moore in charge until the end of the war. Moore was practical and knew the South could not pay to train and equip and large staff.

But he also demanded that all surgeons pass an examination before they operated. His abruptness put off many but President Davis listened.

Moore was a progressive and believed in the new “pavilion” hospital designs. He built many—complete with rook top ventilation—long and narrow, they could hold 100 men.
Later, the Union copied the “pavilion style” of long narrow hall-way like hospitals which created natural drafts.
Moore also foresaw that the CSA would need to make its own drugs and set about developing laboratories and importing medicines from Europe.
The **North** floundered at first, but did appoint a voluntary Sanitation Commission, with Henry W. Bellows (Unitarian minister) and Frederick Law Olmstead (architect) as directors helped tremendously.

The Sanitation Commission grew to 2,500 throughout local towns—bandages, mail, etc

Provided manned hospital ships for evacuees.

The first 18 months of the war, doctors were consumed with poor habits by soldiers both N & S—diarrhea common.
Diets were a big issue—with no one in charge of changing it.

High calories, low vitamins—no veggies.

Main fare: Preserved beef, salt pork, navy beans, coffee, and hardtack, large, thick crackers, usually stale and often inhabited by weevils.

Nearly all food has quickly undercooked and fried

One of the healthiest armies to fight was William T Sherman's troops march to the sea—taking local garden food as they went.
By 1862, the surgeon tent was simply abandoned and both armies simply took over local homes, and barns for the sick and wounded.

With little staff the less sick were expected to do bed duty for the others—no training and clean hands.

Once removed from battle wounded went 3-5 miles behind the lines to lie in fields before transport.

Bleeding was stopped in the worst cases and both liquor and opiates were given to calm wounded.

Behind many battles the pile of amputated limbs outside the surgeon’s table was reported to be five or six feet high
Surgeons Work by Carl Schurz
There stood the surgeons, their sleeves rolled up to the elbows, their bare arms as well as their linen aprons smeared with blood, their knives not seldom held between their teeth, while they were helping a patient on or off the table, or had their hands otherwise occupied; around them pools of blood and amputated arms or legs in heaps, sometimes more than man-high. Antiseptic methods were still unknown at that time. As a wounded man was lifted on the table, often shrieking with pain as the attendants handled him, the surgeon quickly examined the wound and resolved upon cutting off the injured limb. Some ether was administered and the body put in position in a moment. The surgeon snatched his knife from between his teeth, where it had been while his hands were busy, wiped it rapidly once or twice across his blood-stained apron, and the cutting began. The operation accomplished, the surgeon would look around with a deep sigh, and then-"Next!"
Pavilion style hospital near Washington DC
Doctors soon ignored the slightly wounded and the dead to focus on severe open bleeding from the limbs—arms and legs.

One Union statistic showed that 71 percent of all wounds were in the arms or legs.

Doctors of course knew how important cleanliness was.

But there was no such thing. The doctors were covered in blood. They often just tossed their saws on the ground until the next use—when a quick sponge with a dirty towel would have to do. Their lancet or scalpel (as such) might often be held in the surgeon’s mouth. His attendants were not trained—except in muscle—to hold the patient still.
Bandages were made months in advance and never sterile. The wounds were first packed with lint—gathered by volunteers often from such silly places as the dining room drapes back home.

Men report being deathly afraid of units comings into battle using sabers and bayonets, but these only produced 2% of wounds.

Gunshots to the abdomen (peritonitis) and head were usually fatal.

“Surgery Fever”.

Typical progress was wound closed, much pus, pus dries, high fever 3-5 days, death by blood poisoning.
Drugs dulled the pain. Disinfectants Common

Both sides had iodine but carbolic acid as well, and a long list of "disinfectants" such as bichloride of mercury, sodium hypochlorite, and other agents.

After the terribly large battles from the fall of 1863-to the summer of 1863, both sides developed regimental hospitals then division hospitals—some with specialties.
In time for Antietam, the Army of the Potomac, under its medical director Jonathan Letterman, developed the Letterman Ambulance Plan

Mounted trooper
One driver of a wagon ambulance
Two stretcher bearers
Patient moved nearby to “dressing” station, then to field hospital, then evacuated
Several cases pointed out that drunkenness (due to available medical liquor) was a problem in both armies.

As the Union won in the west, they proved the effective use of naval evacuation, and soon this was copied everywhere.

As the Confederates lost control of the rivers, they turned to RR to evac wounded—but this also hurt supply lines.

The Union produced the first genuine hospital train running between Chattanooga & Louisville.

The hospital trains were painted scarlet with three red lamps alight at night.
In late 1862 Sec War Edwin Stanton replaced the older generation with a new chief surgeon: William A. Hammond. He instituted exams for doctors and pushed the use of pavilion hospitals.

Hammond also pushed education... wrote a full length textbook on military hygiene. he asked that specimens from the field be studied. and he started the Army’s medical library.

Hammond managed to anger the old guard and he was replaced by Joseph K. Barnes. His exam process did become law, but Stanton allowed that 50% of surgeons could be “political” appointees.
William A. Hammond
Nurses
The war experience of the Crimea convinced both armies to have a corps of nurses.

The Union got Dorothea Dix but she was hard headed and Victorian—she announced that nurses had to be 30 and “plain” looking—they could never wear bright ribbons.

Many of her initial choices were not trained and did not accomplish much good.

Soon doctors could send away a Dix appointed nurse if the surgeon general overruled her—which he did.

Soldiers loved the nurses, more as “mother” figures who wrote letters for their "boys," read to them, decorated the wards with colorful garlands, and evens sang.
Dorothea Dix
Union nurse Clara Barton became famous for being allowed to go to the front lines to comfort soldiers.

She gained special permission to ride in the ambulances and to give educational lectures.

Lincoln was so taken with her that he appointed her to be in charge of finding missing men in 1865.

After the war she would be instrumental in gaining American recognition by the International Red Cross.
Because of the great fame of Clara Barton, and some women like her, an impression prevailed that women functioned in hospitals in the field. This was seldom the case.

The forceful but helpful "Mother" Mary Ann Bickerdyke became so popular that in 1864 General W. T. Sherman officially appointed her to his own corps hospital; saying, “she outranks me”.
"Mother" Mary Ann Bickerdyke

By the end of the war she had served on 19 different Battlefield hospitals.
Richmond became the CSA hospital center with 20 hospitals by 1864—Chimborazo had 8,000 beds--four divisions and 30 pavilions.

Chimborazo had five soup houses, five ice houses, "Russian" baths, a 10,000-loaf per day bakery, and a 400-keg brewery.

On an adjacent farm the hospital grew food and grazed three hundred cows and several hundred goats.

Jackson Hospital, which could care for 6,000 was also huge.

Washington DC was one center of Union hospitals—2,000 beds in 1861—over 50,000 city wide by 1864. The Union’s western dominance saw huge hospitals rise in Indiana and Kentucky as well.
Collecting the wounded and dead by lamp light
Surgeon’s tent
Hospital at Fredericksburg
Anesthetics—
Chloroform, ether, administered through a paper cone with a wet sponge at the end.

Surgeon J. J. Chisolm, Chisolm's inhaler
Stump Brigade

On reading the news of the copperhead performance, in a tent where eight men lay with nothing but stumps (they call a leg cut off above the knee a "stump") they said if they held on a little longer they would form a stump brigade and go and fight them. We have some plucky boys in the hospital, but they suffer awfully. One had his leg cut off yesterday, and some of the ladies, newcomers, were up to see him. I told them if they had seen as many as I had they would not go far to see the sight again. I could stand by and see a man's head taken off I believe-you get so used to it here. I should be perfectly contented if I could receive my letters. I have the cooking all on my mind pretty much. I have torn almost all my clothes off of me, and Uncle Sam has given me a new suit. William says I am very popular here as I am such a contrast to some of the office-seeking women who swarm around hospitals. Nurse Cornelia Hancock
Hospital ward
Hospital ward
AN ACT to establish a uniform system of ambulances in the armies of the United States.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the medical director, or chief medical officer, of each army corps shall, under the control of the medical director of the army to which such army corps belongs, have the direction and supervision of all ambulances, medicine, and other wagons, horses, mules, harness, and other fixtures appertaining thereto, and of all officers and men who may be detailed or employed to assist him in the management thereof, in the army corps in which he may be serving.
Back to the War....... 

Much was expected.

Grant was the hero of the West.

In spring 1864 he was made General in Charge.

The USA had Vicksburg, Gettysburg...and Grant promised them Richmond...

But his Overland Campaign never defeated Lee.

Political opposition to Lincoln’s war increased.

And so did the bodies Grant expended in his move on Richmond.
Grant moves east & with Meade confronts Lee
In 1864 in Virginia--Grant losses 60,000 at Wilderness, Spotsylvania, & Cold Harbor
WILDERNESS BATTLES—May 5-7, 1864, 263,000 men; 28,5000 causalities

Grant’s move to the East to confront Lee was known as the Overland Campaign

Objective—to capture Richmond (again)

May 5 in the am—Union forces attacked Ewell on Orange Turnpike.

By afternoon more were engaged with A.P. Hill engaged with Hancock.

Fighting was bloody but inconclusive until darkness.

May 6 reinforcements swelled both sides. At dawn May 6 fighting renewed.

The Confederate’s almost collapsed twice. Burnside tried a direct attack and failed.

Two Union Generals were killed (Wadsworth & Hays).

Three CSA Generals were killed (Jones, Jenkins, & Stafford).

A tactical draw, Grant did not withdraw—but moved to Spotsylvania courthouse.
Moving left on May 8, the two armies, exhausted and hurt moved toward Spotsylvania court House. For over two weeks the armies fought.

On May 12-13 Grant’s bloody attack at “Bloody Angle” captured close to a full division of Lee’s Army.

The fighting went on for 20 hours—the longest sustained battle in the war.

More generals ere killed; and Grant was stopped—only to re-group and continue his advance on Richmond.

Grant continues to advance, no clear victory.
COLD HARBOR—May 31-June 21, 1864. 160,000 men; 15,500 casualties

Cold Harbor

From May 31 to June 12 1864. General Sheridan’s cavalry successfully pushed back CSA men

Use of new repeating carbine—proved successful

By June 3 both Armies maximized troops creating a seven mile front.

Grant order his II and XVIII Corps into a frontal attack and they were slaughtered—Grant later said it was the only charge he wished he had never ordered.

This line was a battle ground for nine more days.

Lee held and Grant began to send his troops across the river.

Grant boldly planned to move on Petersburg.

It was a clear battle victory for Lee but did not stop Grant.

Confederate victory—but Grant’s army still in tact
Conclusions:

In the North, men rioted at the drafts and the Black freedmen.

In the South, men deserted in greater numbers than ever imagined.

The dead and wounded were haunting fields everywhere. Resolve for the war bent.

Both sides committed new resources to caring for the men.

And the great Lee finally met Grant—for two months they slugged it out. Lee stopped Grant – but only temporarily.

It was almost 1864—the last major turning point in the war.