




The Civil War

Phase Two
1863-1865



Phase Two

- Lincoln and most Union supporters began the Civil War to preserve the Union, but Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation reframed the purpose of the war and helped prevent the Confederacy from gaining full diplomatic support from European powers. Many African Americans fled southern plantations and enlisted in the Union Army, helping to undermine the Confederacy.
- Lincoln sought to reunify the country and used speeches such as the Gettysburg Address to portray the struggle against slavery as the fulfillment of America's founding democratic ideals.

Phase Two

Important ideas to understand–

- The Emancipation Proclamation would be critical to a Union victory, as newly freed African-Americans began to desert their plantations. Many of them would play a critical role in the conflict by serving in the Union armies.
- Key victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg turned the tide of the conflict during the summer of 1863.
- The elevation of Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman into the command of the Union armies in the field introduced the modern concept of total war which led to the destruction of the major Confederate armies in the field and the ability of the South to continue to wage the war.
- Throughout the war, the leadership of Lincoln would both focus the war effort and inspire it to its conclusion.

Discussion Questions

- a. What was the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation in bringing the Civil War to a conclusion?
- b. What critical victories in 1863 would turn the tide of the war in favor of the Union?
- c. How did the concept of total war change the nature of the conflict?
- d. What was the importance of Lincoln's reelection in 1864?
- e. How did the Civil War come to a conclusion?