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Chapters 15 & 16

Murrin et al, *Liberty, Power, Equality*—chapter notes

James M. McPherson, Ch. 15, “Secession and Civil War, 1860-1862”

McPherson, Ch. 16, “A New Birth of Freedom, 1862-1865”

Terms

Election of 1860
William Seward
“Black Republicanism”
secession
Confederate States of America (C.S.A.)
Crittenden Compromise
Fort Sumter
border states
West Virginia
rifle/rifled barrel (v. muskets)
Legal Tender Act (1862)
National Banking Act (1863)
Homestead Act (1862)
Morill Land-Grant College Act (1863)
Pacific Railroad Act (1863)
Trent Affair

emancipation
self-emancipation
contraband
Emancipation Proclamation
General George McClellan
Peace Democrats / “Copperheads”
suspension of <i>habeas corpus</i>
Confederation Conscription Act (April 1862)
New York City Draft Riots (July 1863)

Questions

1. List at least 2 major, national organizations that had split over the issue of slavery by the eve of war in 1860. Why did the Democratic Party split?
2. Who were the four major candidates in the presidential election of 1860, what were their parties, and who supported each of them?
3. List and summarize the stages of secession after the election of 1860. (Which group of states went first, which second, when was the C.S.A. formed, etc.?)

4. Summarize the principle Southern arguments justifying secession and the principle Northern arguments against secession.

5. Compare the North and South on the eve of the war in each of the categories below. Make some sort of mark (asterisk, star, etc.) on one side, according to whether you think the North—or South—held an advantage in that category. Add notes if you have some pertinent information (about each comparative advantage or disadvantage).

	NORTH	SOUTH
Population		
Economy (industry, financial resources, trade/commerce, labor base)		
morale		
military—supplies and equipment		
military—leaders and skills (of leaders and foot soldiers)		
Infrastructure, transportation, & communication systems		
Diplomacy		
Objectives / goals (offensive or defensive?)		
Morale		

6. Identify 2-3 reasons why the Civil War is often called the “first modern war.”
7. Why did the C.S.A. have to print so much more paper money than the U.S.A. (even when it led to such severe inflation)? Why was it easier for the U.S.A. (i.e., the North) to raise so much more money than the C.S.A. by selling government bonds?
8. Why did the Confederacy’s attempt to gain British and French recognition ultimately fail, even though Great Britain (especially) was highly dependent on Southern cotton?
9. At the end of Chapter 15, James McPherson writes of the South and the C.S.A., “seldom has a pre-emptive counter-revolution [i.e., secession] so quickly brought on the very resolution it tried to prevent.” What—generally—was the “revolution” that McPherson refers to in the second part of this sentence?
10. For Lincoln and the Republicans, what were some of the principle advantages and disadvantages to declaring emancipation as a goal of the war?

Advantages

Disadvantages

11. How did the actions and policies of Union generals, the Republican Congress, and slaves themselves accelerate the process of emancipation?
12. Why was the Emancipation Proclamation more about military and political strategy than moral convictions?

13. TRICK QUESTION (but you can do it!): How many slaves did the Emancipation Proclamation free *immediately*, on the day it went into effect (January 1, 1863)? NOT A TRICK Question: Why did it make Union forces “an army of liberation”?

14. What exemptions existed to the Northern and Southern drafts?

North?

South?

15. What conditions and factors led to social tensions and sometimes riots in both the North and the South by mid-war (1863)?

SOUTH	NORTH

16. James McPherson argues that the war actually was **not** “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight,” in which poorer members of each society did most of the fighting while rich Southerners and Northerners suffered and paid little. Identify 2-3 of the specific reasons he supplies in support of this argument.

17. Briefly identify 2-3 ways in which the war changed women’s lives.

18. List at least 2 factors contributed to Lincoln’s landslide victory in the presidential election of 1864 (which, only months before, he predicted he would lose badly)?