

The Politics of War

TERMS AND NAMES

Emancipation Proclamation Order issued by Lincoln freeing slaves behind Confederate lines

habeas corpus Court order that says that a person who is jailed has to appear before the court to determine why he or she is being jailed.

Copperhead Northern Democrat who advocated making peace with the Confederacy during the Civil War

conscription Drafting of civilians to serve in the army

AS YOU READ

Use this chart to take notes on the steps that Lincoln took to solve several problems during the Civil War.

PROBLEMS	LINCOLN'S RESPONSE
<i>Slavery</i>	<i>Issued the Emancipation Proclamation</i>
<i>Dissent</i>	
<i>Shortage of soldiers</i>	

Britain Remains Neutral

Why *did Britain remain neutral?*

For many years, the South had supplied Britain with much of its cotton. When the Civil War broke out, the South hoped that Britain would lend its support. But by the time the war broke out, Britain had a large supply of cotton—and thus no longer depended on the South for the material. Britain decided to remain neutral, which meant that it did not support either side.

In 1861, an incident, better known as the Trent Affair, tested that neutrality. A Union warship stopped the British merchant ship *Trent*, on the high seas. The captain removed two Confederate diplomats traveling to Great Britain. The British threatened war against the Union and sent troops to Canada. Lincoln freed the prisoners and had the Union captain apologize.

1. Why did Britain remain neutral?

Please answer in a paragraph on a separate piece of paper.

Proclaiming Emancipation

What led Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation?

As the war dragged on, a growing number of people in the North felt that slavery should be abolished. At first, Lincoln hesitated to act on this issue. He did not feel he had the constitutional right to end slavery where it already existed.

But pressure to free the slaves steadily increased. As a result, Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation** on January 1, 1863. The Proclamation freed all slaves behind Confederate lines. Lincoln considered the Proclamation a military policy. He reasoned that the slaves were enemy resources that contributed to the war effort. By declaring them free, they would no longer have to work for the Southern cause. The Proclamation did not apply to slave states still in the Union.

In the North, the Emancipation Proclamation gave the war a high moral purpose. Free blacks cheered the fact that they could now enlist in the Union army. However, the Proclamation did not please everyone in the North. The Democrats claimed it would only prolong the war by antagonizing the South. Many Union soldiers accepted the Proclamation grudgingly. They said they had no love for abolitionists or African Americans. However, they insisted they would support emancipation if that was what it took to reunify the nation.

Confederates reacted to the Proclamation with fury. As Northern Democrats had predicted, the Proclamation made the Confederacy more determined than ever to fight to preserve its way of life.

After the Emancipation Proclamation, compromise was no longer possible. The Confederacy knew that if it lost, its slave-holding society would perish. The Union knew that it now could win only by completely defeating the Confederacy. From January 1863 on, it was a war to the death.

2. Name two reactions to the Emancipation Proclamation.

Please answer in a paragraph on a separate piece of paper.

Both Sides Face Political Problems

What political problems did both leaders face?

Neither side in the Civil War was completely unified. Some Northerners sided with the Confederates. Some Southerners sympathized with the Union.

Both governments had to figure out what to do about *dissent*. Both presidents Davis and Lincoln expanded their presidential power to keep order and to put down opposition. Both presidents *suspended* the right of **habeas corpus**. This is a court order that says that a person who is jailed has to appear before the court to determine why he or she is being jailed. Suspending this right allowed police to arrest and hold *dissenters* without trial. Among those arrested were **Copperhead** politicians. These were Northern Democrats who urged peace with the South.

As the war continued, it claimed the lives of many soldiers. Soldiers on both sides *deserted*. Both the North and South turned to **conscription**, or the drafting of civilians to serve in the army. The Union law allowed drafted white men to hire substitutes or pay \$300 to avoid being drafted. In the end, only 4,600 men were drafted. Ninety-two percent of the 2 million soldiers who served in the Union Army were volunteers.

In parts of the North, workers who opposed conscription started several riots. The worst riot, in New York, lasted four days.

Much of the rioting in New York was aimed against African Americans. Poor white workers resented having to fight a war to free slaves, who—the whites believed—would swarm north and take their jobs. By the time Federal troops ended the riot, more than 100 persons lay dead.

3. How did Presidents Davis and Lincoln deal with political opposition to the war?

Please answer in a paragraph on a separate piece of paper.