

# Unit 5: Civil War and Reconstruction

## Part 8: Hardships of War

# *Objectives:*

- 1. Describe what life was like for soldiers and civilians in the Civil War.*
- 2. Explain how women contributed to the war effort.*
- 3. Identify problems that people living in the North and South faced during the Civil War.*

# I. The Hard Life of Soldiers and Civilians

A. The Civil War created hardships for not only soldiers but for **civilians**, people who did not serve in the army.



B. Civilians worked on farms and in factories to help support the war effort.

# I. The Hard Life of Soldiers and Civilians

C. Civilians also used their mules and horses to help move troops and also help tend to the wounded.



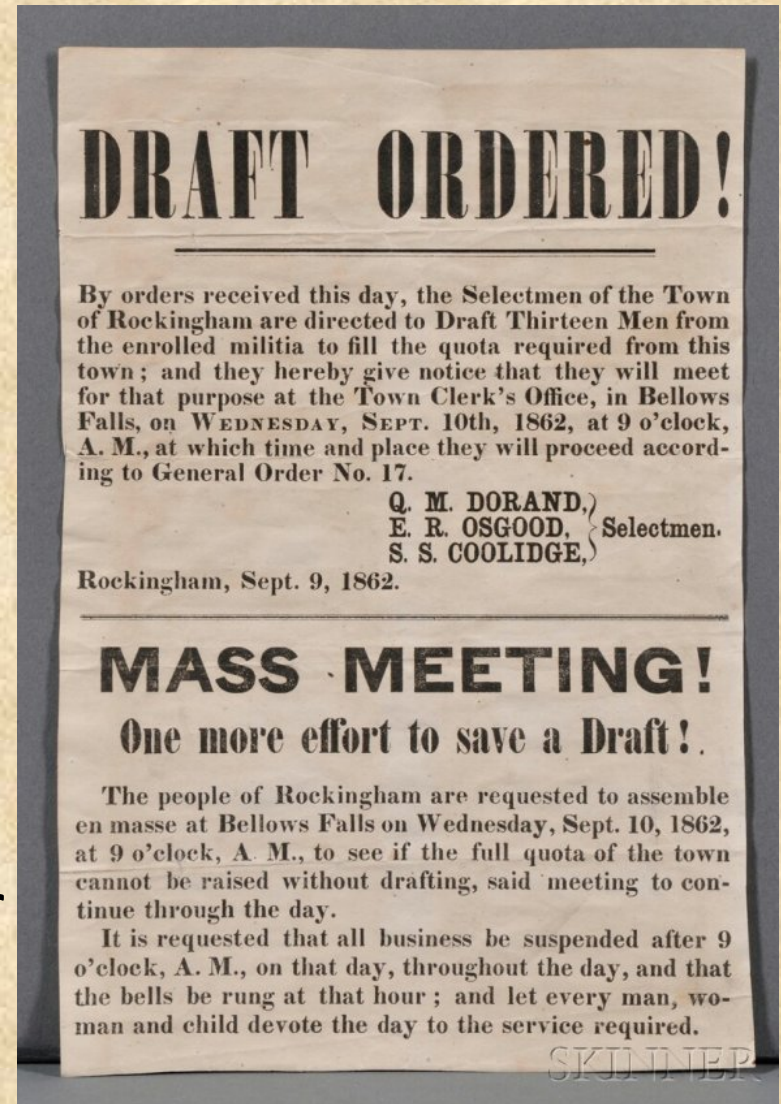
D. As the war lasted longer and hardships began to increase, so did people who opposed the war.



# I. The Hard Life of Soldiers and Civilians

E. Most soldiers were under the age of 21. As the death toll rose, the South drafted boys as young as 17 and men as old as 50.

F. New technology added to the horror of war. In most battles, one fourth or more of the soldiers were killed or wounded.



# I. The Hard Life of Soldiers and Civilians

G. Medical care on the battlefield was crude. Surgeons routinely amputated injured arms and legs. Sanitary conditions were poor, and nothing was known about germs or how wounds became infected.

H. Diseases like pneumonia and malaria killed more men than guns or cannons.



## II. Problems at Home

### A. In the North:

1. Some northerners opposed using force to keep the South in the Union. Supporters of the war called these people **Copperheads**, after the poisonous snake.
2. There was a shortage of volunteers to serve in the army. Some men took money to enlist in the army, then deserted.
3. In 1863, Congress passed a **draft** law, a law requiring all able-bodied males between ages 20 and 45 to serve in the military if they were called. Opposition to the draft law led to riots.



## II. Problems at Home (con't)

4. President Lincoln moved to stop the riots and other “disloyal practices.” Several times, he suspended **habeas corpus**, the right to be charged or have a hearing before being jailed. The President also said that those arrested could be tried under the stricter rules of a military court.





## II. Problems at Home (con't)

### **B. In the South:**

1. Many southerners firmly believed in states' rights. They resisted paying taxes to a central government, so the government could not collect enough money to pay for the war.
2. Like the North, the South was forced to pass a draft law to fill its army.
3. Near the end of the war, the South no longer had enough white men to fill the ranks.

## II. Problems at Home (con't)

4. The Confederate congress reluctantly agrees to let enslaved African Americans serve. The war ends before this can take place.

# III. Economic Impacts of the Civil War

## A. In the North:

1. To pay for the war, Congress established the nation's first **income tax**, or tax on people's earnings, in 1861. A new agency, the Internal Revenue Bureau, oversaw the collection of taxes.
2. The Union issued millions of dollars worth of bonds. When taxes and bonds did not raise enough money, the North printed more than \$400 million in paper money. As the money supply increased, each dollar became worth less. In response, businesses raised their prices. The North experienced **inflation**, a rise in prices and a decrease in the value of money.



# III. Economic Impacts of the Civil War (con't)

3. Increased farm production—With so many farmers going off to war, the demand rose for farm machines to plant and harvest crops. Farm production actually went up.
4. Increased industrial profits—Wartime demand for clothing, shoes, guns, and other goods helped many northern industries. Some manufacturers made fortunes by profiteering. **Profiteers** charged excessive prices for desperately needed war goods.

# III. Economic Impacts of the Civil War (con't)

## B. In the South:

1. Income tax—To raise money, the Confederacy imposed an income tax and a **tax-in-kind**. The tax-in-kind required farmers to turn over one tenth of their crops to the government.
2. Inflation—The South printed so much paper money that wild inflation set in.
3. Loss of the cotton trade—The war damaged the cotton trade. President Davis stopped the South's cotton trade with Britain. He was hoping to force Britain to side with the South in return for cotton. Britain, however, just bought its cotton from Egypt and India instead.

# III. Economic Impacts of the Civil War (con't)

4. Severe shortages—The Union blockade created severe shortages of goods from overseas. The South began to build and run its own factories. The blockade also brought food shortages. Many plantations switched from growing cotton to raising grain and livestock.



## IV. Women at War

- A. With so many men gone to war, women took jobs in industry and on farms.
- B. Women's aid societies helped supply the troops with food, bedding, clothing, and medicine. Women held fundraisers to pay for war supplies.
- C. Women worked as nurses. **Dorothea Dix** and **Clara Barton** became nurses for the Union army. **Sojourner Truth** worked in Union hospitals. **Sally Tompkins** set up a Confederate hospital.