

Life During War

Soldiers

- As the war dragged on, soldiers on each side came up with nicknames for the enemy.
- Union troops wore **blue** uniforms and were called “**blues**” or “**Billy Yanks**” – short for Yankees.
- Confederate troops wore **gray** uniforms and were called “**grays**” or “**Johnny Rebs**” – which was short for Rebels.
- Soldiers on both sides were very **young** – most were between the ages **18 – 21**.

The Battlefield

- New **technology** added to the horror of the Civil War battles
- Cone-shaped **bullets**, which made rifles more accurate, replaced round musket balls.
- New **cannons** could hit targets up to several miles away.
- As a result of these new, deadlier weapons more soldiers in battles became **casualties** (**Killed** or seriously **wounded**).
- Soldiers who were **sick** or **wounded** faced other horrors. Medical care on the battlefield was **crude**. Surgeons routinely cut off the injured arms and legs of wounded men.
- Still, **diseases** such as pneumonia and malaria killed more soldiers than guns or cannons did!

The Homefront- In the North

- Not everyone in the North supported the war.
- Some northerners thought the South should be allowed to **secede from the Union**.
- Others were in favor of calling a **peace** conference to **work out a compromise with the South**. These people were called **Copperheads**.
- By 1863, there were not enough **volunteers** to fill the ranks of the Union army. **Bounties**, or payments, of \$**100.00** had been given to men who enlisted to fight.
- This was raised to \$**300.00** – but still there were not enough volunteers.

Conscription Act

- In March 1863, Congress passed an act that made all men between the ages **20 – 45** liable to be **drafted** for military service.
- Service could be avoided by paying the government \$**300.00**, or by paying someone to take your place.

- This angered many people, especially the poor – who could not afford the \$300.00.

Riots & Habeas Corpus

- Some northerners felt they were being forced to fight to end slavery. **Riots** broke out in several cities (worst one was in New York City).
- To prevent more riots, President Lincoln suspended ***habeas corpus*** - a person's right to have a hearing before being jailed.

The Homefront- In the South

- The South had similar problems / results. Toward the end of the war, the South was unable to replace soldiers that were *killed* or *wounded* in battle.
- There simply were not enough men to fill the ranks!

Financial Cost

- In dollars and cents, the U.S. government estimated in 1863 that the war was costing *\$2.5 million daily*.
- A final official estimate in 1879 totaled *\$6,190,000,000*.
- The Confederacy spent perhaps *\$2,099,808,707*.
- The civil war *cost* far more than any earlier war!
- Both sides needed to find ways to pay for it:
- In the North, Congress passed the nation's first *income tax* in 1861. It required all workers to pay a small part of their wages to the federal government.
- The North also raised money by taxing goods, selling *bonds*, and raising prices of goods.
- The **Union blockade** had hurt the South badly.
- It created **food / supply shortages** for both soldiers and *civilians* (people who were not in the army).
- Even when supplies were available, the South had trouble getting them to their troops.
- As a tactic of war, Union armies ripped up **railroad tracks**, and the South had few parts to make repairs.

Women in the War

- In both the North and the South, **women took over jobs** as men left home for the battlefield.
- Women on both sides also volunteered to work as **nurses**.
 - **Dorothea Dix** – became superintendent (boss) of nurses for the Union army.
 - **Clara Barton** – earned fame as a nurse and founded the **American Red Cross**.