

Events of the Civil War: Part One

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Recruitment-The Confederacy



The Confederacy

The Confederacy was the first to turn to conscription in order to recruit new soldiers. Under the Conscription Act of April 1862, white males between the ages of eighteen and thirty five were required to serve in the Confederate Army for three years. This requirement was later changed to include men between the ages of seventeen and fifty years old, and then amended to force all of these men to stay in the army until the war ceased.



Some individuals, however, were exempt from this act. For instance, individuals ranging from religious ministry to shoe-makers didn't have to fight. There was also a loophole for a brief time in which well-off individuals could purchase substitutes to fight for them instead. This loophole was closed in 1863. Also, the 20-Negro Law exempted owners and overseers who were in charge of twenty slaves or more, for they had to make sure that their slaves worked and did not try to rebel. Overall, the idea of conscription stimulated volunteering and despite the exemptions most soldiers were volunteers.

Recruitment-The Union



The Union

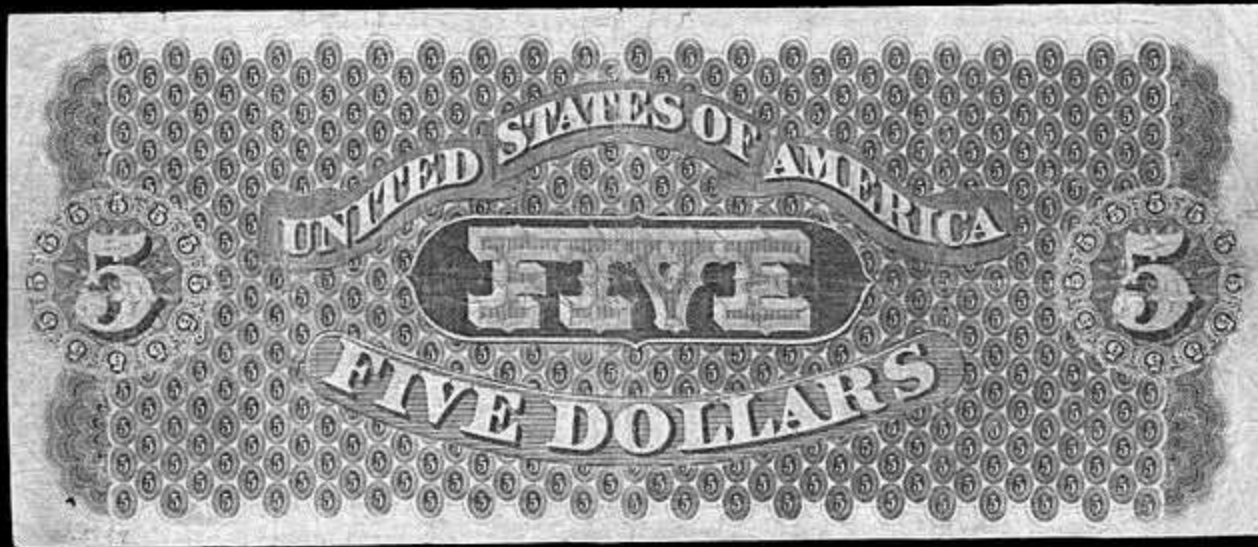
The Union also turned to conscription after the initial wave of volunteer began to subside. Under the Enrollment Act of March 1863, white males between the ages of twenty and forty five became eligible for draft into the Union army. Like the Confederacy, there were those who were exempt from the act. High government officials, ministers, and men supporting widows and orphans made up a few of the men able to exempt. Men could also pay someone else to take their place in the army, which was known as substitution. Well-to-do individuals could also afford to pay a \$300 fee to the Union in order to become exempt as well. Much like in the Confederacy, the Enrollment Act stimulated volunteering.

Financing the War



Financing

Both the Union and Confederacy funded the war by using taxes, war bonds, and paper money. The South's money would lose all of its value by the end of the war due to inflation. After the Union won, the money wasn't even worth the paper it was printed on. In the North, however, printed money would become the national set currency. Under the Legal Tender Act of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln \$150 million of these so-called "greenbacks."



Political Leadership



Leadership

The leadership of the Union seemed weaker than the Confederacy's at first due to the fact that Lincoln seemed to be an ineffectual leader. Lincoln, however, was very good at keeping both wings of the Republican party on his side. While the Confederates' leader, Jefferson Davis was better at making enemies. This led the Confederate government constantly changing members. The Confederacy was also more protective of states' rights and disliked political parties. These factors, in part, led to their demise.

Securing the Union's Borders



Border States

North Versus South



Habeas Corpus

At the start of the war, the Union tried to prevent the border states from seceding. In Maryland and Delaware, the threat of secessionists was prevented due to the suspension of habeas corpus. Basically, the Union could arrest people without charging them of a crime.

In the case of *Ex Parte Merryman*, John Merryman petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus from the federal district court. Merryman had been in the Maryland state militia and was pro-Confederate. He had been arrested for treason by the Union Army and held without trial. Chief Justice Roger Taney, pro-Confederate himself, ruled that the President had no authority to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, and that power resided in Congress.

In the case of *Ex Parte Milligan*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal government could not establish military courts to try citizens. Lambdin P. Milligan was arrested in 1864 and charged with aiding the Confederacy, conspiring to free Confederate prisoners, and inciting insurrection. He was tried by a military court established under President Abraham Lincoln, found guilty, and sentenced to death. Milligan's lawyers sought a writ of habeas corpus, questioning the constitutionality of the military trial. The case eventually reached the Supreme Court, which declared that the president had no power to set up military courts. Milligan was freed after 18 months in jail.