

Events of the Civil War: Part Two

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Anaconda Plan

The Mississippi River and the Southern Coastline

1861

General Winfield Scott



The Anaconda Plan was a plan that was created in hopes of ending the war with no bloodshed. This plan called for a Union blockade on the southern coastline and the capture of the Mississippi River. This plan however did not work due to the Union navy's lack of strength during this time.

Peninsula Campaign

Eastern America

Spring of 1862

General George B. McClellan



McClellan's idea was to move Union soldiers up the James and York Rivers until they reached the peninsula at the end of the two rivers. From there the men would head to Richmond and attack. When they arrived outside of Richmond, however, McClellan hesitated due to lack of reinforcements and lost his chance to attack.

Battle of the Monitor and the Merrimack

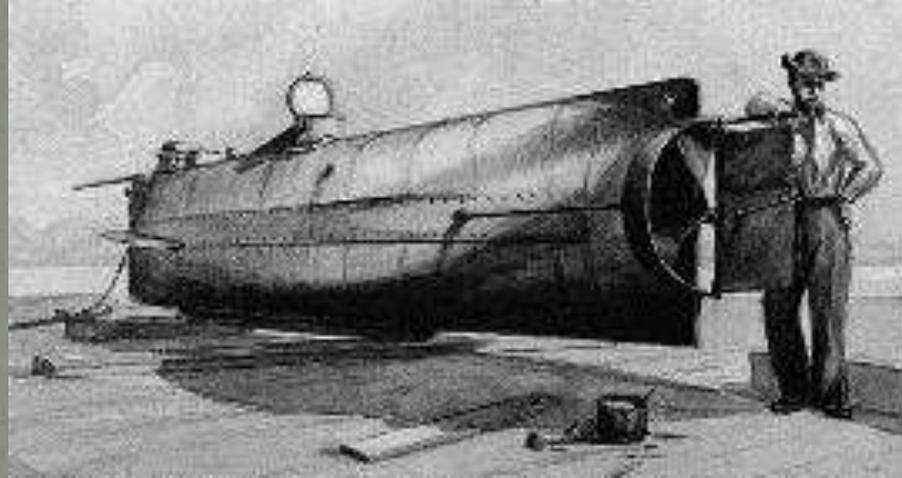
*Hampton Roads, Virginia
March 8th and 9th 1862*

Admiral John L. Worden vs. Admiral Franklin Buchanan



The world's first battle between ironclad warships ended inconclusively, but its impact on the future of naval warfare was significant. This battle showed that the era of the wooden warship was at an end and iron warships would now dominate the waters.

Submarines



The first submarines came to be during the Civil War, including the Confederacy's CSA Hunley. The CSA Hunley sank on three different occasions. Hunley demonstrated both the advantages and the dangers of undersea warfare. Hunley was the first combat submarine to sink an enemy warship, although it was not completely submerged and was lost soon following the attack.

Cotton Diplomacy

The American South hoped to get England and France involved in the Civil War and fight against the Union. They tried to use their cotton to pressure the two European nations. England and France, however, had other cotton markets. England also had techniques similar to the Union, which influenced their decision; they didn't want to fight against their own tactics. Furthermore, the Union abolished slavery and England was especially very anti-slavery. Slavery in Europe was becoming obsolete, so the two nations ultimately decided to stay out of the war despite being interested initially.

Trent Affair

The Trent Affair was a diplomatic incident that occurred during the American Civil War. The USS San Jacinto, commanded by Captain Charles Wilkes, intercepted the British mail ship RMS Trent and removed two Confederate diplomats, James Mason and John Slidell. The envoys were headed for Great Britain and France to press the Confederacy's case for diplomatic recognition and financial support (see *Cotton Diplomacy*). At first, the United States wanted to threaten Britain with war, but Lincoln wanted to avoid this. Meanwhile, the Confederacy hoped that the incident would tarnish Anglo-American relations and even push Britain towards helping the Confederacy. The British government demanded an apology from the Union and the release of the prisoners while it took steps to strengthen its military in Canada and the Atlantic. No formal apology was issued but the prisoners were released and the actions of Captain Wilkes were renounced. Mason and Slidell went on their way to Britain but failed at getting recognition for the Confederacy.

Confiscation Acts

The First Confiscation Act gave the Union the ability to confiscate weapons from the South, including slaves. These slaves were treated okay, but they weren't legally or socially free. Staying with the Union was better than the hard laborious work of slaves, however.

The Second Confiscation Act set slaves that crossed the Union lines free. These slaves' freedom was not guaranteed though, so some slaves celebrated their freedom multiple times as Union soldiers approached.

Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued after the Battle of Antietam by President Abraham Lincoln. The Emancipation freed all Confederate slaves (but not those in the border states), but this did not have a huge effect since the Confederacy saw itself as a separate government. This move did discourage European nations such as England and France from recognizing the Confederacy and sending aid. This was because Europe had moved forward, away from the time of slavery (and England was an abolitionist nation). The Emancipation Proclamation made the Civil War a war on slavery, which led to the involvement of more abolitionists in the war effort. Blacks were also able to fight for the Union after this.

The Sea Island Experiments

The Port Royal Experiment, also known as the Sea Island Experiment, was a program that began during the American Civil War. Former slaves worked on the land abandoned by plantation owners after the Union liberated the Sea Islands. The white residents fled when the Union arrived and left behind thousands of slaves. Several Northerners helped the former slaves become self-sufficient, and the result of this shows what, if successful, Reconstruction could have been like. The African Americans demonstrated their ability to work the land efficiently and live independently of white control by doing daily tasks and even acquiring small amounts of property of their own. President Andrew Johnson eventually ended the experiment and returned the land to its previous white owners.

First Black Soldiers

After the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Lincoln, the Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrew gave the first call for African-American soldiers. Massachusetts did not have many black residents, but the first black infantry, the 54th Infantry regiment, was made up of over 1,000 men that had volunteered. Many came from other states, such as New York, Indiana and Ohio and some came from as far away as Canada. Some noteworthy enlistees were Charles and Lewis Douglass, two sons of Frederick Douglass. To lead the regiment Governor Andrew chose Robert Gould Shaw, a young white officer whose parents were wealthy abolitionists.



First Black Soldiers

Overall, black soldiers were not treated as well as their white counterparts. They were paid less, saw less action, and spent their time doing tasks such as digging trenches. They might not have had to face the issue of slavery, but they were in no means equal.



Slavery in Wartime

Near the end of the war, General Robert E. Lee considered arming slaves with weapons. It was decided that this would not be done, however. Arming the slaves and having them fight alongside white men would, in essence, go against the entire philosophy of slavery. If blacks fought alongside whites they could prove to be better men in some instances. Southerners couldn't enslave men who were "better" than themselves, and the whole war for slavery would be rather pointless. Thus, large numbers of slaves were not given weapons and told to fight for the preservation of the Confederacy.