WAR.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

THE CIVIL WAR.

WORLD WAR I.

WORLD WAR II.

THE KOREAN WAR.

VIETNAM.

CAN WAR TRIGGER SOCIAL CHANGE?

HAPPENING TO HAVE MY OWN PREDILECTION THAT EVERY BATTLE COUNTS TOWARDS SOCIAL POLICY.

ONE THING THAT'S CLEAR AFTER STUDYING ALL THESE WARS: YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A KIND OF UNITY OF SPIRIT AND EFFORT.

YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO HAVE DISSENT.

WHEN A COUNTRY'S AT WAR ALL THE STRESSES AND STRAINS WILL COME OUT, YOU KNOW.

AND YOU REALLY SEE THE NATIONAL CHARACTER.

CAN IT HOLD TOGETHER?

IT'S ABSOLUTELY INDISTINGUISHABLE WITH THE CIVIL WAR.

YOU START WITH THIS LIMITED WAR AND BY THE END IT BECOMES TOTAL WAR.

THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE MODERN WAR IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

MORE CASUALTIES, MORE DEATHS IN THE CIVIL WAR.

THAN ALL OTHERS COMBINED.

TODAY, "THE CIVIL WAR" ON A BIOGRAPHY OF AMERICA.

WHEN WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN HEARD THAT SOUTH CAROLINA HAD SECEDED, HE KNEW IT MEANT WAR.

AT THE TIME, HE WAS RETIRED FROM THE ARMY.

SHERMAN WAS A NATIVE OF OHIO, BUT HE LOVED THE SOUTH.

AND HAD NO QUARREL WITH SLAVERY, BELIEVING, IN HIS WORDS.

THAT "THE BLACK MAN SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE WHITE MAN."

BUT Secession WAS ANOTHER MATTER.
HE CONSIDERED SOUTH CAROLINA'S BREAK WITH THE UNION AN ACT OF TREASON AND RECKLESS INSANITY.

AS HE TOLD AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE ACADEMY "YOU SOUTHERNERS UNDERESTIMATE THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH..."

BUT BECAUSE OF THE INTENSITY OF SECESSIONIST SENTIMENT SHERMAN KNEW THIS WOULD BE A LONG, BRUTAL WAR.

SHERMAN LEFT LOUISIANA BEFORE THE ATTACK ON FORT SUMTER.

HE RETURNED TWO YEARS LATER WITH ULYSSES GRANT TO CRUSH Secession.

SHERMAN LEFT LOUISIANA BEFORE THE ATTACK ON FORT SUMTER.

HE RETURNED TWO YEARS LATER WITH ULYSSES GRANT TO CRUSH SECESSION.

AND BECAUSE THE WAR HAD CHANGED BY THEN, SLAVERY ITSELF.

IN 1861, MOST NORTHERNERS BELIEVED, AS SHERMAN DID THAT THIS MUST A WAR TO RESTORE THE UNION, NOT TO END SLAVERY.

BUT UNLIKE SHERMAN, THEY ANTICIPATED A QUICK UNION VICTORY WITH LITTLE BLOODSHED.

NO ONE COULD HAVE IMAGINED HOW HORRIBLE THIS WAR WOULD BE.

BY THE TIME IT WAS OVER, THREE MILLION MEN HAD Fought.

AND THERE WERE ONE MILLION CASUALTIES;

ONE MILLION MEN KILLED, WOUNDED OR MISSING IN ACTION.

620,000 MEN DIED.

THINK OF IT.

680,000 HAVE DIED IN ALL THE OTHER AMERICAN WARS COMBINED.

IN A SINGLE, ONE-DAY BATTLE AT ANTIETAM CREEK, MARYLAND.

23,000 MEN FELL.

THAT'S NEARLY FOUR TIMES THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CAUSALITIES.

ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY ON D-DAY.

ONE REASON THE WAR WAS SO BLOODY IS BECAUSE MEN ON BOTH SIDES WERE FIGHTING FOR A CAUSE THEY BELIEVED IN.

TO THE ROOT OF THEIR BEING.

ANOTHER HAS TO DO WITH THE NATURE OF WAR.

ONCE BEGUN, WAR ACQUIRES A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN.

SOLDIERS, GENERALS,
PRESIDENTS START DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN.

WAR STARTS TO CONTROL THEM.

WAR BRUTALIZES EVERYONE-involved in it.

BECAUSE TO WIN YOU HAVE TO KILL AND KILL.

AND WHEN YOU KILL THAT MUCH, YOU START TO GET USED TO IT.

YOU GET HARDENED.

CHANGING MILITARY TECHNOLOGY MADE THIS WAR ESPECIALLY BRUTAL.

THE MOST LETHAL WEAPON IN THE WAR WAS THE RIFLED MUSKET.

IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR UP TO 90% OF COMBAT CASUALTIES.

IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, SOLDIERS FOUGHT WITH SMOOTH-BARRELED MUSKETS THAT FIRED IRON BALLS.

BUT THE BARREL OF THE CIVIL WAR MUSKET WAS "RIFLED."

IT HAD SPIRAL GROVES CUT INTO IT.

AND THE PROJECTILE WASN'T AN IRON BALL.

IT WAS A MINI-BALL, WHICH IS REALLY NOT A BALL.

BUT A CONE-SHAPED BULLET.

WHEN FIRED, IT EXPANDED IN THE BARREL.

AND THE RIFLING GAVE IT A SPIN.

WHICH MADE IT TRAVEL FURTHER AND MORE ACCURATELY.

IN COMBAT, THIS RIFLE HAD AN EFFECTIVE RANGE--

OF ABOUT 400 YARDS--

OVER FOUR TIMES THAT OF A REVOLUTIONARY WAR MUSKET.

THE RIFLE WAS DOUBLY DEADLY BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF MILITARY TACTICS.

TO KEEP UP WITH MILITARY TECHNOLOGY.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS FOUGHT IN NAPOLEONIC STYLE--

IN THE OPEN, STANDING UP, MOVING FORWARD IN LONG LINES.

THE MEN MARCHING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER.

THE PURPOSE HERE WAS TO FIRE IN UNISON.

CREATING THE EFFECT OF A GIGANTIC SHOTGUN.

AND THIS COULD BE INTIMIDATING, BUT WITH A RIFLED MUSKET.
These marching columns took a lot more hits and more accurate hits than attacking soldiers had in the American Revolution. This threw the advantage to the defense fighting in trenches or behind fortifications. Even though the defense won nine of ten Civil War engagements, generals still charged heavily defended positions recklessly stubborn.

Military technology was also ahead of medical science and that increased the butcher's bill even more. Civil War bullets had low-muzzle velocity. Instead they tumbled around inside the body cavity causing tremendous damage. A soldier shot in the head or trunk was simply left to die. A man hit in an arm or leg had his wounded limb amputated and it was the surgeon who sawed it off who was often the patient's worst enemy.

Doctors then knew nothing about bacteria. A surgeon would move from patient to patient without washing his hands or instruments carrying infection with him. He was trying to save. But it was actually disease that was the greatest Civil War killer.

Twice as many soldiers died of disease as were killed in battle. Living on isolated farms, many men hadn't been exposed to common childhood diseases like measles and mumps. When they came into contact with infected soldiers, in big, unsanitary army camps,
THEY DIED IN HORRIFYING NUMBERS.

129 01:07:06:23 01:07:09:29 THIS IS HOW SOLDIERS DIED, IN CAMP AND IN THE FIELD

130 01:07:10:01 01:07:11:20 FROM THE VERY START OF THE WAR.


132 01:07:14:06 01:07:17:11 AND IT CHANGED IN WAYS THAT SOLDIERS COULDN'T HAVE FORESEEN

133 01:07:17:13 01:07:20:00 AND THIS INCREASED THE INTENSITY OF THE FIGHTING

134 01:07:20:02 01:07:21:10 AND THE BLOODSHED.

135 01:07:21:12 01:07:23:01 WHAT BEGAN AS A LIMITED WAR

136 01:07:23:03 01:07:25:06 A WAR OF SOLDIERS AGAINST SOLDIERS

137 01:07:25:08 01:07:28:12 AND A WAR TO RESTORE NATIONAL UNITY BECAME, BY 1863


139 01:07:31:29 01:07:35:08 AND MORE THAN THAT: A SOCIAL REVOLUTION, A VIOLENT UPHEAVAL

140 01:07:35:10 01:07:38:11 THAT DESTROYED A SLAVE-HOLDING CIVILIZATION

141 01:07:38:13 01:07:40:23 THAT HAD LASTED FOR 2½ CENTURIES.

142 01:07:40:25 01:07:46:23 TO UNDERSTAND THIS WAR, YOU HAVE TO START WITH GEOGRAPHY.

143 01:07:46:25 01:07:49:17 THE CIVIL WAR WAS FOUGHT IN TWO MAIN THEATERS:

144 01:07:49:19 01:07:53:02 THE EAST, WHERE MOST OF THE FIGHTING OCCURRED IN VIRGINIA;


146 01:07:56:09 01:07:58:16 IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

147 01:07:58:18 01:08:02:08 AND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

148 01:08:02:10 01:08:04:13 IN THE EAST, THE NORTH'S MAIN OBJECTIVE

149 01:08:04:15 01:08:07:10 WAS THE CONFEDERATE CAPITAL OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

150 01:08:07:12 01:08:09:17 WHICH WAS DEFENDED BY ROBERT E. LEE

151 01:08:09:19 01:08:13:27 COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

152 01:08:13:29 01:08:16:25 OUT WEST, THE NORTH'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO REOPEN

153 01:08:16:27 01:08:18:28 THE CONFEDERATE-CONTROLLED MISSISSIPPI RIVER

154 01:08:19:00 01:08:21:19 AND TO USE THE RIVER AS AN INVASION HIGHWAY

155 01:08:21:21 01:08:23:04 INTO THE SOUTH.

156 01:08:23:06 01:08:26:10 THE NORTH ALSO EMPLOYED ITS NAVY TO BLOCKADE SOUTHERN PORTS

157 01:08:26:12 01:08:28:20 HOPING TO CUT OFF REBEL TRADE WITH EUROPE

158 01:08:28:22 01:08:32:07 AND ENGLAND, PARTICULARLY.

159 01:08:32:09 01:08:36:07 THE BLOCKADE BECAME INCREASINGLY
EFFECTIVE AS THE WAR PROCEEDED

160 01:08:36:09 01:08:38:15 BUT THE UNION ARMY'S RICHMOND CAMPAIGN WAS FRUSTRATED

161 01:08:38:17 01:08:40:12 BY THE MILITARY GENIUS OF LEE

162 01:08:40:14 01:08:43:10 AND HIS CHIEF LIEUTENANT "STONEWALL" JACKSON

163 01:08:43:12 01:08:46:19 AND BY THE EXTREME AND ALMOST INEXPLICABLE CAUTION

164 01:08:46:21 01:08:48:15 OF GENERAL GEORGE McCLELLAN


166 01:08:51:15 01:08:53:07 McCLELLAN'S STRATEGY OF CONCILIATION


168 01:08:56:13 01:08:59:05 HE WANTED TO FIGHT SOUTHERNERS WHILE PROTECTING THEIR PROPERTY INCLUDING THEIR SLAVES.

169 01:08:59:07 01:09:00:14 McCLELLAN FELT THAT MOST SOUTHERNERS WERE SECRETLY LOYAL TO THE UNION

170 01:09:00:16 01:09:02:01 AND THAT THE WAR HAD BEEN BROUGHT ON

171 01:09:02:01 01:09:03:13 McCLELLAN WAS NEVER ABLE TO WIN THOSE VICTORIES.

172 01:09:03:15 01:09:05:04 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

173 01:09:05:06 01:09:08:00 McCLELLAN WAS NEVER ABLE TO WIN THOSE VICTORIES.

174 01:09:08:02 01:09:10:16 THE PROBLEM WAS McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

175 01:09:10:18 01:09:12:19 THE BATTLE ENDED IN A DRAW BUT McCLELLAN ALLOWED LEE'S CORNERED AND BADLY DAMAGED ARMY TO ESCAPE TO VIRGINIA.

176 01:09:12:21 01:09:15:07 LINCOLN, INFURIATED, REMOVED HIM FROM COMMAND.

177 01:09:15:09 01:09:16:17 THEN, WHEN HE FAILED TO GO AFTER LEE LINCOLN, INFURIATED, REMOVED HIM FROM COMMAND.

178 01:09:16:19 01:09:19:06 THE PROBLEM WAS McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

179 01:09:19:08 01:09:20:20 THE BATTLE ENDED IN A DRAW BUT McCLELLAN ALLOWED LEE'S CORNERED AND BADLY DAMAGED ARMY TO ESCAPE TO VIRGINIA.

180 01:09:20:22 01:09:23:25 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

181 01:09:23:27 01:09:27:08 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

182 01:09:27:08 01:09:29:12 THE BATTLE ENDED IN A DRAW BUT McCLELLAN ALLOWED LEE'S CORNERED AND BADLY DAMAGED ARMY TO ESCAPE TO VIRGINIA.

183 01:09:29:14 01:09:30:26 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

184 01:09:30:28 01:09:33:09 THE BATTLE ENDED IN A DRAW BUT McCLELLAN ALLOWED LEE'S CORNERED AND BADLY DAMAGED ARMY TO ESCAPE TO VIRGINIA.

185 01:09:33:11 01:09:36:03 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

186 01:09:36:05 01:09:37:24 THE BATTLE ENDED IN A DRAW BUT McCLELLAN ALLOWED LEE'S CORNERED AND BADLY DAMAGED ARMY TO ESCAPE TO VIRGINIA.

187 01:09:37:26 01:09:41:15 THE BATTLE ENDED IN A DRAW BUT McCLELLAN ALLOWED LEE'S CORNERED AND BADLY DAMAGED ARMY TO ESCAPE TO VIRGINIA.

188 01:09:41:17 01:09:42:29 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

189 01:09:43:01 01:09:45:23 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

190 01:09:45:25 01:09:49:13 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.

191 01:09:49:15 01:09:54:14 McCLELLAN STALKED LEE AND BROUGHT HIM TO CONFLICT AT ANTIETAM CREEK.
193 01:09:56:09 01:09:57:21  AGAIN MARCHED TOWARD RICHMOND
194 01:09:57:23 01:10:00:07  BUT LEE CUT IT TO PIECES AT FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA.
195 01:10:03:10 01:10:06:25  ...LINCOLN SAID AT THE TIME.
196 01:10:06:27 01:10:10:04  WHILE THE WAR CONTINUED TO GO BADLY FOR THE UNION IN THE EAST
197 01:10:10:06 01:10:13:17  OUT WEST IT WON A SUCCESSION OF VICTORIES BEHIND ULYSSES GRANT
198 01:10:13:19 01:10:16:11  THE NORTH'S FIRST WAR HERO.
199 01:10:16:13 01:10:18:12  GRANT WAS A MASTER OF RIVER WARFARE.
200 01:10:18:14 01:10:19:20  HE WORKED IN TANDEM WITH THE NAVY'S POWERFUL IRON-CLAD GUNBOATS
201 01:10:19:22 01:10:21:22  TO PUSH DEEP INTO SOUTHERN TERRITORY
202 01:10:21:24 01:10:23:20  ALL THE WAY TO A PLACE CALLED SHILOH
203 01:10:23:22 01:10:26:02  IN SOUTH-CENTRAL TENNESSEE.
204 01:10:26:04 01:10:28:18  THERE, IN THE SPRING OF 1862
205 01:10:28:18 01:10:30:17  HE WON A TERRIBLE TWO-DAY SLAUGHTER.
206 01:10:30:19 01:10:33:16  MORE MEN FELL AT SHILOH--20,000--
207 01:10:33:18 01:10:36:04  THEN IN ALL OTHER AMERICAN WARS COMBINED UP TO THAT TIME.
208 01:10:36:06 01:10:43:08  THE UNION NAVY CAPTURED NEW ORLEANS
209 01:10:43:10 01:10:45:28  THAT SAME MONTH, THE UNION NAVY PUSHED UPRIVER TO VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI.
210 01:10:46:00 01:10:47:14  AND PUSHED UPRIVER TO VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI.
211 01:10:47:16 01:10:50:19  BUT VICKSBURG WAS TOO TOUGH TO TAKE.
212 01:10:50:21 01:10:53:22  THE UNION HAD RETAKEN THE MISSISSIPPI FROM THE MOUTH OF THE OHIO, SOUTH TO VICKSBURG
214 01:10:56:00 01:10:59:24  AND WAS HEAVILY FORTIFIED.
215 01:10:59:26 01:11:02:03  THE UNION HAD RETAKEN THE MISSISSIPPI
216 01:11:02:05 01:11:05:02  FROM THE MOUTH OF THE OHIO, SOUTH TO VICKSBURG
217 01:11:05:04 01:11:08:26  AND FROM NEW ORLEANS, NORTH TO JUST BELOW VICKSBURG.
218 01:11:08:28 01:11:14:10  THIS MADE VICKSBURG THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POINT
219 01:11:14:12 01:11:17:00  THE "GIBRALTAR OF THE SOUTH."
220 01:11:17:02 01:11:20:15  IT WAS THE LAST OBSTACLE TO UNION EFFORTS
221 01:11:20:17 01:11:22:21  TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE MISSISSIPPI
223 01:11:24:22 01:11:26:11  BY ISOLATING REBEL TERRITORY WEST OF THE RIVER--
TEXAS, ARKANSAS
AND PARTS OF LOUISIANA.

LINCOLN SUMMED IT UP:
"VICKSBURG IS THE KEY.
THE WAR CAN NEVER BE BROUGHT
TO AN END
UNTIL THE KEY IS IN OUR POCKET."

THIS WOULD BE GRANT'S JOB.
GRANT IS AN AMAZING STORY.
JUST TWO YEARS BEFORE THIS,
HE WAS A BROKEN MAN
STRUGGLING TO SUPPORT
HIS FAMILY AS A CLERK
IN HIS FATHER'S HARNESS SHOP
IN GALENA, ILLINOIS.
ONE YEAR AFTER TAKING VICKSBURG
HE WAS PUT IN COMMAND
OF ALL UNION FORCES IN THE WAR.
THE NEXT YEAR, HE'D ACCEPT
LEE'S SURRENDER AT APPOMATTOX.
THREE YEARS LATER,
HE'D ENTER THE WHITE HOUSE.
NO AMERICAN HAS
EVER RISEN SO FAST.
AS A BOY GROWING UP
IN SOUTHERN OHIO
GRANT DIDN'T WANT TO BE
A SOLDIER
AND THE SIGHT OF BLOOD
ALWAYS MADE HIM PHYSICALLY SICK.
HE WENT TO WEST POINT
TO GET A FREE EDUCATION
HE WENT TO WEST POINT
TO GET A FREE EDUCATION
BUT HE GOT USED TO ARMY LIFE
AND BECAME A HERO
IN THE MEXICAN WAR.
THEN, WHILE STATIONED
IN CALIFORNIA
FAR AWAY FROM HIS FAMILY, HE
STARTED DRINKING, DRINKING HARD
AND WAS PRESSURED TO RESIGN
FROM THE ARMY.
AFTER THIS, HE FAILED
AT ONE JOB AFTER ANOTHER
AND WAS NEARLY DESTITUTE
WHEN THE WAR RESCUED HIM
BRINGING OUT CAPACITIES EVEN
HE DIDN'T KNOW HE POSSESSED.
GRANT HAD DONE WELL
UP TO VICKSBURG
BUT VICKSBURG WOULD BE
HIS SUPREME TEST
AND THE TURNING POINT
OF HIS LIFE.
THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN
BROUGHT THE UNION ARMY
FOR THE FIRST TIME, INTO
THE HEART OF COTTON CULTURE

AND IT BEGAN--

AND THIS IS IMPORTANT--

AT THE TIME LINCOLN SIGNED

HIS EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

ON JANUARY 1, 1863.

THESE FACTORS OF GEOGRAPHY

AND TIMING WOULD MAKE IT

THE MOST IMPORTANT MILITARY

CAMPAIGN OF THE WAR.

WITH THE EMANCIPATION

PROCLAMATION

LINCOLN TURNED A LIMITED WAR

FOR REUNION

INTO A TOTAL WAR

AGAINST SLAVERY.

THE PROCLAMATION ALSO OPENED

THE WAY FOR BLACK PARTICIPATION

IN THE FIGHTING.

BY THE END OF THE WAR, 180,000

AFRICAN AMERICANS HAD SERVED

IN THE UNION ARMY.

LINCOLN HATED SLAVERY,

ALWAYS HAD.

BUT HE HADN'T MOVED AGAINST IT

EARLIER IN THE WAR

BECAUSE HE FEARED THAT IF HE DID

WILL THE BORDER STATES OF KENTUCKY,

MARYLAND AND MISSOURI

WHERE PRO-SLAVERY FEELING

WAS VERY STRONG

WOULD JOIN THE CONFEDERACY.

IT WAS BLACK SLAVES THEMSELVES

WHO FORCED HIS HAND

BY RUNNING AWAY

IN TREMENDOUS NUMBERS

TO INVADING UNION ARMIES.

AT FIRST,

LINCOLN ORDERED HIS GENERALS

TO RETURN THE FUGITIVE SLAVES

TO THEIR OWNERS.

BUT SOME GENERALS SAW THE VALUE

OF USING BLACK LABOR

ANDBegan KEEPING RUNAWAY SLAVES

AS SO-CALLED

"CONTRABAND OF WAR."

WHEN CONGRESS SANCTIONED

THIS NEW POLICY

IT CLEARED THE WAY

FOR LINCOLN TO DO

WHAT HE'D WANTED TO DO

ALL ALONG:

DECLARE SLAVES IN REBELLIOUS

STATES TO BE, AS HE PUT IT

"FOREVER FREE."

LINCOLN DIDN'T BELIEVE,
BY THE WAY

288 01:14:06:01 01:14:07:26 THAT HE HAD THE
CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY
289 01:14:07:28 01:14:10:17 TO FREE SLAVES IN STATES
THAT REMAINED IN THE UNION.
290 01:14:10:19 01:14:13:26 THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION
FREED SLAVES
PORTIONS OF THE CONFEDERACY.
292 01:14:17:01 01:14:19:23 THIS MADE IT LOOK LIKE AN
EXTREMELY INEFFECTIVE DOCUMENT.
293 01:14:19:25 01:14:21:13 BUT THERE WAS DYNAMITE IN IT.
INTO AN ARMY OF LIBERATION.
295 01:14:23:29 01:14:27:12 FROM NOW ON, WHEREVER IT WENT
SLAVERY WAS DEAD.
296 01:14:27:14 01:14:29:22 AFTER LINCOLN
ISSUED THE PROCLAMATION
297 01:14:29:24 01:14:31:24 GRANT CALLED IN HIS OFFICERS
AND INFORMED THEM
298 01:14:31:26 01:14:33:12 THAT THE WAR HAD CHANGED.
IS THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION
300 01:14:36:01 01:14:37:23 AND SUBJUGATION OF THE SOUTH.
301 01:14:37:25 01:14:39:24 THE ARMY IS TO
CONFISCATE OR DESTROY
302 01:14:39:26 01:14:42:27 SOUTHERN CROPS AND LIVESTOCK
AND TAKE THE ENEMY'S SLAVES
303 01:14:42:29 01:14:45:04 AND MAKE SOLDIERS
OUT OF THE MEN.
304 01:14:45:06 01:14:48:00 EVEN RACIST GENERALS LIKE
SHERMAN LIKED THE NEW POLICY.
305 01:14:48:02 01:14:51:08 NOT BECAUSE IT HELPED THE SLAVES
BUT BECAUSE IT HURT THE REBELS.
306 01:14:51:10 01:14:53:07 IT HURT THEM ESPECIALLY
AT VICKSBURG
307 01:14:53:09 01:14:56:20 AND IRONICALLY, BECAUSE
VICKSBURG WAS SO TOUGH TO TAKE.
308 01:14:56:22 01:14:59:01 IT TOOK GRANT SIX MONTHS
TO CAPTURE THE PLACE.
309 01:14:59:03 01:15:00:18 AND IN TRYING TO CAPTURE IT
310 01:15:00:20 01:15:03:23 HIS HUGE, MARAUDING ARMY
ROAMED OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE
311 01:15:03:25 01:15:07:11 CONFISCATING AND BURNING
PLANTATIONS, FREEING SLAVES
312 01:15:07:13 01:15:09:24 AND CAUSING
GENERAL WRECK AND RUIN.
313 01:15:09:26 01:15:12:23 FOR THE SOUTH,
IT WAS A CRUEL IRONY.
314 01:15:12:25 01:15:15:26 IN HOLDING ON TO VICKSBURG,
REBEL SOLDIERS WERE LOSING
315 01:15:15:28 01:15:18:00 LOSING THEIR FARMS,
LOSING THEIR SLAVES
316 01:15:18:02 01:15:19:16 AND HAVING THEIR WIVES
AND CHILDREN
317 01:15:19:18 01:15:23:07 TURNED INTO TERROR-STRICKEN
REFUGEES BY YANKEE RAIDERS.

319 01:15:26:22 01:15:28:29 WAS SEEING THEIR FORMER SLAVES IN YANKEE BLUE
320 01:15:29:01 01:15:30:07 CARRYING A MUSKET.
321 01:15:33:19 01:15:35:24 IN ONE OF THE BATTLES OF THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN
322 01:15:35:26 01:15:38:15 TEXANS WENT UP AGAINST NEWLY FORMED BLACK UNITS
323 01:15:38:17 01:15:39:29 OF THE UNION ARMY.
324 01:15:40:01 01:15:42:12 THE FIGHTING WAS UNBELIEVABLY BRUTAL, HAND-TO-HAND
325 01:15:42:14 01:15:45:19 AND THE DEAD WERE FOUND WRAPPED AROUND EACH OTHER'S BODIES.
326 01:15:45:21 01:15:48:10 IT HAD BECOME A RACIAL WAR.
328 01:15:50:11 01:15:52:09 SENT SOUTHERNERS SCURRYING WITH THEIR SLAVES
329 01:15:52:09 01:15:53:17 TO TEXAS AND SOUTH CAROLINA.
330 01:15:53:17 01:15:55:27 IT ALSO PRODUCED RACIAL PANIC.
331 01:15:55:29 01:15:59:04 LISTEN TO A PLANTATION OVERSEER WRITING TO HIS ABSENTEE MASTER.
332 01:16:09:26 01:16:11:13 THESE SAME TOUGH UNION POLICIES ALSO ENCOURAGED THRILLING ACTS OF BLACK LIBERATION.
333 01:16:11:15 01:16:14:04 I FOUND A DIARY IN AN ARCHIVE DESCRIBES A OLD BLACK MAN
334 01:16:14:06 01:16:15:23 KNOWING THAT UNION TROOPS WOULD BE THERE TO PROTECT HIM.
335 01:16:15:25 01:16:18:02 BREAKING IN ON A WHITE RELIGIOUS SERVICE
336 01:16:18:04 01:16:19:27 WHEN THE OLD MAN BURST THROUGH THE DOOR
337 01:16:19:29 01:16:22:14 KNOWING THAT UNION TROOPS WOULD BE THERE TO PROTECT HIM.
338 01:16:22:16 01:16:24:10 WHEN THE OLD MAN LOOKED HIM IN THE EYE AND SAID "I'VE COME HERE TO WORSHIP AS A FREE MAN."
339 01:16:24:12 01:16:25:26 THEN HE TOOK A SEAT IN THE FRONT PEW.
341 01:16:28:11 01:16:30:01 "WITH THE UNION ARMY AS THEIR SHIELD AND SWORD HELPED BRING DOWN SLAVERY"
342 01:16:30:03 01:16:32:22 "IN THIS PART OF THE SOUTH TWO YEARS BEFORE THE WAR ENDED."
343 01:16:32:24 01:16:35:02 THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT, AND OVERLOOKED OUTCOMES OF THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN.
344 01:16:35:04 01:16:37:12 BUT JUST AS THE NORTH BEGAN
FIGHTING WITH THE GLOVES OFF

ITS FORTUNES PLUMMETED
AND IT NEARLY LOST THE WAR.

THE PROBLEM WAS VICKSBURG.

VICKSBURG WAS A NATURAL CITADEL
SURROUNDED BY A TERRAIN
OF INCREDIBLE DIFFICULTY.

ON THE ONE SIDE,
STEEP, HEAVILY ERODED HILLS;

AND ON THE OTHER SIDE,
AN ALMOST IMPENETRABLE SWAMP

THE YAZOO DELTA.

ADDING TO GRANT'S PROBLEMS
THERE WERE
TORRENTIAL WINTER RAINS.

GRANT'S SOLDIERS WERE CAMPED
IN THE MUD UP TO THEIR KNEES
OF THE RIVER
AND WERE FORCED TO DRINK WATER
CONTAMINATED BY HUMAN EXCREMENT.

IT WAS A FORMULA FOR DISASTER
AND THE MEN STARTED DYING BY THE
HUNDREDS FROM MALARIA, DYSENTERY
PNEUMONIA AND SMALLPOX.

THE DEAD WERE BURIED WITHOUT
COFFINS ON HIGH EARTHEN LEVEES
AND WHEN THE RIVER ROSE,
CORPSES WERE SWEPT DOWNSTREAM.

THAT WINTER, GRANT TRIED
SEVERAL TIMES TO TAKE VICKSBURG
BY CUTTING THROUGH
THE THICK DELTA JUNGLE.

HE EVEN BEGAN BUILDING
A DIVERSIONARY CANAL
THAT WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE
COURSE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
MOVING IT AWAY FROM THE CITY
AND TURNING VICKSBURG
INTO A LANDLOCKED
AND MILITARILY VULNERABLE PLACE.

BUT EVERY ATTEMPT FAILED
AND DESERTIONS INCREASED.

MANY OF THE MEN WERE UNWILLING
TO TOLERATE SUCH CONDITIONS
IN A WAR
THAT WAS NOW BEING FOUGHT
AS ONE RACIST SOLDIER
COMPLAINED, IN HIS WORDS
"FOR THE NIGGER."
CRITICISM OF
GRANT'S INCOMPETENCE
AND RUMORS THAT HE WAS DRINKING
FILLED NORTHERN NEWSPAPERS
AND THERE WERE CALLS
FOR HIS REMOVAL.
MANY FELT AN ARMISTICE WAS INEVITABLE. LINCOLN WAS ALSO UNDER PRESSURE TO OPEN THE RIVER FOR MUCH LONGER, LINCOLN FEARED THAT SOME STATES IN THE MIDWEST WOULD STOP SUPPORTING THE WAR. IF THE RIVER REMAINED CLOSED FOR MUCH LONGER, LINCOLN FEARED THAT SOME STATES IN THE MIDWEST WOULD STOP SUPPORTING THE WAR.

LINCOLN WAS ALSO UNDER PRESSURE TO OPEN THE RIVER TO MIDWESTERN FARMERS SO THEY COULD SEND THEIR CORN AND WHEAT TO MARKET THROUGH NEW ORLEANS. IF THE RIVER REMAINED CLOSED FOR MUCH LONGER, LINCOLN FEARED THAT SOME STATES IN THE MIDWEST WOULD STOP SUPPORTING THE WAR.

WAR MORALE AT AN ALL-TIME LOW IN THE NORTH, LINCOLN FEARED THAT SOME STATES IN THE MIDWEST WOULD STOP SUPPORTING THE WAR.

HIS MILITARY CAREER, AND WITH IT, THE FATE OF THE NATION HUNG IN THE BALANCE.

EVERYTHING CHANGED.

THE RAINS STOPPED AND THE BOTTOM-LANDS ON THE LOUISIANA SIDE OF THE RIVER BEGAN TO DRY.

THIS ALLOWED GRANT TO TRY A DARING INVASION PLAN.

IT WAS ONE OF THE RISKIEST MOVES OF THE WAR.

AND EVEN SHERMAN PLEADED WITH HIM NOT TO MAKE IT.

GRANT WOULD MARCH HIS ARMY DOWN THE LOUISIANA SIDE OF THE RIVER AND MAKE A CROSSING INTO MISSISSIPPI, BELOW VICKSBURG.

WHERE THERE WAS HIGH, DRY GROUND TO OPERATE ON.

BUT TO GET HIS TROOPS ACROSS THE RIVER.

HE’D NEED GUNBOATS AND TROOP TRANSPORTS.

AND THEY’D HAVE TO BE SENT DOWNRIVER.

PAST THE GUNS OF VICKSBURG.

GRANT ASKED FOR HELP FROM THE NAVY.

AND HIS FRIEND, ADMIRAL DAVID DIXON PORTER CAME THROUGH FOR HIM.

ON A CLOUDLESS APRIL NIGHT PORTER’S GUNBOATS FLOATED DOWNRIVER TOWARD VICKSBURG.

THEIR ENGINES WERE MUFFLED BUT THEY WERE SPOTTED IMMEDIATELY.

AND THERE WAS A SPECTACULAR THREE-HOUR FIRE FIGHT.
THE PEOPLE OF VICKSBURG WATCHED IT FROM THE BLUFFS.

GRANT, WITH HIS WIFE AND KIDS, WATCHED IT FROM A BOAT UPRIVER.

SHERMAN WATCHED IT FROM A CANOE, JUST ACROSS FROM VICKSBURG.

AMAZINGLY, ALL BUT ONE OF THE BOATS MADE IT THROUGH.

AND ON APRIL 30, GRANT'S ARMY CROSSED THE MISSISSIPPI.

IN WHAT WAS THE LARGEST AMPHIBIOUS LANDING BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

THE MEN WERE IN HIGH SPIRITS NOW.

AS ONE OF THEM WROTE IN HIS DIARY:

THAT SAME MORNING, IN VIRGINIA ROBERT E. LEE WAS AGAIN PREPARING TO MEET THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC IN WHAT WOULD LATER BE KNOWN AS THE BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE.

THAT SAME EVENING, IN WASHINGTON LINCOLN WAITED AT THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR NEWS FROM BOTH MISSISSIPPI AND VIRGINIA.

HAD THE CONFEDERATES UNDER GENERAL JOHN PEMBERTON CONCENTRATED THEIR FORCES THEY MIGHT HAVE DRIVEN GRANT'S INVASION ARMY BACK INTO THE RIVER.

BUT THEY WERE THERE ONLY IN TOKEN FORCE.

BECAUSE GRANT HAD EXECUTED A SERIES OF BRILLIANT DIVERSIONARY MOVES.

GRANT'S ARMY WAS NOW BEHIND CONFEDERATE LINES FACING AN ENEMY THAT OUTNUMBERED HIM.

WITH NO COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

AND WITH ONLY A PRECARIOUS SUPPLY LINE.

THIS WOULD HAVE PARALYZED GEORGE McCLELLAN.

BUT GRANT WAS FOCUSED, DETERMINED, SET FOR THE KILL.

HE MOVED WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, HIS ARMY LIVING OFF THE LAND.

HE MARCHED 180 MILES IN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS.
AS SOME HISTORIANS ARGUE

BUT BECAUSE OF THE INACCURACY

OF CIVIL WAR ARTILLERY

AND MORTAR FIRE

AND BECAUSE THE PEOPLE

OF VICKSBURG HID

IN SNAKE-INFESTED CAVES THEY DUG

WITH THE HELP OF THEIR SLAVES.

HEAT, HUNGER,

SICKNESS AND EXHAUSTION

FINALLY BROKE THE CONFEDERATES.

ON JULY 4, 1863

PEMBERTON SURRENDERED THE CITY

AND HIS ENTIRE ARMY.

VICKSBURG WOULDN'T CELEBRATE

THE FOURTH OF JULY

FOR ALMOST ANOTHER CENTURY.

THE NEXT DAY,

SHERMAN WENT ON A MARCH

THROUGH THE CENTER

OF MISSISSIPPI

TO THE CAPITAL OF JACKSON

DESTROYING

EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH.

THIS WAS A REHEARSAL FOR HIS

FAMOUS MARCH OF DEVASTATION

THROUGH GEORGIA

THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

ON THE MORNING

THAT VICKSBURG SURRENDERED

ROBERT E. LEE

WAS RETREATING FROM PENNSYLVANIA

AFTER LOSING THE

BLOODIEST BATTLE EVER FOUGHT

AT A PLACE CALLED GETTYSBURG.

LEE HAD INVADED PENNSYLVANIA

AFTER WINNING A SPECTACULAR

VICTORY AT CHANCELLORSVILLE.

AN INVASION OF THE NORTH,

HE TOLD JEFF DAVIS

MIGHT DRAW OFF

YANKEE TROOPS FROM VICKSBURG.

HE AND GRANT HAD GAMBED,

BUT THERE WAS ONLY ONE WINNER.

A MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SUMMED UP

THE SIGNIFICANCE

OF THE BATTLE HE'D FOUGHT IN.

VICKSBURG WAS AN OMINOUS

HARBINGER FOR THE SOUTH.

IT WOULD BE BEATEN IN THIS WAR

NOT BY A SERIES OF CLIMACTIC

BATTLES, LIKE GETTYSBURG

BUT BY UNREMITTING WARFARE ON

SOLDIERS AS WELL AS CIVILIANS
EXECUTED WITH UNBLINKING EFFICIENCY
BY THE HEROES OF VICKSBURG, GRANT AND SHERMAN.
THEY WERE THE GENERALS WHO BROUGHT OLD DIXIE DOWN.
WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT, IT'S TEMPTING TO SEE
THE TWIN VICTORIES OF VICKSBURG AND GETTYSBURG SEALING THE FATE OF THE SOUTH.
BUT THE WAR WOULD DRAG ON FOR TWO MORE YEARS AND WOULD BECOME EVEN MORE VICIOUS.
THE LETTERS OF SOLDIERS WHO SURRENDERED AT VICKSBURG GIVE PART OF THE REASON WHY.
CONFEDERATE PRIVATE F. N. CAYLOR WAS STILL DETERMINED TO FIGHT ON.
AFTER VICKSBURG, LINCOLN WARNED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AGAINST OVERCONFIDENCE.
THIS WAS THE SAME JUST GOD PRIVATE CAYLOR WAS BANKING ON.
BUT WITH BOTH SIDES CONVINCED OF THE MORALITY OF THEIR CAUSE LINCOLN WAS RIGHT.
THERE WAS A LOT MORE FIGHTING AHEAD.