

# CIVIL WAR

A simulation of civilian and soldier life  
during the American Civil War, 1861-1865



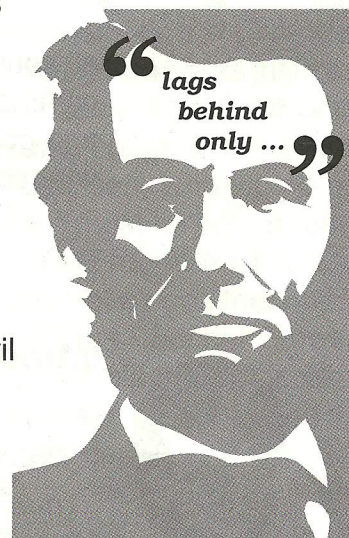
## INTRODUCTION

You are about to begin a simulation on the American Civil War, a conflict that raged for four years and left in its destructive wake a horrifying number of casualties. For many reasons it changed our nation's destiny. We entered the war in 1861, a young innocent and divided union; we emerged in 1865, if not reunited, at least transformed.

The Civil War—fought between the Union (North) and the Confederacy (South)—ranks with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, and the signing of the Constitution as having the greatest impact on subsequent United States history. Yet, the tragedy of this or any civil war is read mostly in grim statistics. Of the approximately 618,000 who lost their lives in this enormous calamity, 360,000 were young men from the 23 Union states (24 when West Virginia entered the Union in 1863); 258,000 came from the 11 Confederate states. Moreover, nearly every family in those times was directly affected by casualty lists. Few on the “home front,” the ordinary Americans on thousands of farms and in as many small towns, were spared the loss of a husband, son, cousin, brother, father, or nephew. The technology of mass killing had outstripped the sophistication of medical treatment. In this sense, and for many reasons, the Civil War was the prototype of all subsequent wars.

Besides the killings in more than 10,000 battle places where men fought and fell, there is a unique and almost mythical fascination for these homespun heroes who bravely defended their beliefs and their hearths.

Proof of this is the enduring interest in specific battles and leaders that seems to grow over the years. The Civil War has generated at least one book a day since April 1865—the month the war ended! Perhaps the most fascinating and durable of all Civil War subjects, Abraham Lincoln, lags behind only Jesus Christ and William Shakespeare in the number of biographers.



Student Guide

The United States made war on itself between 1861 and 1865. To understand the what and the *how* is this simulation's goal. For the next several weeks, the reality and the fascination that this conflict brings will accompany you on your journey in CIVIL WAR.

## Goals

From the start you and your classmates will become people of the Civil War era. You will be placed into one of six contingents—four, Union and two, Confederate. You will be given two identities on a CHARACTER CARD: one is a “home identity” whom you will use as a basis for your journal entries; the other is a “field army identity” who you will be during various war activities. Some of you will be elected to lead your sections or contingents; most of you will be common soldiers and ordinary people touched in some way or another by the war. In the Pre-Cycle phase, you will enlist and then learn about routine military life in camp, about discipline, and about how to use your new zeal with a Rebel or Union yell to complement your contingent banner, flag, motto, and “uniform”—all in an effort to develop “esprit de corps” among the troops. The other five cycles—1861-1865—immerse you into the world of Civil War battles and camp life where in an exciting array of clever activities you'll learn about those years' military and nonmilitary events.

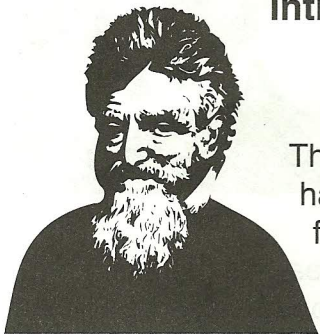
In summary, you will become a Johnny Reb or Billy Yank as well as a supporter of the North or the South. You will actively learn about a horrific yet fascinating war and the people who were touched by it—either on the battlefield or on the home front. While you are “learning by doing,” you will also be earning combat points for all your work. So watch for enemy snipers, don't fall asleep on picket duty, obey your commanding officer, and when, in the heat of battle, your company's flag bearer is hit and goes down, you'll have the courage to “take the colors” and persevere, leading your contingent's advance to victory in this simulation!

## A CIVIL WAR HISTORY

### Introduction

*“I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood.”*

Thus wrote abolitionist John Brown on December 2, 1859, shortly before he was hanged in Charles Town, Virginia, for murder, treason, and initiating an unsuccessful slave revolt. Few knew on that fateful morning just how prophetic “God's angry man” was. For only 18 months later, the United States would be at war with itself. This four-year blood bath from 1861 to 1865 changed American history forever and thus affects the country today.



### Sectionalism

The crime John Brown alluded to was Negro slavery, the South's “peculiar institution.” Captured in Africa, manacled, brought over on crowded ships on the “middle passage” of the triangular trade, and then sold on the auction block to wealthy planters of the South,

