

History 217 The Course of War

1. War as a limited war that ended as a total war. . . . a remorseless conflict based on unconditional surrender, abolition of slavery and the destruction of the infrastructure of the Confederacy.

Lincoln sees the war as limited. To appeal to the Southern Unionists. The war was an "insurrection." He never once recognized the legitimacy of the CSA. This was a domestic insurrection to be put down.

The ²single Union war aim^s at the outset was to end the insurrection and restore the Union. Nothing at the outset⁴ it said about slavery. (Slavery was property) The border southern states that were still in the Union were critical.

2. Speaks of the Anaconda Plan. Some successes.

Battle of Manassas or Bull Run. July 1861.

Shiloh (April 1862) The bloodiest battle in American history. More casualties than the Am. Rev., War of 1812, and the Mexican War. Union victory at unprecedented cost. Killed 100,000 men engaged. 3,500 died. One in four casualties in this two-day conflict. Shiloh is an eye-opener for some. Grant sees the war now as going to be long and remorseless.

McClellan and the Army of the Potomac. McClellan's move on Richmond.

The series of battles in the east. Reverses for the Union. Soldiers now call it Seeing the elephant. War would have to change from limited to unlimited destruction. One army had to completely destroy the other before the war was over.

Second battle of Bull Run. Another Union defeat. Numbers of casualties were 5 times greater than First Bull Run.

Battle of Antietam (Sept. 1862) The bloodiest day of the war. Some 5,000 dead in one day of fighting. Four times those of D-Day plus one) in WWII. (See Saving Private Ryan).