

civil war study guide answer key

civil war study guide answer key serves as an essential resource for students, educators, and history enthusiasts aiming to deepen their understanding of one of the most pivotal events in American history. This comprehensive guide offers detailed explanations, critical dates, key figures, and the significant battles that shaped the Civil War. Utilizing a civil war study guide answer key ensures accurate comprehension of complex topics such as the causes of the war, the strategies employed by both the Union and the Confederacy, and the social, economic, and political impacts that followed. Moreover, the guide aids in preparing for exams, providing clarity on frequently asked questions and important concepts. This article will explore the major themes and components covered in a civil war study guide answer key, highlighting how it facilitates effective learning and retention.

- Overview of the Civil War
- Key Causes of the Civil War
- Major Battles and Military Strategies
- Important Figures in the Civil War
- Social and Economic Impacts
- Using the Civil War Study Guide Answer Key Effectively

Overview of the Civil War

The civil war study guide answer key begins with an overview of the American Civil War, which lasted from 1861 to 1865. This conflict was fought between the Northern states (Union) and the Southern states (Confederacy) primarily over the issues of slavery and states' rights. The guide provides a clear timeline of events, from the election of Abraham Lincoln to the surrender at Appomattox Court House. Understanding this background is crucial for grasping the complexity of the war and its lasting effects on the United States.

Timeline of Key Events

The timeline section in the civil war study guide answer key outlines major milestones, including:

- 1860: Abraham Lincoln elected president
- 1861: Confederate attack on Fort Sumter
- 1863: Emancipation Proclamation issued

- 1863: Battle of Gettysburg
- 1865: Surrender at Appomattox Court House

By reviewing these events, learners can better contextualize the war's progression and turning points.

Key Causes of the Civil War

The civil war study guide answer key thoroughly addresses the root causes of the conflict, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of tensions between North and South. Central to these causes were disputes over slavery, economic differences, and political power struggles.

Slavery and Sectionalism

Slavery was the most contentious issue, with Southern states relying heavily on slave labor for their agricultural economy. The guide explains how abolitionist movements in the North and the expansion of slavery into new territories exacerbated sectional divisions. The Missouri Compromise, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the Dred Scott decision are highlighted as critical legislative and judicial events that intensified conflict.

States' Rights and Political Conflict

The civil war study guide answer key also details how debates over states' rights versus federal authority fueled secessionist sentiments. Southern states claimed the right to withdraw from the Union if they believed their rights were infringed upon, particularly regarding the institution of slavery. This political conflict culminated in the formation of the Confederate States of America.

Major Battles and Military Strategies

Understanding the military aspects of the Civil War is a key component of any civil war study guide answer key. It covers the strategies, significant battles, and outcomes that shaped the war's trajectory.

Union and Confederate Strategies

The Union adopted the Anaconda Plan, which aimed to blockade Southern ports and split the Confederacy by gaining control of the Mississippi River. Conversely, the Confederacy focused on defensive tactics, hoping to outlast the North's will to fight. The guide explains how these differing strategies influenced battle outcomes and overall war efforts.

Important Battles

The guide identifies and explains several major battles, including:

1. **Battle of Fort Sumter:** The war's opening conflict.
2. **Battle of Antietam:** The bloodiest single-day battle, leading to the Emancipation Proclamation.
3. **Battle of Gettysburg:** A turning point that marked the Confederacy's last major offensive.
4. **Sherman's March to the Sea:** A campaign of total war devastating Southern infrastructure.

Each battle is analyzed for its tactical significance and broader implications.

Important Figures in the Civil War

The civil war study guide answer key highlights influential leaders whose decisions and actions affected the course of the war. This includes political leaders, military commanders, and notable activists.

Political Leaders

Abraham Lincoln, as President of the Union, is examined for his leadership and policies, especially his commitment to preserving the Union and abolishing slavery. Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy, is also discussed, focusing on his role in rallying Southern states and managing the Confederate war effort.

Military Commanders

The guide covers prominent generals such as Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. Grant's aggressive tactics and eventual command of all Union armies contrasted with Lee's tactical brilliance and leadership of Confederate forces. Other notable figures include William Tecumseh Sherman and Stonewall Jackson.

Social and Economic Impacts

The aftermath of the Civil War transformed American society and the economy profoundly. The civil war study guide answer key explains these changes in detail, emphasizing the abolition of slavery and the challenges of Reconstruction.

Abolition of Slavery

The Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment are critical milestones covered in the guide, marking the official end of slavery. The guide also discusses the social implications for newly freed African Americans and the resistance they faced.

Economic Changes

The war accelerated industrialization in the North while devastating the Southern economy. The guide details how agriculture shifted, infrastructure was rebuilt, and economic policies evolved in the post-war era.

Using the Civil War Study Guide Answer Key Effectively

Maximizing the benefits of a civil war study guide answer key requires strategic study habits and comprehension techniques. This section offers practical advice on how to utilize the guide for academic success.

Key Strategies for Study

Effective use of the answer key includes:

- Reviewing questions before reading to focus attention.
- Cross-referencing answers with textbook materials for deeper understanding.
- Creating flashcards based on key terms and figures.
- Engaging in group discussions to reinforce knowledge.
- Practicing writing short essays using the guide's information.

Enhancing Retention and Critical Thinking

Beyond memorization, the civil war study guide answer key encourages critical analysis of causes, effects, and historical perspectives. Learners are advised to compare differing viewpoints and assess the war's legacy in modern America.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main causes of the Civil War covered in the study guide?

The main causes include slavery, states' rights, economic differences between the North and South, and the election of Abraham Lincoln.

Who were the key figures discussed in the Civil War study guide answer key?

Key figures include Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass.

What important battles are highlighted in the Civil War study guide?

Important battles include the Battle of Gettysburg, Battle of Antietam, Battle of Fort Sumter, and the Battle of Bull Run.

How does the answer key explain the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation?

The answer key explains that the Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for slaves in Confederate states and shifted the war focus to ending slavery.

What role did the Reconstruction era play according to the study guide answer key?

Reconstruction is described as the period after the Civil War focused on rebuilding the South, integrating freed slaves into society, and addressing political reintegration.

How are the economic impacts of the Civil War addressed in the answer key?

The answer key notes that the war devastated the Southern economy while accelerating industrial growth in the North.

Additional Resources

1. The Civil War Study Guide: Key Concepts and Answers

This comprehensive study guide breaks down the major events, figures, and battles of the American Civil War. It provides clear explanations and detailed answer keys to help students master the material. Ideal for both classroom use and independent study, it covers political, social, and military aspects of the war.

2. Mastering the Civil War: Study Guide and Answer Key

Designed for high school and college students, this book offers chapter-by-chapter summaries and

practice questions. Each section includes an answer key to reinforce learning and ensure comprehension. It also includes timelines and maps to contextualize the conflict.

3. *Quick Review Civil War Study Guide with Answer Key*

This concise guide focuses on the essential facts and themes of the Civil War. It features review questions and detailed answer explanations to help students prepare for exams quickly. The guide's straightforward format makes it an excellent tool for last-minute study sessions.

4. *The Complete Civil War Study Guide and Answer Key*

An in-depth resource that covers the causes, major battles, and consequences of the Civil War. It includes practice tests and essay questions with model answers. This guide is perfect for students seeking a thorough understanding of the war's complexities.

5. *Civil War Essentials: A Study Guide with Answer Key*

This book emphasizes key terms, important dates, and influential figures from the Civil War era. It is structured to support classroom instruction and self-study, with quizzes and answers to track progress. The guide also highlights the war's impact on American society.

6. *Understanding the Civil War: Study Guide and Answer Key*

This guide provides a balanced overview of political, economic, and social factors leading to the Civil War. It includes critical thinking questions, vocabulary lists, and comprehensive answer keys. The book encourages deeper analysis and discussion of the war's causes and effects.

7. *The Civil War: Study Guide with Answer Key for Teachers and Students*

Tailored for educators and learners, this guide offers lesson plans alongside study questions and answers. It supports differentiated instruction and includes activities to engage students in the history of the Civil War. The answer key ensures accurate grading and feedback.

8. *Civil War Facts and Review: Study Guide with Answer Key*

A fact-based review guide focusing on dates, battles, and key figures, supported by review questions. The included answer key helps students verify their knowledge and improve retention. It is an effective supplement to standard history textbooks.

9. *Preparing for Civil War Exams: Study Guide and Answer Key*

This exam-focused guide provides practice tests, multiple-choice questions, and essay prompts related to the Civil War. Detailed answers and explanations accompany each section to help students excel in assessments. It is especially useful for test preparation and review.

[Civil War Study Guide Answer Key](#)

Civil War Study Guide: Answer Key & Comprehensive Examination

Unraveling the complexities of the American Civil War requires a deep dive into its multifaceted

causes, key figures, significant battles, and lasting consequences. This comprehensive study guide, designed to equip students and history enthusiasts alike, provides answers and insights to help navigate this pivotal period in American history. Understanding the Civil War is not merely about memorizing dates and names; it's about grasping the social, economic, and political forces that shaped the nation and continue to resonate today. This guide offers a structured approach to mastering this crucial historical period, providing clear answers and insightful analyses.

"Mastering the American Civil War: A Student's Guide with Answer Key"

Introduction: Overview of the Civil War and its significance.

Chapter 1: Causes of the Civil War: Examining slavery, states' rights, and economic differences.

Chapter 2: Key Figures of the Civil War: Biographies of prominent leaders from both sides.

Chapter 3: Major Battles and Campaigns: Analysis of critical battles and their strategic implications.

Chapter 4: The Social Impact of the Civil War: Exploring the experiences of soldiers, civilians, and enslaved people.

Chapter 5: The Economic Impact of the Civil War: Analyzing the war's effects on the North and the South.

Chapter 6: Reconstruction and its Aftermath: Examining the challenges and successes of rebuilding the nation.

Chapter 7: The Legacy of the Civil War: Discussing the Civil War's enduring impact on American society.

Conclusion: Summarizing key takeaways and highlighting further avenues for research.

Answer Key: Detailed answers to all study questions throughout the guide.

The Introduction provides context, setting the stage for the deeper dives into specific aspects of the war. Chapter 1 explores the multifaceted causes of the conflict, going beyond the simplified narrative to illustrate the interwoven factors that led to secession. Chapter 2 offers biographical sketches of pivotal figures, providing insights into their motivations, strategies, and legacies. Chapter 3 delves into the major battles, examining not only the tactical maneuvers but also the strategic consequences of each engagement. Chapter 4 addresses the human cost of the war, highlighting the experiences of soldiers, civilians, and especially the enslaved population. Chapter 5 analyzes the war's devastating economic impact on both the North and the South, examining the long-term consequences. Chapter 6 examines the tumultuous period of Reconstruction, discussing the successes and failures of the attempt to rebuild the nation. Chapter 7 analyzes the lasting legacy of the Civil War, highlighting its continuing influence on American politics, society, and culture. The Conclusion synthesizes the key themes and encourages further exploration. Finally, the Answer Key provides detailed answers to all the study questions integrated throughout the chapters.

Keyword Optimization: A Deep Dive into SEO Strategy

This study guide utilizes robust keyword optimization strategies to enhance search engine visibility. Keywords and keyword phrases are strategically integrated throughout the text, focusing on high-search volume terms while maintaining natural language flow. Examples include:

Primary Keywords: Civil War study guide, Civil War answer key, American Civil War, Civil War facts, Civil War history, Civil War battles, Civil War causes, Reconstruction, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E.

Lee, Ulysses S. Grant.

Long-Tail Keywords: Civil War study guide with answers PDF, American Civil War study guide for college, Causes of the American Civil War essay questions, Civil War battle strategies analysis, The impact of the Civil War on the American economy, Reconstruction era challenges and successes. LSI (Latent Semantic Indexing) Keywords: slavery, states' rights, secession, emancipation, abolition, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Appomattox, Reconstruction Acts, 13th Amendment, 14th Amendment, 15th Amendment.

These keywords are strategically incorporated within headings (H1-H6), subheadings, image alt text, and throughout the body text to improve search engine ranking and user experience.

Recent Research and Practical Tips

The content of this study guide is informed by the latest historical scholarship, incorporating recent findings and interpretations. For example, research on the experiences of enslaved people during and after the war has significantly expanded our understanding of this crucial aspect of the conflict. This guide incorporates this recent research to provide a more nuanced and complete picture.

Practical Tips for Effective Learning:

Active Recall: Utilize the study guide's questions to actively test your knowledge and identify areas requiring further review.

Spaced Repetition: Review material at increasing intervals to improve long-term retention.

Visual Aids: Utilize maps, timelines, and images to enhance your understanding of key events and locations.

Connect with the Material: Relate the events and figures of the Civil War to contemporary issues and debates to enhance comprehension and engagement.

Utilize Multiple Resources: Complement this study guide with additional readings, documentaries, and museum visits for a more comprehensive understanding.

Structured Content for Optimized Readability

The guide is structured to ensure readability and ease of navigation. Clear headings and subheadings break the content into digestible chunks. Bullet points, lists, and tables are used where appropriate to present information concisely. The use of short paragraphs and varied sentence structures enhances readability.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What makes this Civil War study guide different? This guide offers a comprehensive approach, incorporating recent research and providing detailed answers to facilitate a deeper understanding.
2. Is this guide suitable for college students? Yes, its depth and breadth make it ideal for college-level courses on the American Civil War.
3. Does this guide cover all major battles? Yes, it covers the most significant battles and campaigns, analyzing their strategic importance.
4. What is the focus on the social impact of the war? The guide thoroughly examines the experiences of soldiers, civilians, and enslaved people, highlighting the war's human cost.
5. How does the guide incorporate recent research? It draws upon the latest historical scholarship, incorporating findings that offer a nuanced perspective.
6. Is there an answer key included? Yes, a detailed answer key is provided to facilitate self-assessment and learning.
7. What is the best way to use this study guide? Employ active recall, spaced repetition, and connect the material to contemporary issues for optimal learning.
8. What makes this guide SEO-friendly? It uses targeted keywords, clear headings, and well-structured content to enhance search engine visibility.
9. Where can I find additional resources to complement this guide? Numerous books, documentaries, and online resources are available to enhance your understanding of the Civil War.

Related Articles:

1. The Role of Slavery in the Civil War: A detailed exploration of slavery's centrality to the conflict.
2. Key Battles of the Civil War: A Strategic Analysis: In-depth analysis of major battles and their impact.
3. The Civil War's Economic Impact on the North and South: Examining the financial and industrial consequences.
4. Reconstruction Era: Successes, Failures, and Lasting Impact: An evaluation of the post-war period's challenges.
5. Abraham Lincoln: A Biography and Legacy: A closer look at the life and leadership of the 16th President.
6. Robert E. Lee: A Study in Leadership and Controversy: Exploring the life and military strategies of the Confederate General.
7. Ulysses S. Grant: From Civil War General to President: A look at Grant's military career and his presidency.
8. The Experiences of Enslaved People During the Civil War: Focusing on the lived experiences of those enslaved.
9. The Civil War and its Lasting Impact on American Identity: Analyzing the war's influence on the nation's development.

civil war study guide answer key: *United States History 2010 Modern America Student Edition Grade 11/12* Emma Jones Lapsansky-Werner, Werner, Prentice HALL, 2009-01 By the time teens are in high school, they have already spent years wrestling with a heavy backpack. It's high time to solve this problem--and Pearson can help. Explore Pearson@home social studies products for home use.

civil war study guide answer key: 1845-1860 Edward Lillie Pierce, 1893

civil war study guide answer key: *For Cause and Comrades* James M. McPherson, 1997-04-03 General John A. Wickham, commander of the famous 101st Airborne Division in the 1970s and subsequently Army Chief of Staff, once visited Antietam battlefield. Gazing at Bloody Lane where, in 1862, several Union assaults were brutally repulsed before they finally broke through, he marveled, You couldn't get American soldiers today to make an attack like that. Why did those men risk certain death, over and over again, through countless bloody battles and four long, awful years ? Why did the conventional wisdom -- that soldiers become increasingly cynical and disillusioned as war progresses -- not hold true in the Civil War? It is to this question--why did they fight--that James McPherson, America's preeminent Civil War historian, now turns his attention. He shows that, contrary to what many scholars believe, the soldiers of the Civil War remained powerfully convinced of the ideals for which they fought throughout the conflict. Motivated by duty and honor, and often by religious faith, these men wrote frequently of their firm belief in the cause for which they fought: the principles of liberty, freedom, justice, and patriotism. Soldiers on both sides harkened back to the Founding Fathers, and the ideals of the American Revolution. They fought to defend their country, either the Union--the best Government ever made--or the Confederate states, where their very homes and families were under siege. And they fought to defend their honor and manhood. I should not like to go home with the name of a coward, one Massachusetts private wrote, and another private from Ohio said, My wife would sooner hear of my death than my disgrace. Even after three years of bloody battles, more than half of the Union soldiers reenlisted voluntarily. While duty calls me here and my country demands my services I should be willing to make the sacrifice, one man wrote to his protesting parents. And another soldier said simply, I still love my country. McPherson draws on more than 25,000 letters and nearly 250 private diaries from men on both sides. Civil War soldiers were among the most literate soldiers in history, and most of them wrote home frequently, as it was the only way for them to keep in touch with homes that many of them had left for the first time in their lives. Significantly, their letters were also uncensored by military authorities, and are uniquely frank in their criticism and detailed in their reports of marches and battles, relations between officers and men, political debates, and morale. For Cause and Comrades lets these soldiers tell their own stories in their own words to create an account that is both deeply moving and far truer than most books on war. *Battle Cry of Freedom*, McPherson's Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the Civil War, was a national bestseller that Hugh Brogan, in *The New York Times*, called history writing of the highest order. For Cause and Comrades deserves similar accolades, as McPherson's masterful prose and the soldiers' own words combine to create both an important book on an often-overlooked aspect of our bloody Civil War, and a powerfully moving account of the men who fought it.

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established that myth in the collective consciousness of the American people. Yet the war of 1861-1865 was no more a war to overthrow the U.S. government than the American War of Independence was a fight to topple King George and Parliament. - Back cover.

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civil war study guide answer key: Pink and Say Patricia Polacco, 1994-09-15 When Sheldon Russell Curtis told this story to his daughter, Rosa, she kept every word in her heart and was to retell it many times. I will tell it in Sheldon's own words as nearly as I can. He was wounded in a fierce battle and left for dead in a pasture somewhere in Georgia when Pinkus found him. Pinkus' skin was the color of polished mahogany, and he was flying Union colors like the wounded boy, and he picked him up out of the field and brought him to where the black soldier's mother, Moe Moe Bay, lived. She had soft, gentle hands and cared for him and her Pink. But the two boys were putting her in danger, two Union soldiers in Confederate territory! They had to get back to their outfits. Scared and uncertain, the boys were faced with a hard decision, and then marauding Confederate troops rode in. In this Civil War story passed from great-grandfather to grandmother, to son, and finally to the author-artist herself, Patricia Polacco once again celebrates the shared humanity of the peoples of this world.

civil war study guide answer key: The Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln, 2022-11-29 The complete text of one of the most important speeches in American history, delivered by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln arrived at the battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to remember not only the grim bloodshed that had just occurred there, but also to remember the American ideals that were being put to the ultimate test by the Civil War. A rousing appeal to the nation's better angels, The Gettysburg Address remains an inspiring vision of the United States as a country "conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

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legal ethics. Federal, state and local courts in all jurisdictions look to the Rules for guidance in solving lawyer malpractice cases, disciplinary actions, disqualification issues, sanctions questions and much more. In this volume, black-letter Rules of Professional Conduct are followed by numbered Comments that explain each Rule's purpose and provide suggestions for its practical application. The Rules will help you identify proper conduct in a variety of given situations, review those instances where discretionary action is possible, and define the nature of the relationship between you and your clients, colleagues and the courts.

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The Open Boat, and the title story—that stand among the most acclaimed and enduring in the history of American fiction. This superb volume collects stories of unique power and variety in which impressionistic, hallucinatory, and realistic situations alike are brilliantly conveyed through the cold, sometimes brutal irony of Crane's narrative voice.

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civil war study guide answer key: *The Name of War* Jill Lepore, 2009-09-23 BANCROFF PRIZE WINNER • King Philip's War, the excruciating racial war—colonists against Indigenous peoples—that erupted in New England in 1675, was, in proportion to population, the bloodiest in American history. Some even argued that the massacres and outrages on both sides were too horrific to deserve the name of a war. The war's brutality compelled the colonists to defend themselves against accusations that they had become savages. But Jill Lepore makes clear that it was after the war—and because of it—that the boundaries between cultures, hitherto blurred, turned into rigid ones. King Philip's War became one of the most written-about wars in our history, and Lepore argues that the words strengthened and hardened feelings that, in turn, strengthened and hardened the enmity between Indigenous peoples and Anglos. Telling the story of what may have been the bitterest of American conflicts, and its reverberations over the centuries, Lepore has enabled us to see how the ways in which we remember past events are as important in their effect on our history as were the events themselves.

civil war study guide answer key: *The Illustrated Battle Cry of Freedom* James M.

McPherson, 2003-12-11 Filled with fresh interpretations and information, puncturing old myths and challenging new ones, *Battle Cry of Freedom* will unquestionably become the standard one-volume history of the Civil War. James McPherson's fast-paced narrative fully integrates the political, social, and military events that crowded the two decades from the outbreak of one war in Mexico to the ending of another at Appomattox. Packed with drama and analytical insight, the book vividly recounts the momentous episodes that preceded the Civil War--the Dred Scott decision, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry--and then moves into a masterful chronicle of the war itself--the battles, the strategic maneuvering on both sides, the politics, and the personalities. Particularly notable are McPherson's new views on such matters as the slavery expansion issue in the 1850s, the origins of the Republican Party, the causes of secession, internal dissent and anti-war opposition in the North and the South, and the reasons for the Union's victory. The book's title refers to the sentiments that informed both the Northern and Southern views of the conflict: the South seceded in the name of that freedom of self-determination and self-government for which their fathers had fought in 1776, while the North stood fast in defense of the Union founded by those fathers as the bulwark of American liberty. Eventually, the North had to grapple with the underlying cause of the war--slavery--and adopt a policy of emancipation as a second war aim. This new birth of freedom, as Lincoln called it, constitutes the proudest legacy of America's bloodiest conflict. This authoritative volume makes sense of that vast and confusing second American Revolution we call the Civil War, a war that transformed a nation and expanded our heritage of liberty.

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This is the story of the men who, as political realists, fought for the cause of racial reform in America before, during, and after the Civil War. Charles Sumner, Thaddeus Stevens, Benjamin F. Wade, and Zachariah Chandler are the central figures in Mr. Trefousse's study of the Radical Republicans who steered a course between the extreme abolitionists on the one hand and the more cautious gradualists on the other, as they strove to break the slaveholder's domination of the federal government and then to wrest from the postbellum South an acknowledgment of the civil rights of the Negro. The author delineates their key role in founding the Republican party and follows their struggle to keep the party firm in its opposition to the expansion of slavery, to commit it to emancipation, and finally to make it the party of racial justice. This is the story as well of the tangled relationship of the Radical Republicans with Abraham Lincoln—a relationship of both quarrels and mutual support. The author stresses the similarity between Lincoln's ultimate aims and those of the Radical Republicans, demonstrating that without Lincoln's support Sumner and his colleagues could never have accomplished their ends—and that without their help Lincoln might not have succeeded in crushing the rebellion and putting an end to the slavery. And he argues that by 1865 Lincoln's Reconstruction policies were nearing those of the Radicals and that, had he lived, they would not have broken with him as they did with his successor. Lincoln's assassination left the Radicals with no means to translate their demands into effective action. Their efforts to remake the South in such a way as to secure justice for the Negro brought them into conflict with President Johnson, in whose impeachment they played a leading role. Although they succeeded in initiating congressional

Reconstruction and adding the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution, the Radicals lost power after the failure of the Johnson impeachment. Mr. Trefousse shows how, despite their declining influence throughout the 1870s, their accomplishments helped make possible—a century later—the resumption of the struggle for civil rights.

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re-creates the lives and times of these great men in this monumental collective biography. Arriving on the national scene at the onset of the War of 1812 and departing political life during the ordeal of the Union in 1850-52, Webster, Clay, and Calhoun opened--and closed--a new era in American politics. In outlook and style, they represented startling contrasts: Webster, the Federalist and staunch New England defender of the Union; Clay, the war hawk and National Republican leader from the West; Calhoun, the youthful nationalist who became the foremost spokesman of the South and slavery. They came together in the Senate for the first time in 1832, united in their opposition of Andrew Jackson, and thus gave birth to the idea of the Great Triumvirate. Entering the history books, this idea survived the test of time because these men divided so much of American politics between them for so long. Peterson brings to life the great events in which the Triumvirate figured so prominently, including the debates on Clay's American System, the Missouri Compromise, the Webster-Hayne debate, the Bank War, the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, the annexation of Texas, and the Compromise of 1850. At once a sweeping narrative and a penetrating study of non-presidential leadership, this book offers an indelible picture of this conservative era in which statesmen viewed the preservation of the legacy of free government inherited from the Founding Fathers as their principal mission. In fascinating detail, Peterson demonstrates how precisely Webster, Clay, and Calhoun exemplify three facets of this national mind.

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