CHAPTER 14: Mobilizing in the South
• Pro_14:31  He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.
Objectives:

- We will study the basic structure of the government of the Confederate States of America, how it differed from that of the United States, and how it dealt with the vital question of states' rights.
The Withdrawal of the South:

- The Confederate Constitution was largely identical to the Constitution of the United States.
- But with several significant exceptions,
- it explicitly acknowledged the sovereignty of the individual states (although not the right of secession)
- and it specifically sanctioned slavery and made its abolition (even by one of the states) practically impossible.
The Withdrawal of the South:

- Jefferson Davis was named president of the Confederacy of Mississippi.
- Davis had been a moderate secessionist before the war.
- The Confederate government, like the Union government was dominated throughout the war by moderate leaders.
- Also like the Union, it was dominated less by the old aristocracy of the east than by the newer aristocrats of the west.
- Of whom Davis was the most prominent example.
The Withdrawal of the South:

- Davis was in the end an unsuccessful president.
- He was a reasonably able administrator and the dominating figure in his government, encountering little interference from the generally tame members of his unstable cabinet and serving as his own secretary of war.
- But he rarely provided genuinely national leadership.
The Withdrawal of the South:

- There was also division within the South.
- There were some White southerners who were opposed to secession and war.
- Many White people in the poorer backcountry and upcountry regions where slavery was limited refused to recognize the new Confederate government or to serve in the Southern army.
- Some fought for the Union.
The Withdrawal of the South:

- Most White Southerners supported the war; but as in the North, many were openly critical of the government and military, particularly as the tide of battle turned against the South and the Confederate economy decayed.
Money and Manpower:

- It was extremely difficult for the Southern government to raise funds to finance the war.
- Most of the wealth in the South was invested in slaves and land, liquid assets were scarce;
- And the Confederacy’s only gold-seized from the U.S. mints located in the South was worth only about $1 million.
Money and Manpower:

- The Confederate Congress tried at first not to tax the people directly but to requisition funds from the individual states.

- Most of the states, were also unwilling to tax their citizens and paid their shares, when they paid them at all, with bonds or notes of dubious worth.
Money and Manpower:

- In 1863, the Confederates instituted an income tax towards planters but it did not produce much revenue.
- Borrowing was not much successful.
- The Confederate government issued bonds in such vast amounts that the public lost faith in them and stopped buying them.
Money and Manpower:

- Efforts to borrow money in Europe using cotton as collateral fared not better.
- As a result the Confederacy had to pay for the war through the least stable and most destructive form of financing;
- Paper currency and began issuing it and issued $1.5 billion in paper money more than the twice that the Union had produced.
Money and Manpower:

- The Confederacy did not establish a uniform currency system.
- Subsequently inflation caused prices in the South to skyrocket to rise 9,000 percent.
- Like the United States, the Confederacy first raised a military by calling for volunteers.
- And as in the North, by the end of 1861, voluntary enlistments were declining.
Money and Manpower:

- In April 1862, therefore the congress enacted a Conscription Act which subjected all white males between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five to military service for three years.
- Like the North, Southerners could furnish a substitute.
- But the price of the substitute was high, the provision aroused such opposition from poorer whites, it was repealed in 1863.
Money and Manpower:

- Even more controversial was exemption from draft of one white man or each plantation with twenty or more slaves a provision that caused smaller farmers to make the same complaint.

- Both people from the North and South asserted it’s a rich man’s war but a poor man’s fight.
Money and Manpower:

- Ultimately by 1864, there was a critical manpower shortage.
- In a desperate move, the Confederate congress began trying to draft men as young as seventeen and as old as fifty.
- Near the end of the war, desertions were rampant.
State Rights Versus Centralization:

- The Greatest source of division in the South was the difference of opinion over the doctrine of State’s rights.
- State’s rights had become so dear among many white southerners that they resisted all efforts to exert national authority, even those necessary to win the war.
- They restricted Davis’s ability to impose martial law and suspend Habeas corpus.
- They obstructed conscription.
State Rights Versus Centralization:

- Even so, Confederate government did make substantial strides in centralizing power in the South.
- By the end of the war, Confederate bureaucracy was larger than its counterpart in Washington.
- The government impressed slaves often over the objections of their owners, to work as laborers on military projects.
State Rights Versus Centralization:

- The Confederacy seized control of the railroads and shipping: it imposed regulations on industry, it limited corporate profits.
- States’ rights sentiment was a significant handicap, but the South nevertheless took important steps in centralization.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- The war had a devastating effect on the economy of the South.
- It cut off Southern planters and producers from the markets in the North on which they had depended;
- It made the sale of cotton overseas much more difficult;
- It robbed farmers and industries and did not have large slave populations of a male workforce leaving some of them unable to function effectively.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- While in the North production of all goods, agricultural and industrial, increased somewhat during the war, in the South production declined by more than third.
- Most of all perhaps, the fighting itself wreaked havoc on the Southern economy.
- Almost all the major battles of the war occurred within the Confederacy both armies spent most of their time on Southern soil.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- As a result of the savage fighting, the Southern railroad was nearly destroyed, farmlands and any of its most successful plantations were ruined by Union troops.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- Once the Northern naval blockade became effective in 1862, the South experienced massive shortages of almost everything.
- The region was overwhelmingly agricultural, but since it had concentrated so single-mindedly on producing cotton and other exports crops, it did not grow enough food to meet its own needs.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- Despite the efforts of women and slaves to keep farms functioning, the departure of white male workers seriously diminished the region’s ability to keep what food production there had been.

- Large numbers of doctors were conscripted to serve the needs of the military, leaving many communities without any medical care.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- Slave owner wives often became responsible for managing large slave work forces; the wives of the modest farmers learned to plow fields and harvest crops.

- Substantial numbers of females worked as school teachers or in government agencies in Richmond.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- The long-range results of the war for Southern women are more difficult to measure but equally profound.
- The experience of the 1860s almost certainly forced many women to question the prevailing Southern assumption that females were unsuited for certain activities.
- That they were not fit to participate actively in the public sphere.
- There was a major gender imbalance in the region, after the war, there were many more women in the South than there were men.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- Even before the emancipation, the war had far-reaching effects on the lives of slaves.
- Confederate leaders were even more terrified of slave revolts during the war than they had been in peacetime, and they enforced slave codes and other regulations with particular severity.
Economic and Social Effects of the War:

- Even so, many slaves especially those near the front found ways to escape their masters and cross behind Union lines in search for freedom.
- Those who had no realistic avenue of escape seemed to their owners at least to be particularly resistant to authority during the war.
- That was in part because on many plantations the masters and overseers were away to war and it was easier to resist female masters.