

# Total War

## DOCUMENT 12.6 | ULYSSES S. GRANT, *Memoirs*

1885

Recollections by Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885) of his assumption of command of all Union forces in 1863 reflect a change in military strategy from a defensive campaign to an offensive one.

In my first interview with Mr. Lincoln alone he stated to me that he had never professed to be a military man or to know how campaigns should be conducted, and never wanted to interfere in them: but that procrastination on the part of commanders, and the pressure from the people at the North and Congress, which was *always with him*, forced him into issuing his series of "Military Orders"—one, two, three, etc. He did not know but they were all wrong, and did know that some of them were. All he wanted or had ever wanted was some one who would take the responsibility and act, and call on him for all the assistance needed, pledging himself to use all the power of the government in rendering such assistance. Assuring him that I would do the best I could with the means at hand, and avoid as far as possible annoying him or the War Department, our first interview ended. . . .

My general plan now was to concentrate all the force possible against the Confederate armies in the field. There were but two such, as we have seen, east of the Mississippi River and facing north. The Army of Northern Virginia, General Robert E. Lee commanding, was on the south bank of the Rapidan, confronting the Army of the Potomac; the second, under General Joseph E. Johnston, was at Dalton, Georgia, opposed to Sherman, who was still at Chattanooga. Beside these main armies the Confederates had to guard the Shenandoah Valley, a great storehouse to feed their armies from, and their line of communications from Richmond to Tennessee. . . .

. . . Little expeditions could not so well be sent out to destroy a bridge or tear up a few miles of railroad track, burn a storehouse, or inflict other little annoyances. Accordingly I arranged for a simultaneous movement all along the line. Sherman was to move from Chattanooga, Johnston's Army and Atlanta being his objective points.

Ulysses S. Grant, *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* (New York: C. L. Webster, 1894), 407–408, 411–412.

### PRACTICING Historical Thinking

**Identify:** What does Grant say about Abraham Lincoln? Is this a compliment?

**Analyze:** Compare Grant's description of himself to his description of Lincoln. Who comes across as a more formidable force?

## DOCUMENT 12.7

### Call for Black Troops

1863

In this recruitment poster, black troops who enlist and serve in the Union army are assured protection and compensation by the federal government.

**NOW IN CAMP AT READVILLE!**  
**54th REGIMENT!**  
U.S.A. VOLUNTEERS, composed of men of  
**AFRICAN DESCENT**  
COL. ROBERT G. SHAW.  
Colonel Shaw, Ability "Round the Flag of Freedom!"  
**BOUNTY \$100!**  
AT THE EXPIRATION OF TWO YEARS OF SERVICE.  
Pay, \$13 a Month!  
Good Food & Clothing!  
State Aid to Families!  
SPECIAL VETERAN'S PRIVILEGE.  
**FOR. CAMBRIDGE & NORTH RUSSELL STS.,**  
**BOSTON.**  
Lieut. J. W. M. APPAYTON, Recruiting Officer.  
54th REG'T. U.S.A. FORMERLY 10th REG'T. U.S. COLORED INFANTRY.

Photo Researchers/Science Source

### PRACTICING Historical Thinking

**Identify:** Summarize the various ways the poster appeals to the viewer.

**Analyze:** To what extent are the ideals of freedom the main attraction of this poster?

**Evaluate:** What does the poster tell us about the government's perception of African Americans' needs and interests?

## DOCUMENT 12.8 | ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Gettysburg Address

1863

After the Battle of Gettysburg, the bloodiest of the war, President Lincoln gave the following address at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery on November 19, 1863.

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

*The Index*, vol. VI, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address," September 23, 1875, 449.

### PRACTICING Historical Thinking

**Identify:** Find three references to the founding of the United States in this document.

**Analyze:** Examine the last four phrases of the address, beginning with "and that government" and ending with "from the earth." Explain the significance of the order of these phrases.