**Honors U.S. History**

**“Stacking Up the North and South”**

**Mr. Fernandez**

1. Diplomacy
   1. What forces kept Britain at bay during the Civil War?
      1. British textile mills depended on the American South for 75% of its cotton
      2. Pre-war exports created a surplus in British warehouses
      3. British “wage slaves” were not going to demand support of the Southern cause
      4. Americans sent cargoes of food to impoverished British unemployed
      5. Confederates penetrated the blockade with some success
      6. Union shipped some cotton to Britain
      7. Booming British war industry relieved unemployment
      8. Britain suffered a series of bad harvests – North had a bumper crop – relieved Britain
   2. *The* *Trent* Affair (1861)
      1. Union warship cruising north of Cuba captures British steamer
      2. Captured two confederate diplomats – Britain ready for war!
      3. Lincoln releases captives… “One war at a time…”
   3. *The* *Alabama* Crisis (1861)
      1. Britain was building commerce-raider ships for the South – *The Alabama* 
         1. not literally considered “warships” because they left port unarmed
         2. *The Alabama* was outfitted with guns and British soldiers in the Azores
         3. Commanded by Confederate officers, ported in Britain, and flew Confederate flag
         4. Captured over 60 Yankee merchant ships
         5. Union had to divert resources to track down *The Alabama*
      2. In 1863, London seized another ship being built for the Confederacy
      3. Union warship finally destroyed *The Alabama* off the coast of France in 1864
      4. All told… British built Confederate commerce-destroyers captured over 250 Yankee ships!
   4. *The Laird* Rams (1863)
      1. Designed with iron rams and large caliber guns to destroy Union wooden warships
      2. Minister Adams said, “This is war…” if the ships were actually released.
      3. Britain backed down and purchased the ships for the Royal Navy
      4. Repented of its role in the war and agreed to arbitration over *The Alabama* incident… in 1872, Britain paid American claimants $15.5 million for damages
2. Economics
   1. Northern - population over 20 million
      1. Labor-saving machinery enabled Northern expansion
      2. Military need ended the production of custom-tailored clothing – standardized “sizes”
      3. 250,000 mechanical reapers by 1865:
         1. released workers to fight for the Union
         2. created surplus of grain much needed in Britain
         3. created profits for the North to supply munitions abroad for the war
      4. Only Northern industry to suffer was the ocean-carrying trade
      5. “Fifty-Niners” to Pennsylvania after petroleum
      6. Federal Treasury
         1. raised $2,621,916,786 in bond sales
         2. issued “greenback” paper money = $450 million
         3. experienced 80% inflation during the war
      7. New opportunities for women – Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell – first female physician – helped organize the U.S. Sanitary Commission to assist Union armies
         1. Trained nurses
         2. Equipped hospitals
         3. Collected medical supplies
      8. Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix helped transform nursing into a profession
   2. Southern – population under 6 million
      1. Before war average southern income was 2/3 that of northerners – reduced to 2/5 of northern by end of war
      2. Possessed 30% of national wealth prior to the war – only 12% by 1870
      3. Exhausted by the blockade of the Union – customs duties choked off
      4. Confederate Government in Richmond:
         1. sold bonds amounting to $400 million
         2. raised 10% tax on farm produce
         3. printed blue-backed money from treasury – inflation
         4. Confederate dollar was worth less than 1.6 cents by end of war
         5. South experienced 9,000 % inflation
      5. Sally Tompkins was awarded rank of Captain by President Jefferson Davis

**\*Read the excerpt from “A Patriot’s History of the United States” for class tomorrow and create a chart of Northern and Southern advantages and disadvantages in the Civil War – you may decide the organization of the chart. Decide which side had the upper hand entering the war and be ready to defend your position.**