

Section

4

The Texas Home Front

Main Ideas

1. Texans endured many hardships during the Civil War.
2. Unionists lost some of their civil rights during the war.

Why It Matters Today

The Civil War affected many people, even those who did not fight in it. Use current events sources to learn about a person who has been affected by war today.



TEKS: 5A, 5B, 5C, 9A, 13A, 17A, 21A, 21B, 21C, 22A, 22C, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on life on the home front for Texans during the Civil War.

Key Terms and People

- draft
- Francis Lubbock
- martial law

The Story Continues

While her husband was in the army, Rebecca Adams ran the family's plantation and cared for nine children. Adams somehow found time to knit rabbit-fur gloves for her husband, Dr. Robert Adams. She summed up her situation in a letter to him. "I had to attend to your part of the work and mine too."



The Wartime Economy and the Draft

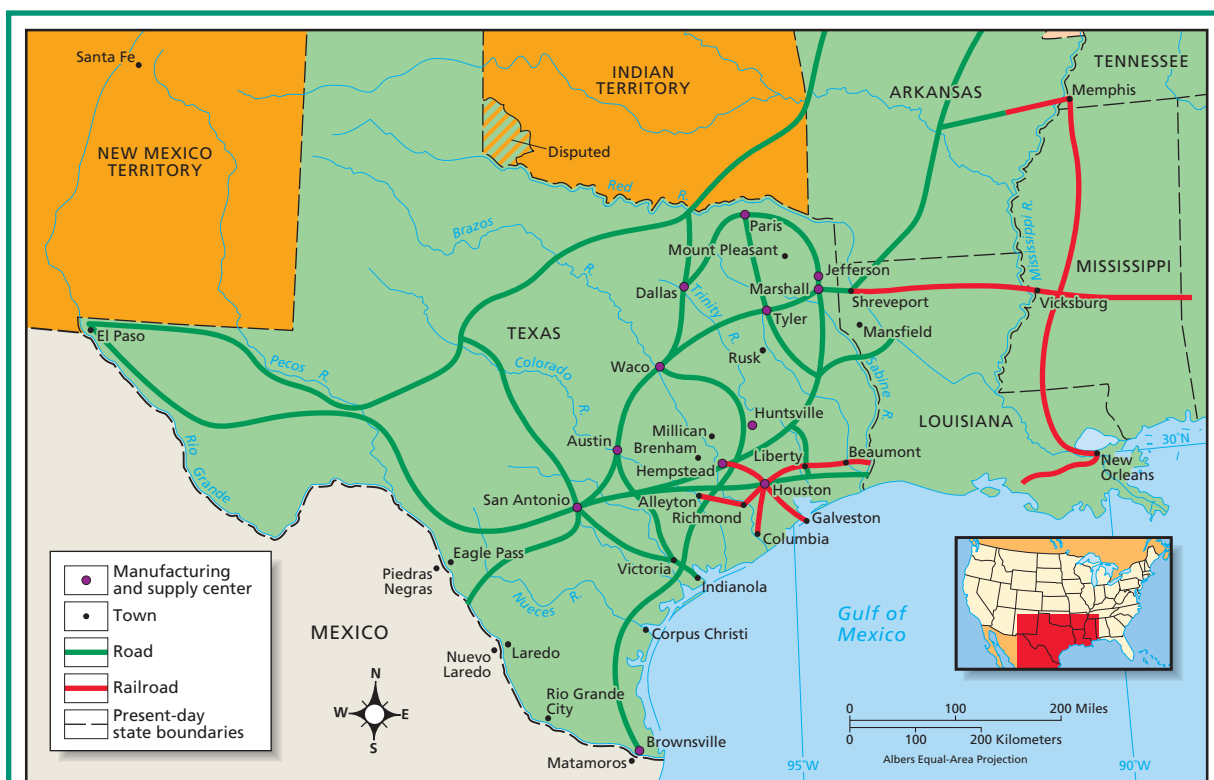
Although Texas suffered less than other Confederate States because few battles were fought in the state, Texans experienced many hardships. Goods became scarce and very expensive. Many newspapers stopped operation because of a lack of paper. Shortages were also created because supplies, particularly medicines, were sent to Confederate armies. Texans adapted to the wartime shortages, using thorns for pins and wallpaper as writing paper. When coffee became scarce, people used corn, okra, parched peanuts, or sweet potatoes to make drinks. Texans also made more homespun clothing.

To feed the army, farmers grew more corn and wheat and less cotton. Crop production also increased as slaveholders in other states sent slaves to Texas to prevent their being freed by Union occupation forces. Women and children ran farms and plantations, as did men who were unable to serve in the army. Women on the home front also worked in small factories, made items at home, and organized special groups to support the war effort. These groups made uniforms, bandages, and medical supplies. They also provided aid to the families of soldiers.

Political activity in Texas also focused on the war effort. All office-holders strongly supported the Confederacy. **Francis R. Lubbock**, who had been elected governor in 1861, worked to improve the state's military capabilities. After his term ended, Lubbock joined the Confederate army in 1863 as a lieutenant colonel. Pendleton Murrah was elected governor of Texas in 1863. Like Lubbock, Murrah struggled with state debts, defending the frontier against raids by American Indians, and raising troops for the Confederacy.

Although thousands of men had volunteered at the beginning of the war, they were not enough. In April 1862 the Confederate Congress passed a **draft**, or requirement of military service. All white males between the ages of 18 and 35 had to serve. The age limits were later broadened to 17 and 50. However, there were several loopholes in the law. People with certain key jobs were exempt. During his governorship, Lubbock had been strongly opposed to draft exemptions. Men could also buy their way out of service or provide a substitute. Because of these loopholes, some southerners complained that the conflict was a "rich man's war, poor man's fight." Even with a draft, the Confederacy struggled throughout the war to put enough soldiers in the field.

Reading Check Analyzing Information Why do you think the Confederacy had to pass a draft law?



Civil War Trade, 1861-1865

Interpreting Maps Texas supplied the Confederacy with military goods and agricultural exports such as cotton.

Places and Regions In what region were most manufacturing and supply centers located?

★ Unionists in Texas

The Confederate draft sparked fierce opposition from some Unionists. Although many had joined the southern war effort, some refused to fight for either side. Many German Americans and Mexican Americans remained neutral. Some recent immigrants to Texas also agreed with the Unionist cause and had opposed secession. After the draft was passed, however, Texans had to choose sides. Some Unionists fled Texas to avoid the draft.

Confederate officials regarded many Texas Unionists as potentially dangerous traitors. Officials placed some areas with a large Unionist population under **martial law**, or rule by armed forces. Some Unionists were violently attacked. In August 1862 about 60 German Texans attempted to flee to Mexico rather than be drafted into the Confederate army. The Texas militia caught and attacked them near the Nueces River, killing many. When German communities in Central Texas organized to protest, Confederates hanged 50 protesters.

Confederate leaders also worried about Unionists in North Texas. On October 1, 1862 Confederate troops led by Colonel James G. Bourland arrested more than 150 suspected Unionists and formed a court to try the accused people. A member of the jury remembered the events. “There were crowds in sight in every direction, armed, pressing forward prisoners under guard. . . . The mind of almost every man I saw seemed to be unhinged, and wild excitement reigned supreme.” A mob soon took over.

By the time the violence had ended, 40 suspected Unionists were hanged in Gainesville in Cooke County. This became known as the Great Hanging at Gainesville. Men were also killed in neighboring counties. Violence against Unionists revealed how deep the feelings about the war ran.

Reading Check Summarizing What happened to some Unionists in Texas?



Section 4 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- draft
- martial law

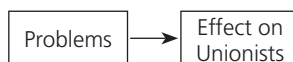
2. Identify and explain

the historical significance of:

- Francis Lubbock

3. Identifying Cause and Effect

What problems arose for Unionists during the Civil War, and how did these issues affect them?



4. Finding the Main Idea

- What was life like in Texas during the war?
- Why did the Confederate government start drafting men into military service?

5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Analyzing Information Imagine that you are living in Texas during the Civil War. Write a journal entry describing what your life is like. Consider the following:

- what you eat
- what you wear