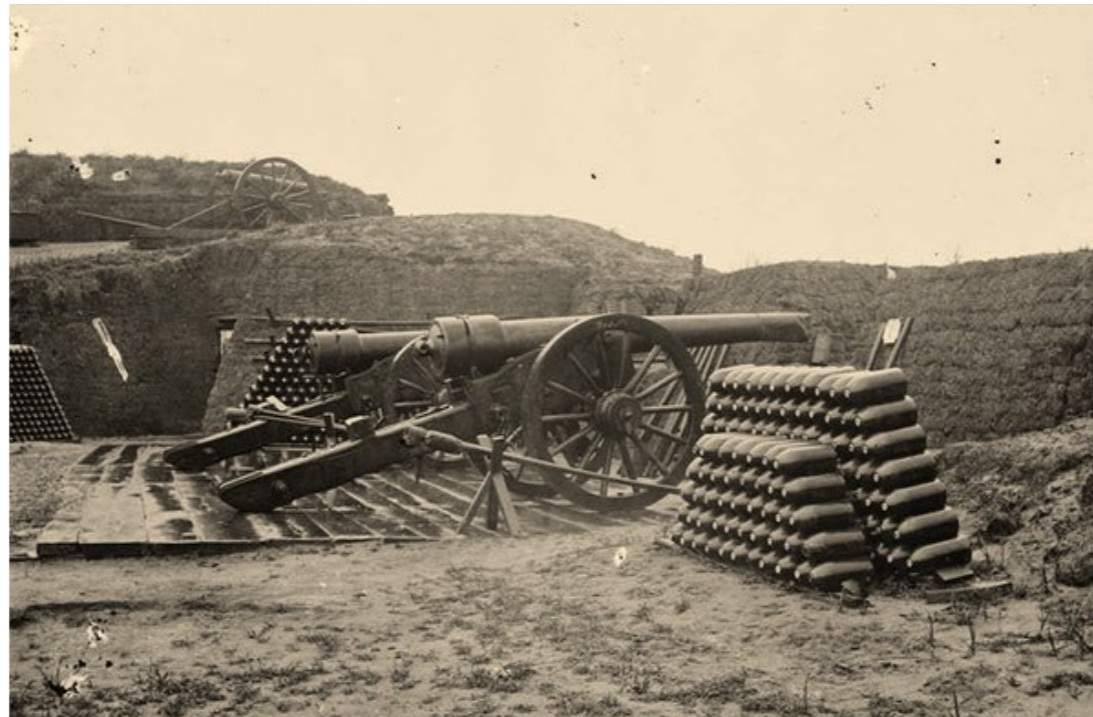


First Modern War

1850-1876



by Joe Burton

1860s The First Modern War

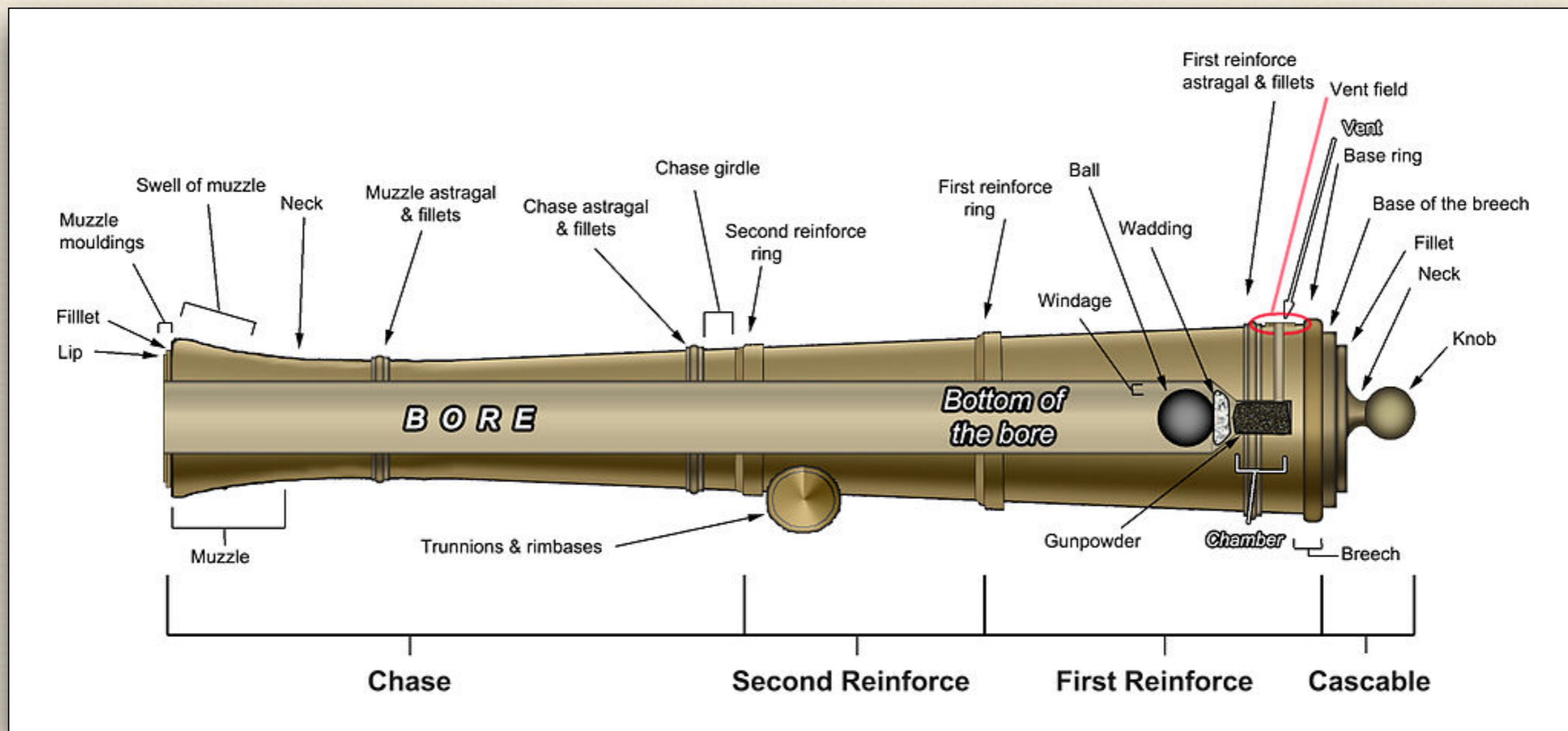
- ❖ Americans had last seen war on their own soil in the War of 1812...
- ❖ ...but the Civil War was to be unlike any war previously fought.
- ❖ The world's first modern war brought new means of transportation and communication...
- ❖ ...which helped manage huge armies...
- ❖ ...new weapons and greater killing power...
- ❖ ...and civilians were involved as never before.



Battle Becomes “Efficient” ...

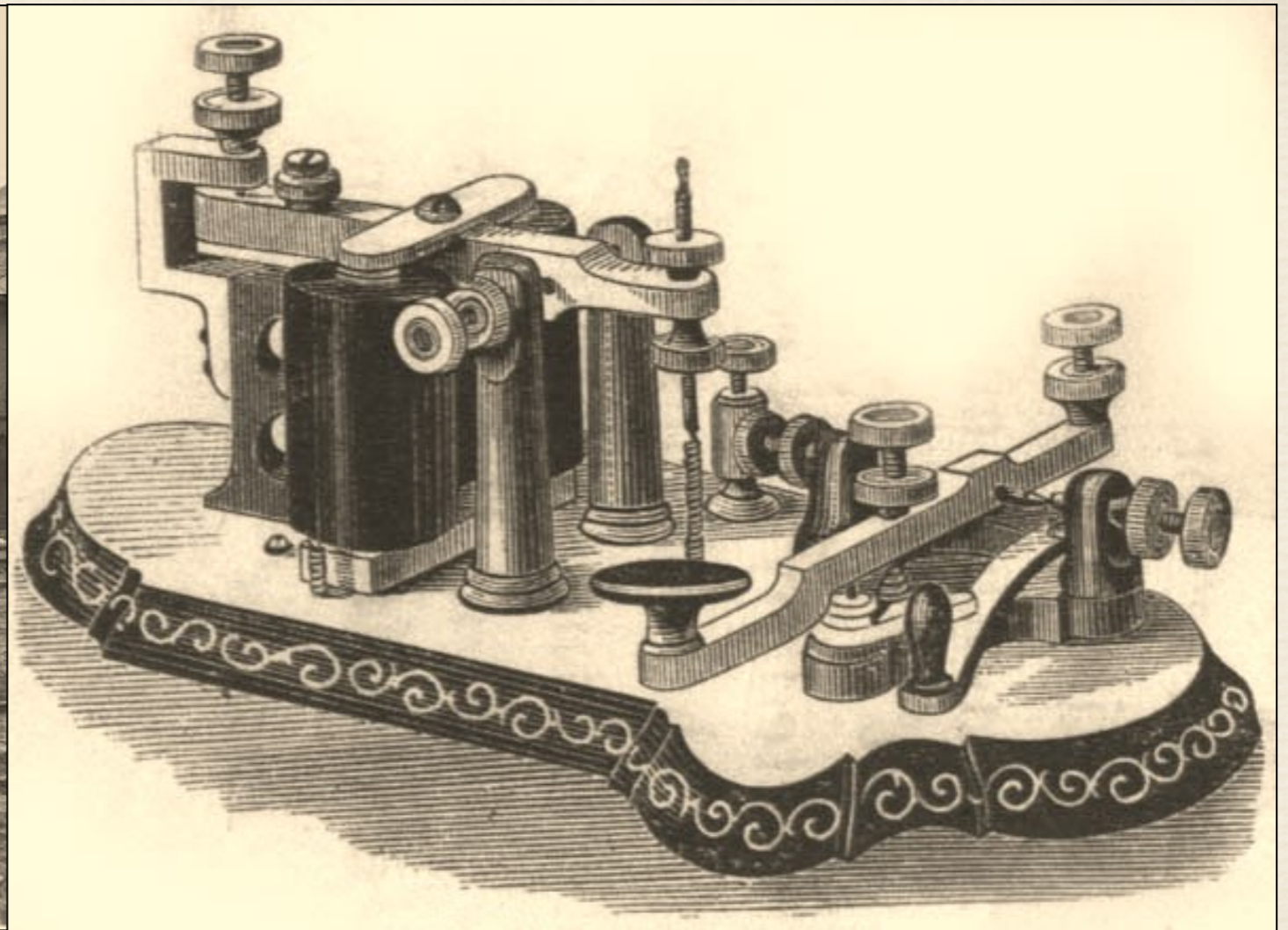
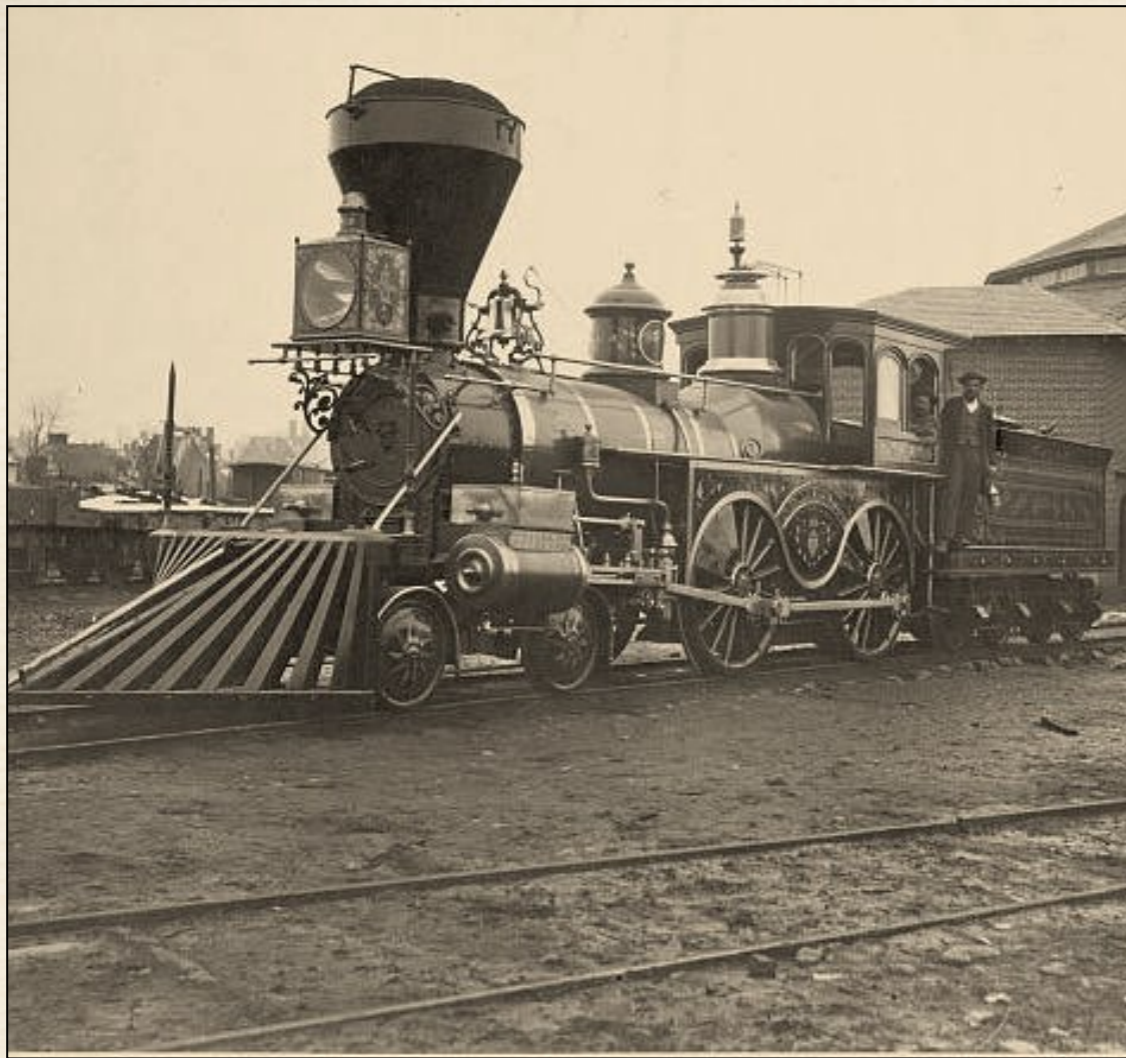
...for most people, the greatest shock of modern warfare was the destructive power of its weapons. Traditionally, at the start of a battle, armies would advance toward one another in straight lines along a half-mile front line, stopping on orders to fire, then charging the last few yards with bayonets. Such tactics were used because muskets took time to load and were only accurate at a short range. The newer weapons could be only accurate, and new bullets they used were deadlier.

As a defense against the new weapons, Confederate general Robert E. Lee had his troops dig networks of protective trenches. Others followed his lead.



Model 1857 Cannon

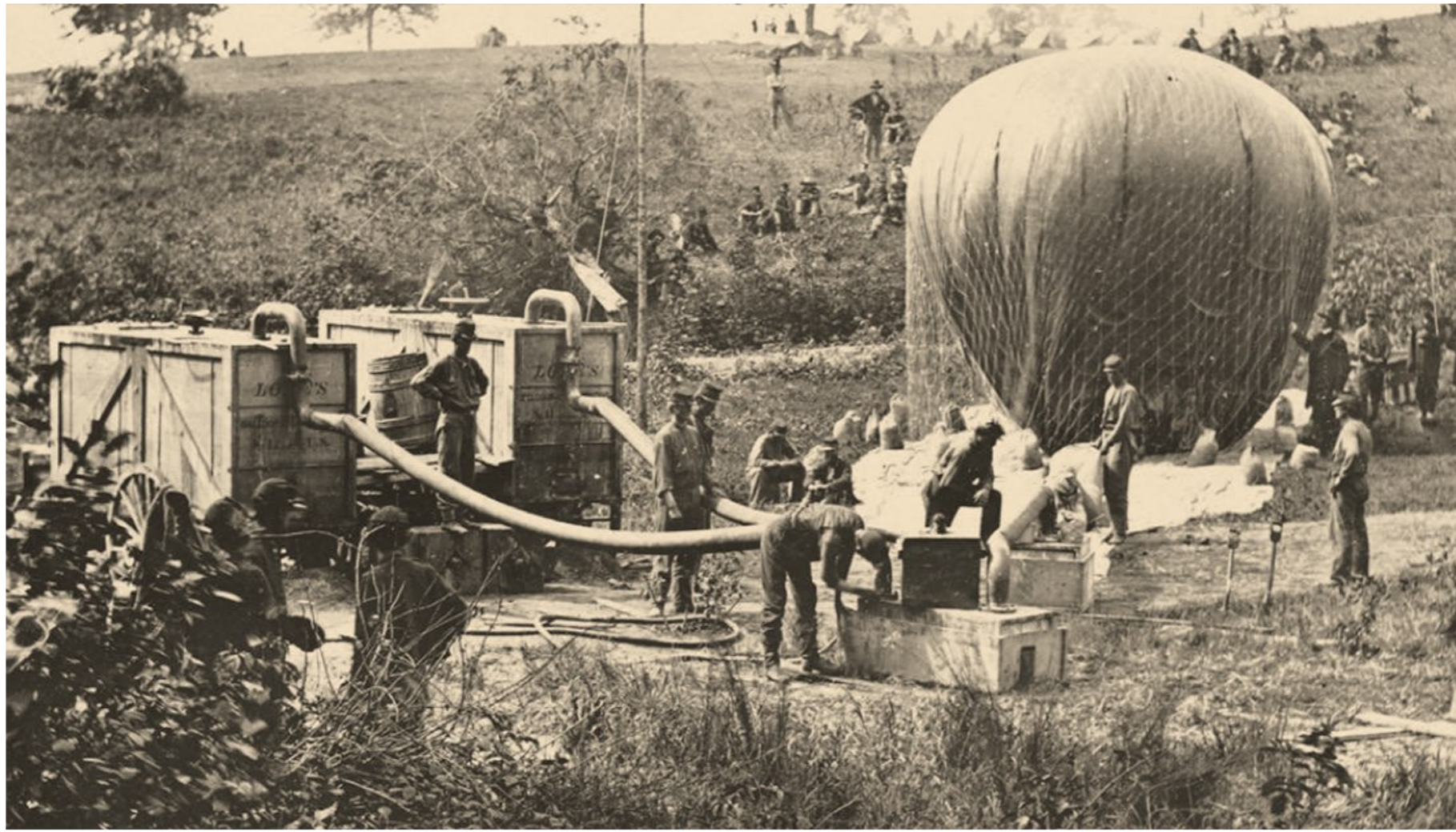
Fired "Canister Rounds - exploding tin cans filled with heavy lead slugs and sawdust



Transportation and Communication Advances ...

...railroads (upper left) had expanded by the 1860s, making it possible to move men and supplies much more quickly than by horse and wagon.

The telegraph (upper right), which first appeared in 1840, made instant communication possible across great distances. Cutting off supply routes and lines of communication, intercepting messages, and breaking codes - all became new elements of war.



The Union Eye in The Sky...

...professor Thaddeus Lowe made history by using a hot-air balloon (above preparing for a mission) to soar above the Confederate lines and report troop positions, often using a telegraph.

Named chief of the Union's Aeronautics Corps (UAC), Lowe in any battle, the balloons paved the way for the zeppelins, airplanes, and helicopters that would be crucial in future wars.

Battlefield Medicine

- ❖ Medical advances lagged behind weapons advances.
- ❖ For example, a field hospital near Richmond performed 400 amputations and about 250 of those patients died...
- ❖ ...most of infection or blood loss.
- ❖ Surgeons wore dirty, bloody coats and kept surgical needles dangling from their buttonholes...
- ❖ ...they had no understanding that they were spreading deadly germs every time they touched something.

Battlefield Medicine

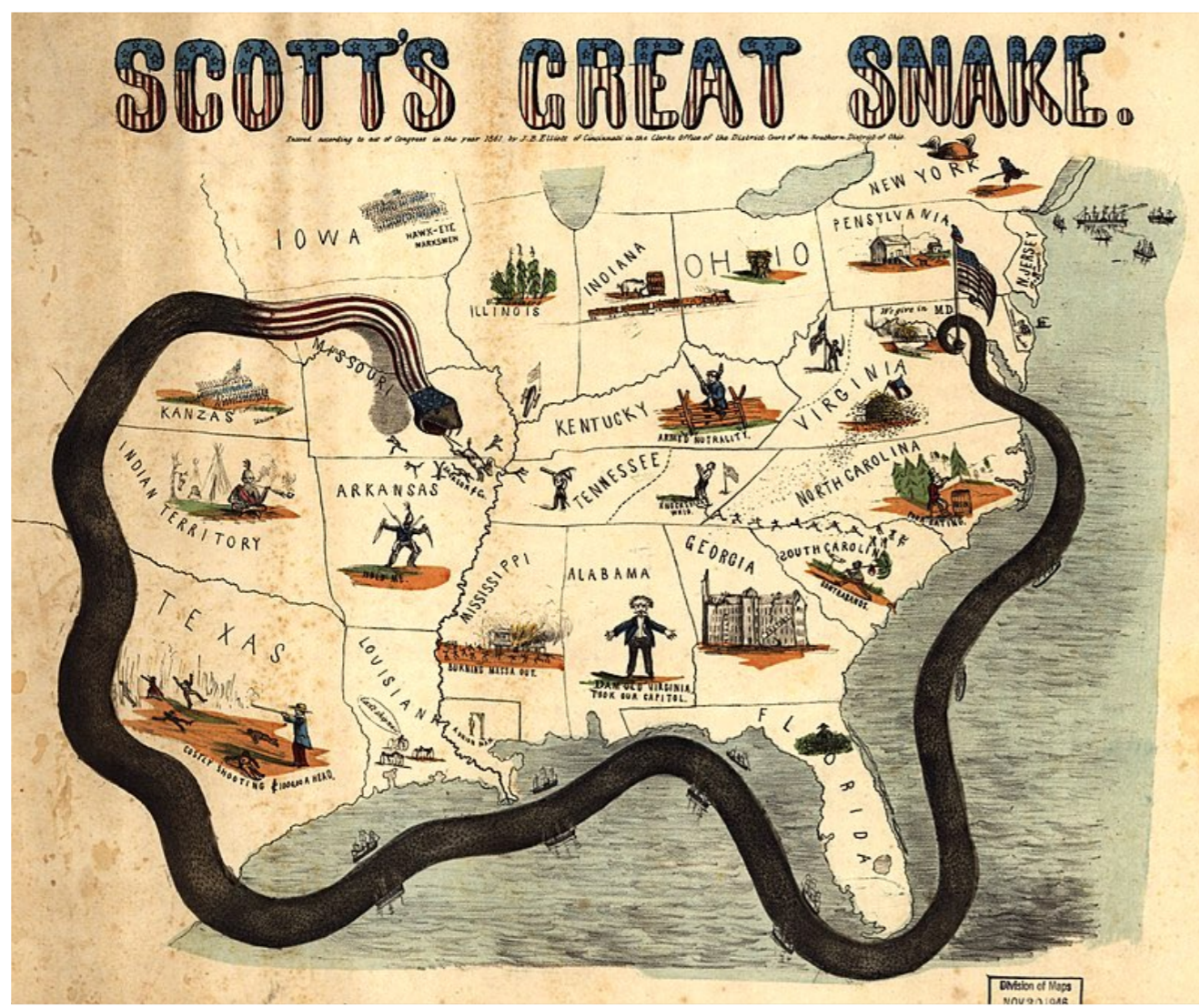
- ❖ Ironically, at the same time...
- ❖ ...Joseph Lister (Listerine mouthwash) in Scotland was proving that antiseptics prevented the spread of disease...
- ❖ ...and Dr. Louis Pasteur in France was confirming that disease was caused by germs.
- ❖ The death toll of The Civil War might have been reduced by one-third to one-half if those discoveries had come five years earlier.

The Concept of “Total War”...

...during the Civil War, military leaders were beginning to move toward a concept of total war - the idea that the whole society was involved in waging war, not just the armies in the field.

A large percentage of the agricultural and industrial output of the time was used for war production, and both sides tried to destroy the crops, warehouses, and railroads of the enemy.

The Union leaders, for example, used the North's sea-power advantage to blockade the South's seaports (Scott's Great Snake). This interfered with the South's economy, since it could no longer ship cotton to other countries in trade for food, clothing or weaponry.





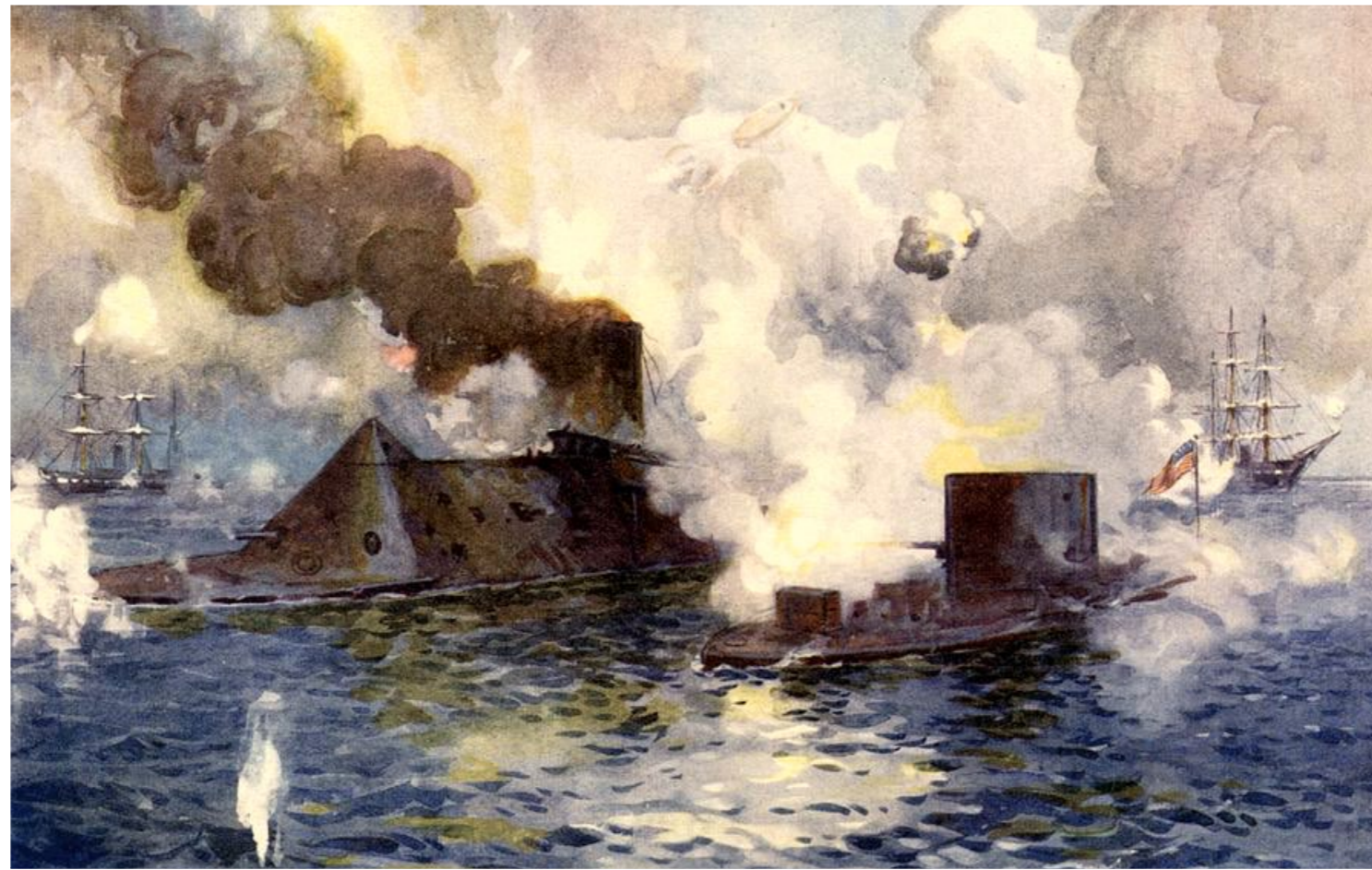
Reporting the War...

...photography was in its pioneering stage during the Civil War. Mathew Brady, a New York portrait photographer, and his assistants took pictures of the Union armies in every campaign. They were the first to chronicle war in this way.

People at home read about the war in newspapers. Never before had reporters followed armies into battle and recorded the details of the action.

In addition, a number of artists, including Winslow Homer, made detailed sketches of battle scenes, which were made into engravings and newspaper offices to illustrate the news stories.

Above left... selling newspapers from a cart near the front. Above right... artist sketching the battlefield.



The Monitor and The Merrimac...

...fought the Duel of the Ironclads (battle of Hampton Roads) on March 9, 1862.

Confederates fitted a captured Union ship with iron plates, cannons, and a battering ram in the hope that it could destroy the Union's regular ships and end the North's blockade of the South's seaports.

The strange-looking vessel, the *Merrimac*, chugged into the Chesapeake Bay on March 8, 1862, and promptly sank three Union ships. The Union answered with its own ironclad - the *Monitor*, another odd looking vessel with history's first revolving gun turret. In the most famous sea battle of the war, the ships clanged cannon shells off each other's iron plates for five hours with doing much damage. The duel ended in a draw. The blockade remained.

