Lincoln made sure they didn’t die in vain.
Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation did allow blacks to enlist in the Union Army. Almost 200,000 did just that.

The North used black troops. The South wouldn’t. The North had a million immigrants during the war. The South had a blockaded coastline.

The Confederacy tried to break the blockade with an ironclad ship. The North trumped that with their own.

The Civil War was turning into the first modern war.

Troops traveled by railroad.

Orders traveled by telegraph.

And on the road to Richmond, nothing traveled at all. Trench warfare was being invented, too.

The Civil War had all modern conveniences. Mass conscription, mass media…

Filthy rioting scum hate freedom.

It’s unconstitutional! I’ll start a riot!

... and mass taxation.

"Over the side, boys?" "Hmmm, no. "Up to the top?" "No, not quite…

Everyone say "technology!"

"I’ve got an idea -- let’s have a war to end slavery!"

I like the way you think, brother.

Which of us is the Monitor?"

I’m the Merrimack-- I mean, the Virginia.

I thought I was the Merrimack.

DAMMIT ...

McClellan ...

Move ...

Your ...

Lazy ...

"Technology!"

"Over the side, boys?" "Hmmm, no. "Up to the top?" "No, not quite…"
In 1864, Grant put his friend William Tecumseh Sherman in charge of bringing modern war to the Deep South.

While Grant tried to bring the fight to Robert E. Lee.

The Democrats, at least, were tired of paying that price. They proposed an armistice at their 1864 convention, and nominated General McClellan as their candidate for president.

To his credit, McClellan was as slow to fight for surrender as he was to fight for victory.

Grant steadily forced Lee southward—but at a steadily rising price.

Then Sherman took Atlanta.

And General Sheridan cleared out the Shenandoah Valley.

The soldiers weren’t, either—over 70% of the army voted for Lincoln.

And the voters decided they weren’t quite ready to quit just yet.

The union is the one condition of peace. We ask no more.

You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it, and those who brought war into our country deserve all the curses and maledictions a people can pour out.

Don’t you think it sends kind of a mixed message?

Who has more experience not fighting the Civil War than he does?

Who has more experience fighting the Civil War than he does?

Three good Yankee generals? Unfair!

The union is the one condition of peace. We ask no more.
Sherman kept marching through Georgia, reached the sea, and then turned north into South Carolina.

Grant just kept the pressure on. When Sheridan’s men joined Grant’s forces in March, Lee was caught in a trap. He surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

The Civil War was over. 600,000 men were dead. And the South had lost.
But John Wilkes Booth, America’s most famous actor, had a plan to reverse the defeat.

Lewis Powell botched the killing of Seward.

Instead of killing Johnson, George Atzerodt just got drunk and wandered off.

The Confederacy still died in flames.

So did Booth.

And Abraham Lincoln belonged to the ages.