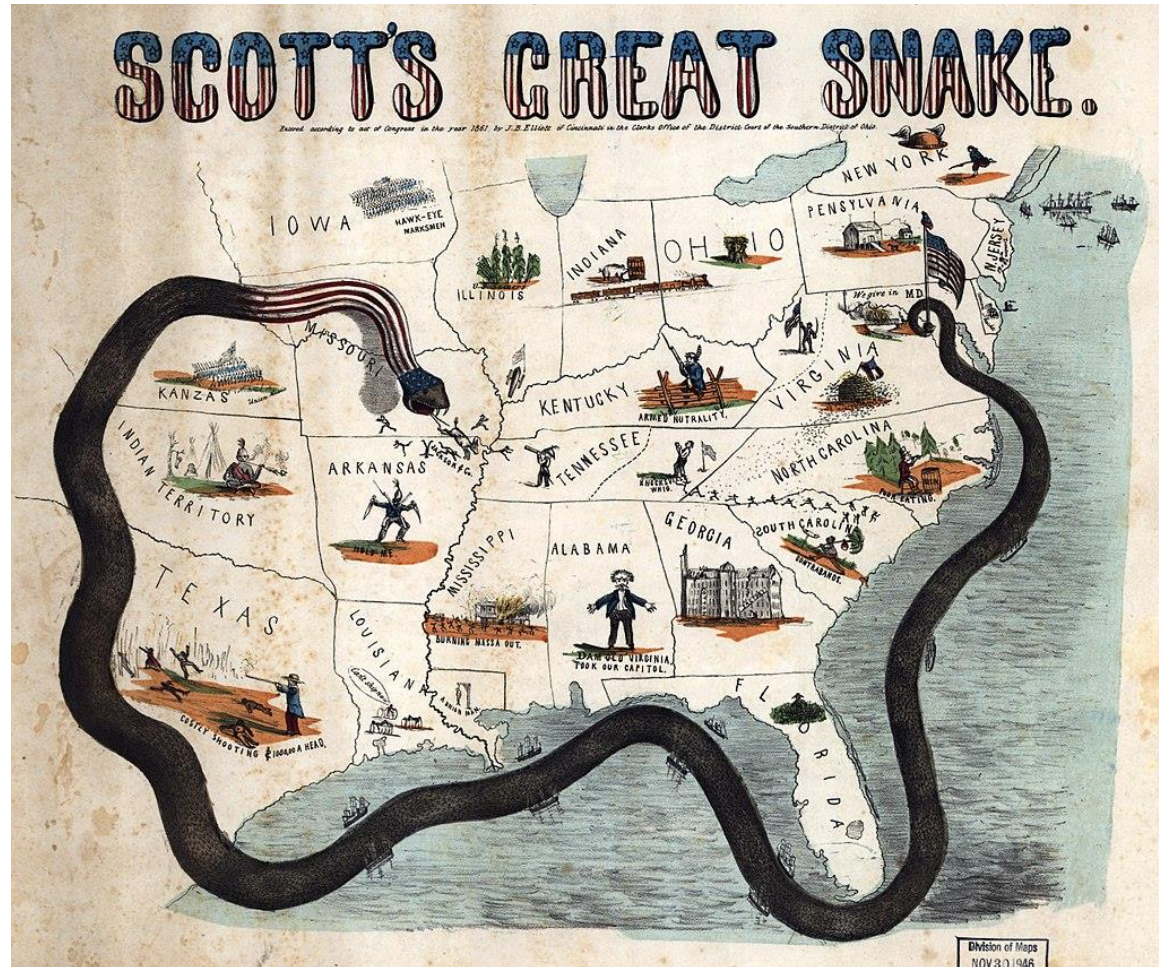


Section 3. Antietam: A Bloody Affair



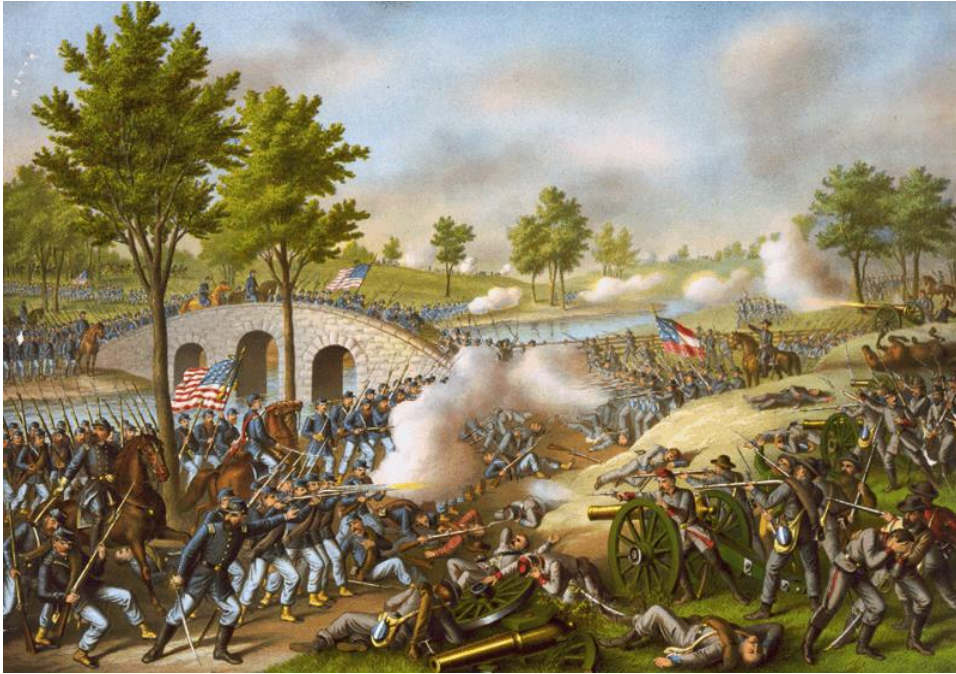
- Step one of the Anaconda Plan was to blockade the South's ports and cut off its trade. In 1861, the Union navy launched the blockade
- Early in 1862, the Union began to put step two of the Anaconda Plan into action. The strategy, which is similar to those used in future wars, was to divide the Confederacy by gaining control of the Mississippi River.

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- Later in 1862, Union general George McClellan sent 100,000 men by ship to capture Richmond.
- Again, a Union victory seemed certain, but despite being outnumbered, Confederate forces stopped the Union attack in a series of well-fought battles. Once more, Richmond was saved.

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- At this point, General Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Confederate forces, did the unexpected. He sent his troops across the Potomac River into Maryland, a slave state that remained in the Union.
- On a crisp September day in 1862, Confederate and Union armies met near the Maryland town of Sharpsburg along Antietam Creek.
- McClellan claimed Antietam as a Union victory, but many who fought there viewed the battle as a defeat for both armies.

Section 3. Antietam: A Bloody Affair



- The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest day of the war.



Section 3. Antietam: A Bloody Affair



- Improved weapons made killing from a distance much easier during the Civil War.
 - Rifles, which replaced muskets, were accurate over long distances.
 - Improved cannons and artillery also made it easier for armies to attack forces some distance away.
 - As a result, armies could meet, fight, die, and part without either side winning a clear victory.

Section 3. Antietam: A Bloody Affair



- As staggering as the battle death tolls were, far more soldiers died of diseases than wounds.
- Unsanitary conditions in army camps were so bad that about three men died of typhoid, pneumonia, and other diseases for everyone who died in battle.