

# *The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War*

## **Chapter 29 – Assassination/1865/East II**

### **Summary:**

With 1865 came the fifth year of war, but the surrender in April of the South's greatest army gave the United States great cause for hope. Though awash in an ocean of blood, the Federal states seemed to have not only won their long desperate struggle with the Confederacy, but to have accomplished all of the major wartime objectives held by the major Northern philosophical factions. Though thousands of Confederate troops remained armed and in the field, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln well assayed that the South's days as an independent nation were at an end. What would only grow clear with the unfolding of the post-war and Reconstruction eras, however, was how extreme had been some of the measures the Federals believed necessary to attain victory—especially the total victory and unconditional surrender of the South they demanded—and how deep and irrevocable was the physical and psychological damage those measures had and would cause to the people of the Confederacy.

John Wilkes Booth did not even hail from a Confederate state, yet he had developed a deep abiding love for the South and its cause, and a corresponding hatred for the man he believed had betrayed the Constitutional principles and protections of all America, North and South. The focus of Booth's murderous wrath was Abraham Lincoln, and with one bullet, the famed stage actor assured that the suffering of both sections would not end with the surrender of Confederate armies. This chapter explores the deepest beliefs of both Lincoln and Booth, as well as the infamous events that forever connected them in the annals of American history.

### **Identification:**

1. John Wilkes Booth
2. Doctrine of Necessity
2. Mary Custis Lee

### **Completion:**

1. At the end of the war, Abraham Lincoln visited the Southern city of \_\_\_\_\_, in the state of \_\_\_\_\_, and found it in ruins, with many of its people starving.
2. Was Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia the last Confederate army in the field to surrender, next-to-last, neither, or do we not know? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Near the end of the war, \_\_\_\_\_ led an attempt to kidnap Lincoln.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ wing of the \_\_\_\_\_ political party sought harsh post-war punishment for the people of the Confederacy, even before President Lincoln's death.
5. Lincoln died in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_, who owned a boarding house where some of the conspirators in the assassination of President Lincoln lived, was hanged with them, even though no evidence ever emerged to incriminate her.
7. Did Booth's murder of Lincoln aid the post-war cause of the South, harm it, have little or no effect on it, or do we not know how it affected it? \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ were two close acquaintances of Lincoln's who doubted that the latter possessed orthodox Christian faith.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ was the famous Southern author who lauded Mary Lee's selflessness and devotion to others.

**Thought Questions:**

1. Take a few paragraphs and tell in your own words the story of Abraham Lincoln's assassination.
2. Do you think the post-war experience of the South would have been different had Lincoln not been murdered? Explain why or why not, and how or how not.
3. Discuss and summarize the apparent nature of Lincoln's religious beliefs, according to the available accounts and evidence.