

STUDENT HANDOUT

Background about the Battle of Gettysburg for *The Many Different Sides of War*

A Harvest of Death by Timothy O'Sullivan and Alexander Gardner was taken during the American Civil War in southern Pennsylvania after the Battle of Gettysburg. Confederate General Robert E. Lee had invaded the North on the heels of a victory at Chancellorsville, Virginia. The Battle of Gettysburg began on July 1, 1863. By July 3, Union troops had repelled Lee's assault, and the Confederates were forced to retreat.

The Battle of Gettysburg is considered a turning point in the Civil War and was one of its bloodiest. Over twenty-eight thousand Confederates and over twenty-three thousand Union soldiers were killed or wounded.

For more information about the Battle of Gettysburg, visit the Library of Congress *American Memory* Web site (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/julo1.html>).