

Civil War- Advantages and Early Strategies of the War

On paper, the north is dominant but the South has some advantages that cannot be measured with statistical comparisons.

I. The North and South Compared

A. North's advantages over the South

1. Potential fighting and work force (20-25 million citizens)---immigrants contributed greatly
 - a) Population 2.5 to 1
 - b) Free male population 4.5 to 1
2. Economics (approximately 70% of nation's wealth resides in the North)
 - a) Factory production 10 to 1
 - b) Textile production 14 to 1
 - c) Farm acreage 3 to 1 (potential)
 - d) Wheat production 4.2 to 1 (Britain ends up needing grains more than cotton as the war progresses)
3. Transportation---superior in every respect
 - a) Railroad mileage 7 to 1
 - b) Naval ships 25 to 1
 - c) Merchant ships 9 to 1

B. South's advantages over the North

1. Fighting a defensive war on own terrain (vast wilderness territory)
2. Positive goal--- seeking independence from the Union
3. Experienced officer corps and foot soldiers (Mexican War fought by mostly southerners)
4. Cotton 24 to 1 (provides Britain and France)
5. Possibility of intervention/assistance (Britain)

II. Early strategies of the War (will change as the war drags on)

A. North

1. Capture Richmond and force surrender
2. Expel Confederates from Border States (Mo., Ky., Md., De., WVA.)---control of Ohio River, large manufacturing area
3. Control the Mississippi River
4. Blockade southern ports and stop cotton shipments (would destroy the economy of the South because the South has nothing to fall back on)

B. South

1. Capture Washington, D.C.
2. Control the border states (gain much needed source of manufacturing and geographical advantage)
3. Gain Foreign support (England)
 - foreign dependence on "King Cotton"
 - elitists in both England and France were sympathetic to Confederate Aristocracy
4. Expel Union troops from South and take control of Federal Troops (i.e. Fort Sumter)