

## War Begins

April 12, 1861 – Southern troops fired upon union forces occupying Ft. Sumter. The fort protected Charleston harbor in Maryland. Only took a matter of hours and the white flag was raised, US flag lowered. Union troops went home, Confed. Flag went up. The Civil War had begun.

*A break in the story to look at some strengths and weaknesses of the North and South.*

### 1. Population/Manpower

It was 2-1 against the South. 23 free states (which were the most heavily populated states) vs. 11 slave states.

Census of 1860 –

- 22,000,000 people in N.
- 6,000,000 whites in S.
- 4,000,000 slaves in S.

North had almost a 3-1 superiority in manpower.

### 2. Industrial power

South had a small % of nations industry – 1/9<sup>th</sup> of all industry in S. There were 8 factories in the N. for every 1 factory in the S.

In 1861 the North will produce

- 97% of all weapons in country
- 94% of nations cloth (tents, uniforms, bedding, bandages)
- 93% of nations iron (weapons)
- 90% of all boots and shoes (this is a foot soldiers war)

Armies are dependent on all these things! Also –

North had twice as much railroads (RR) as S. 20,000 miles of tracks in N to 10,000 miles in S. And in the S., all the tracks were different gauges (widths), hard to ship supplies and food in S. As war went on, 96% of all RR's wore out b/c all RR materials produced in the N.

**Agricultural products in the South cannot fight a war!**

(but they wouldn't change – too much profit in agriculture)

### 3. Naval Power

War is not necessarily on land. Both N and S have long coastlines. S. will need to get manufactured goods from Europe. S. also vulnerable along its major rivers (Mississippi, Tennessee, Cumberland, Savannah rivers)

At beginning of war, US Navy had 40 warships, almost all in N. And shipbuilding factories were in N. By end of war (1865), US Navy will have 650 warships. The south might have had about a dozen..

#### 4. Officers and Men

Beginning of war, U.S. Army had 16,000 officers and men. Most enlisted men stayed w/ N. 1/3 of officers resigned and went S. Most of the best officers were from the S. – Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet,

South also had potential officers from military schools. By 1861, Virginia Military Institute had graduated 1,902 men, of which 1,781 fought as Southern officers.

The S. also believed they were better fighters than the Yankee's, and so they thought they would need fewer men.

Reality Check – both N and S fought well at most battles. Both ran away as well. When war began, both sides equal in men in uniform – only time the S. will enjoy any type of equality. As war goes on, S. cannot replace its losses. The N. can.

#### Terms to Know

North	South
Union	Confederacy
Federals	Confederate
Yankees	Rebels
Billy Yanks	Johnny Rebs
Blue Bellies	Crackers

#### *The story continues...*

When war began, vast majority believed that it would be a very short war. Most thought just a few months. N and S. both felt the same way. Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to serve only 3 months. Some military men thought it might go longer – they were drowned out. Most everyone thought maybe 2 battles would end the war.

#### Why?

1. Because that was our experience in war. Always short wars. Mexican war was only for 17 months.
2. The mutual disdain for each other – each thought the other would run.

Men rushed to join armies on both sides, wanting adventure and excitement.

#### **Strategy for the Civil War**

How did each side plan on winning this war? After it became apparent this war would last a while, both sides came up with strategies.

### Southern Strategy “The Defensive-Offensive”

Prevent N. from invading and conquering the S.

*The South simply had to defend against Northern invasion.* North could only win by invading and conquering the South. The South did not have to win, they just couldn't lose the war. “All we have to do is keep on fighting and the N. will give up.” The S. knew their history – this was how the Revolutionary war was won. Figured N. public would eventually call for it to end (think Vietnam in 1970's).

1. Defend the South – on familiar ground, spies everywhere
2. Attack North if opportunity presents itself. Two times this will happen – both times they get crushed. (Antietam and Gettysburg)

### Northern Strategy “The Anaconda Plan”

Designed by Winfield Scott – Commanding Gen. Of Union Army. (at 75 yrs old)

Would seal off S. from the rest of the world. S. will not trade with any other country.

1. Blockade entire S. coast (block major harbors)
2. Station troops at land on the frontier (Miss. River)
3. Send gunboats down river and cut the Confederacy up in parts.
4. Then conquer one piece at a time. Various pieces cannot help each other if separated.

This plan would not cost much money. Critics thought it might take too long. They wanted the S. defeated immediately.

Only part of the plan is implemented – blocking S. coast, and invasion of the S. at various points.