

CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION (1850–1877)

Union and Confederate Resources

Resources	Union	Confederate
Demographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 23 states with a population of 22 million• Substantial immigration from overseas, providing labor for both wartime industries and a large military manpower pool• More than self-sufficient in food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 states with a population of 9 million, including about 3.5 million slaves• Little immigration because of lack of economic opportunity• Self-sufficient in food, but destruction of transportation system leads to food shortages by 1863
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 120,000 factories producing almost every kind of product• 2,700 tons of iron produced in 1860• \$175 million in exports in 1860, mostly farm products and manufactured goods• Effective banking system with more than \$100 million in deposits• Income tax and government-backed currency (“green-backs”) help finance war effort• Produces almost all of its own military hardware	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20,000 factories, mostly in the Upper South, and little capacity for heavy manufacturing• 155 tons of iron produced in 1860• \$225 million in exports in 1860, much of it cotton, but Confederate government forbids export of cotton in 1861• Few banks, only \$38 million on deposit• Taxes and Confederate government bonds produce little revenue• Reliance on imported goods
Technological/ Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Widespread use of machinery and standardized parts in industry• Relatively high rate of literacy• Public school systems in most states• Many colleges and universities• Morrill Act (1862) establishes federal support for higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reliance on human power and handcrafting• Some amazing technical achievements (i.e., first iron-clad warship and first successful submarine) but could not keep pace with Union• Little emphasis on education; relatively few colleges and universities
Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16,000 men in the U.S. Army at start of war, mostly scattered across the West in small forts and garrisons• Many officers are appointed for political reasons or elected by their men and prove ineffective• Many men from towns and cities and thus unused to firearms, horses, and camp life• Union Army numbers more than a million men at war’s end	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No army at start of war, but good leadership from 300 officers, many West Point-trained, who resign to “go South” in 1860 and 1861• Strong Southern tradition of marksmanship, horsemanship, and outdoor living• 900,000 men serve in Confederate Army over the course of the war
Naval	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 42 ships in U.S. Navy at outbreak of war; grows to almost 700 by war’s end• Naval superiority leads to blockade that tightens around Confederacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No navy at start of war• Concentrates on blockade-running and commerce-raiding
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 21,000 miles of railroad track, with 5,000 more laid during the war• Good canal and road systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9,000 miles of railroad track, much of it destroyed in the course of the war• Dependence on river and coastal transportation makes Confederacy susceptible to Union blockade
Diplomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early tensions with European powers, but growing international support for Union cause after Emancipation Proclamation (1862)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early sympathy for Confederate cause in Britain and France, mostly because of desire for cotton• Little material support for Confederate cause from abroad
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Functioning national government in place at start of war• Manages to hold a national election in the midst of war (1864)• Despite opposition and interference from many quarters, President Abraham Lincoln proves adept at compromise and provides strong leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has to create a national government “from scratch”• Doctrine of “States’ Rights” leads to strained relations between President Jefferson Davis and many state leaders
Geographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces must take the war to the Confederacy, meaning campaigns across great distances and long supply lines• Free movement of troops and supplies through Union territory throughout the war	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Needs to defend its own territory, so Confederate forces fight on shorter “interior lines”• Union control of the Mississippi River in 1863 cuts off eastern Confederacy from resources of the West
Casualties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 360,000 dead of disease, wounds, or combat• Population increases and economy expands during wartime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 260,000 dead—one in every four white men of military age• 40 percent of livestock, 50 percent of its industry and railroad track, and 70 percent of its total wealth destroyed