

On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated, and within six weeks, the Civil War began. In early April, Lincoln ordered that Fort Sumter be resupplied with food. To prevent this, Southern troops bombarded the fort. After 34 hours of attack, Major Robert Anderson surrendered the fort. Union forces were allowed to return safely to the North. Northern journalists reported that Southerners attacked the Union, and Lincoln could rightly claim that the South had started the war.

Unlike former President Buchanan, Lincoln acted swiftly, calling upon Americans to send 75,000 soldiers to suppress the rebellion, and he moved to keep the rest of the slave-holding states within the Union. It is believed Lincoln said something like, "I want God on my side, but I've got to have Kentucky." The upper Southern states of Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee joined the C.S.A. But partially because of Lincoln's actions, some slaveholding states remained in the Union. West Virginia seceded from Virginia and stayed with the North, and the slave-holding states of Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland stayed Union.

On paper, it appears the North should have won the Civil War handily. When someone makes a prediction about a competition or war, the estimate is made based on statistics and the guess is called "on paper." This means that the data appears to favor one side over another. However, it is difficult or impossible to gauge emotions, psychology, and other variables that one cannot count. During the Civil War, the North held the advantage in every measurable factor of the industrial era, but the South held the advantage in many intangibles. Because of this, the war lasted for four years, until 1865, and it remains the bloodiest war in American history.

<u>1860</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
Population	22 million	9 million (3.2m of these slave)
Soldiers	2.1 million	800,000
Volunteers	c. 2 million	600,000
Railroad Tracks	20,000 miles	10,000 miles
Firearms Production Ratio	32	1
Merchant Shipping Ratio	14	1
Farm Acreage Ratio	3	1
Wheat Production	412	1
Shoe Manufacturing	90%	10%

In the areas that are difficult to count, both the North and South had advantages. Northern society was free and capitalistic, where each person benefitted from his own labor. This freedom enabled Northerners to compete in the marketplace and build a society where each person was motivated and rewarded for his work. Northerners created the Gatling Gun and the Spencer repeating rifle. The Gatling Gun was one of the first rapid-fire weapons and the Spencer repeating rifle allowed the shooter to fire seven shots without reloading. In addition, the freedom and opportunity of the North drew millions of immigrants, and some enlisted in the military upon arriving in the new land. Each individual could freely compete and innovate in Northern society; the North was dynamic and growing economically.

Southern society was based on slavery, race and family, and many Southern leaders argued that their society was the most fair and just. The majority of laborers in Southern society were not allowed to reap the benefits of their hard work. The leaders of the South believed it was their duty and obligation to take care of those under their care, and, like President Jefferson Davis, felt that blacks were better off as slaves and needed to be cared for. Poor whites had little opportunity to advance. Because of these issues, the Southern economy was lethargic and monolithic. Everything was based on cotton, and when cotton failed, the Southern economy failed.

The South's strongest advantages lay in the defensive nature of its position, its seasoned military officers, and its home field advantage. For the Southerners to win, they had to resist the North, and hold out long enough that the North would grow weary of fighting. The North, by contrast, had to conquer and hold a large and diverse enemy territory. Southerners knew every small forest path, and there were no intricate maps available. The South's most celebrated military commander, Robert E. Lee, refused command of the Union Army and successfully led the Army of Northern Virginia. Southern soldiers fought hard, knowing that if they lost, their land would be conquered and their families destroyed.

The North's initial strategy was called the "Anaconda Plan," named after the Anaconda snake of the Amazon region. The Union wanted to control the Mississippi River and blockade the South by controlling the Gulf Coast and the Southern coast. By squeezing the South from the water, the Union wanted to cut all supplies from entering and keep the South from trading with other countries. The Anaconda Plan was not enough to win the war, and thus the Northern plan underwent major adjustments and additions. The North eventually needed to execute two-front, inland assaults and conduct "Hard War." Planners in the North underestimated the difficulty of defeating the South.

The Southern war plan could be described as "King Cotton" and "Attack and Die." The South believed that Great Britain and France needed Southern cotton so much that if the South refused to sell its cotton abroad, these countries would join in fighting the North. The South imposed a cotton embargo against Great Britain and France at the beginning of the war to apply economic pressure. In the end, King Cotton failed miserably as Great Britain and France found other sources for cotton, such as India.

"Attack and Die" is a theory proposed by historians Grady McWhiney and Perry Jamieson. Important to the ideas of Attack and Die is that an agrarian society prides itself on manliness, using frontal attacks with officers in the lead. During the war, 55% of the Southern generals were killed or wounded in battle, Confederate casualty rates outnumbered Northern rates in nearly every battle, and Lee lost 20% in casualties while inflicting a 15% casualty rate on the North. In contrast, Grant suffered an 18% casualty rate but inflicted a 30% rate on the enemy. The Southern belief that to fight a battle well meant to put the troops and leaders in the lead of frontal assaults led to great casualty losses in the South.

President Abraham Lincoln was an amazingly gifted Commander-in-Chief. Lincoln kept the North united in the war effort, maintained a strong economy, and was popular enough to get reelected. Lincoln struggled in finding a General-in-Chief, a supreme commander of all the Union forces, and also a General of the Army of the Potomac, the Union's most important army. From the beginning of the war to the end, Lincoln hired and removed the following from positions of military leadership: Generals Winfield Scott, George McClellan, Henry Halleck, John Pope, Ambrose Burnside and Joe Hooker. Lincoln finally found a winning General-in-Chief in Ulysses S. Grant.

C.S.A. President Jefferson Davis failed in his role as Commander-in-Chief. Unlike Lincoln, Davis held the position of General-in-Chief, until with only a few months left in the war he named Robert E. Lee to this position. Davis had difficulty uniting the various Southern armies, led the Southern economy into the ground, and after Lee surrendered, Davis attempted to lead a Southern guerilla war, but no Southerner followed his lead.

Toward the end of the war, the North implemented what historian James MacPherson describes as "Hard War." Despite great casualties, the North assaulted the South continuously, mobilized the public, destroyed Southern cities, simultaneously attacked on at least two major fronts, and created mass havoc on civilian life, without slaughtering all citizens. Hard War was one major reason the Union defeated the South in the Civil War.