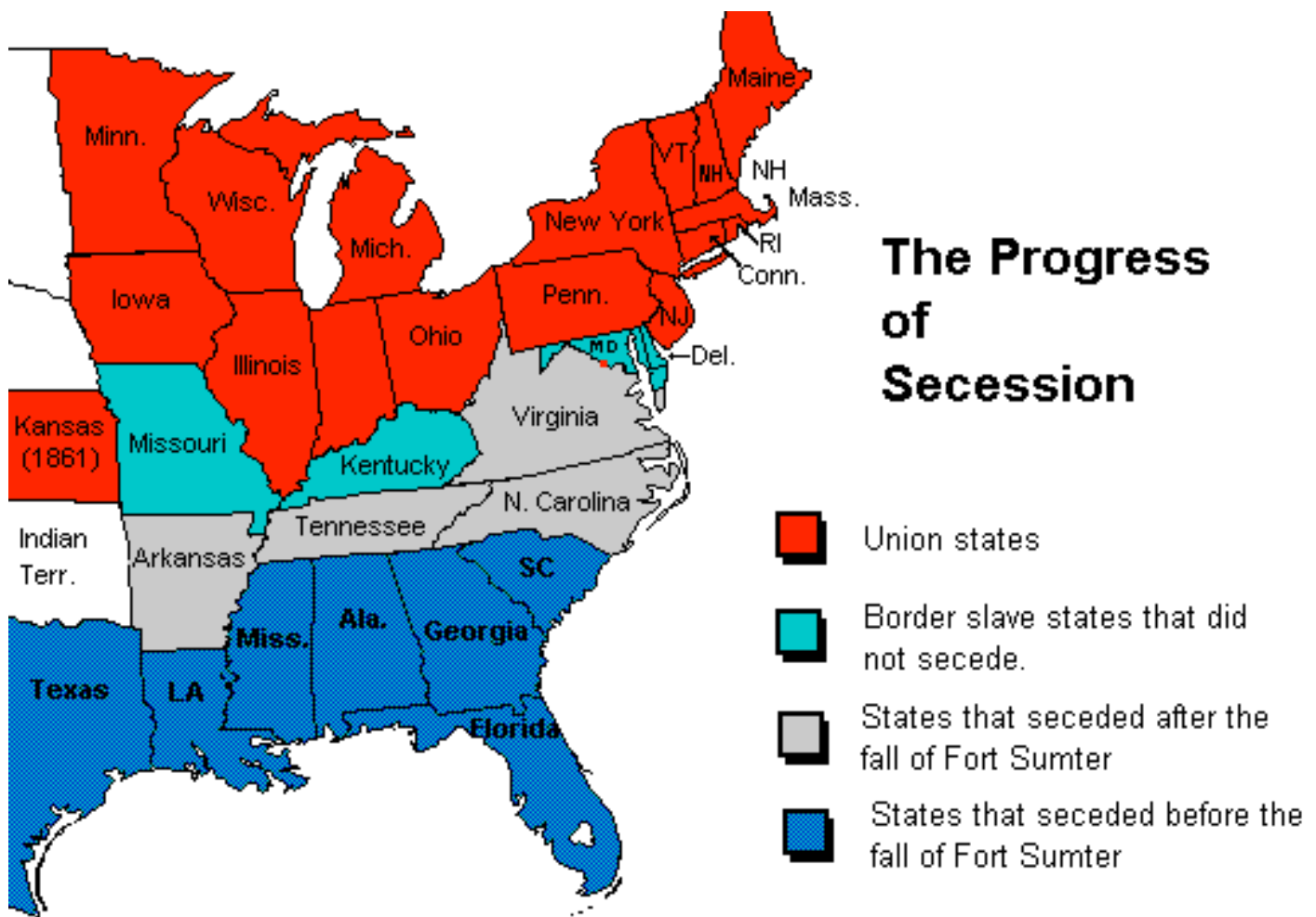


Civil War Begins Strengths and Weaknesses of the Union and Confederacy



In April 1861, Confederate forces attacked Union troops at Fort Sumter, marking the beginning of the Civil War. After the fall of Fort Sumter to the Confederates, eight slave states were still in the Union. As the war began, these states had to choose sides in the struggle.

1. Which slave states seceded after the fall of Fort Sumter? Which border states stayed in the Union?
2. Where are the four border states located in relation to the Union and Confederate states?

Resources of the Union and Confederacy, 1861

resources	Union		Confederacy	
	number	percent of total	number	percent of total
farmland	105, 835 acres	65%	56, 832 acres	35%
railroad track	21, 847 miles	71%	8, 947 miles	29%
value of manufactured goods	\$1, 794, 417, 000	92%	\$155, 552, 000	8%
industrial establishments	119, 500	85%	20, 600	15%
workers in industry	1, 198, 000	92%	111, 000	8%
population	22, 340, 000	63%	9, 103, 000 (3,954,000 slaves)	37%
troops	2, 000, 000	71%	800, 000	29%
finances				
money in the bank	\$ 190 million	81%	\$45 million	19%
bank assets	\$ 345 million	82%	\$75 million	18%

source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

As the Civil War began, the North enjoyed a number of economic advantages over the South. These advantages affected the war's outcome.

3. What percentage of the nation's population lived in the North? In the South?
4. How many acres of farmland did each side have?
5. Which side had more industrial production? What evidence from the chart above can you use to support your answer? In what ways do you think this advantage affected the war?
6. Which side - the Union or the Confederacy- had more railroad track? In what ways do you think this advantage affected the war?
7. Which side-the Union or the Confederacy—had greater financial resources? In what ways do you think this advantage affected the war?
8. Looking at the chart at population and troops, why do you think Union states were able to raise a much larger army than the Confederacy?
9. List at least two ways in which the Union's large population gave it an advantage in the Civil War.

Military Strengths and Weaknesses



Union: President Abraham Lincoln had little experience in national politics or military matters. In time however, Lincoln proved to be a patient by strong leader and a fine war planner. The Union faced a difficult military challenge. To bring the South back into the Union, northern soldiers had to conquer a huge area. Instead of defending their homes they were invading unfamiliar land. As the Union Army invaded the South, their supply lines would be much longer than those of the Confederates and more open to attack. The Union had a navy while the Confederacy did not. Lincoln also had a difficult time finding generals to match the southern generals.

Confederacy: Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, had attended the United States Military Academy at West Point. After serving as an officer in the Mexican American War he was made Secretary of War. Southerners in general had skills that made them good soldiers. Hunting was an important part of southern life. From an early age, boys learned to ride horses and use guns. Wealthy young men often went to military school. Before the Civil War, many of the best officers in the United States army were from the South. The Confederacy lacked a navy. Robert E. Lee, a Virginian, became the commander of the Confederate Army

10. From looking at the map above and using the information from the readings, where were most battles of the Civil War fought? North or South? Would fighting on your home ground be considered an advantage or disadvantage? Explain.
11. From looking at the map above, how did the Union navy hurt the Confederate economy?

SUMMARY:

12. Writing at least a paragraph respond to the following prompt: What strengths and weaknesses did the Confederacy have? What strengths and weakness did the Union have? Which side - Union or Confederacy- do you think has the advantage at the beginning of the war?