

Civil War

Strengths, Weaknesses and Strategies



Union

STRENGTHS

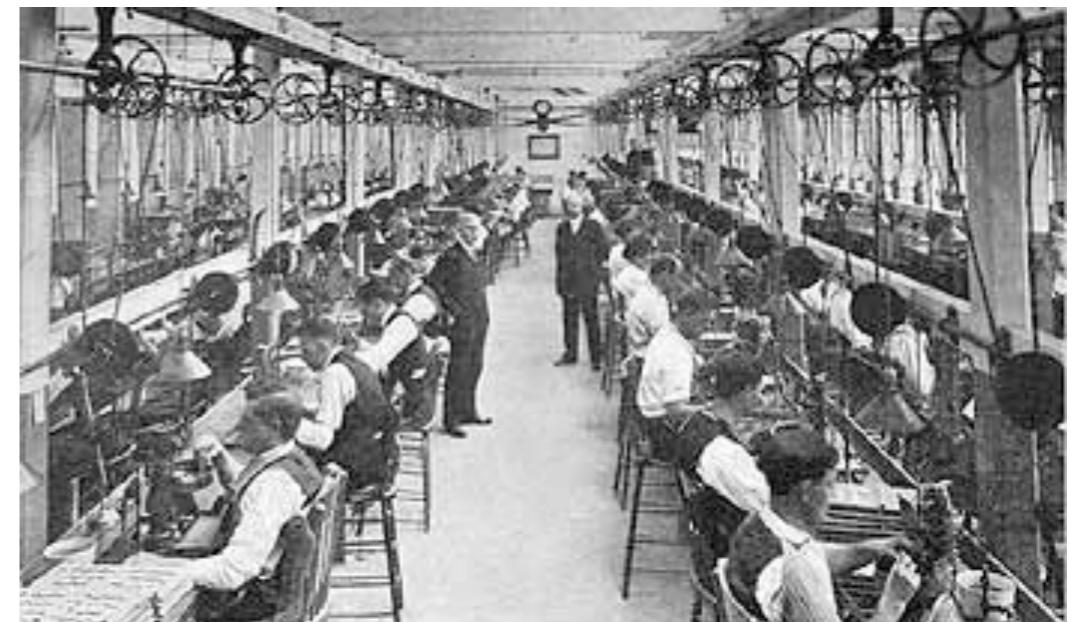
Railroads



The North has developed a dependence on the railroad.

20,000 miles of interconnected rail line is critical in transporting good across the region.

Factories



Due to the North being an Industrial society, they are capable of manufacturing goods needed during wartime.

Union

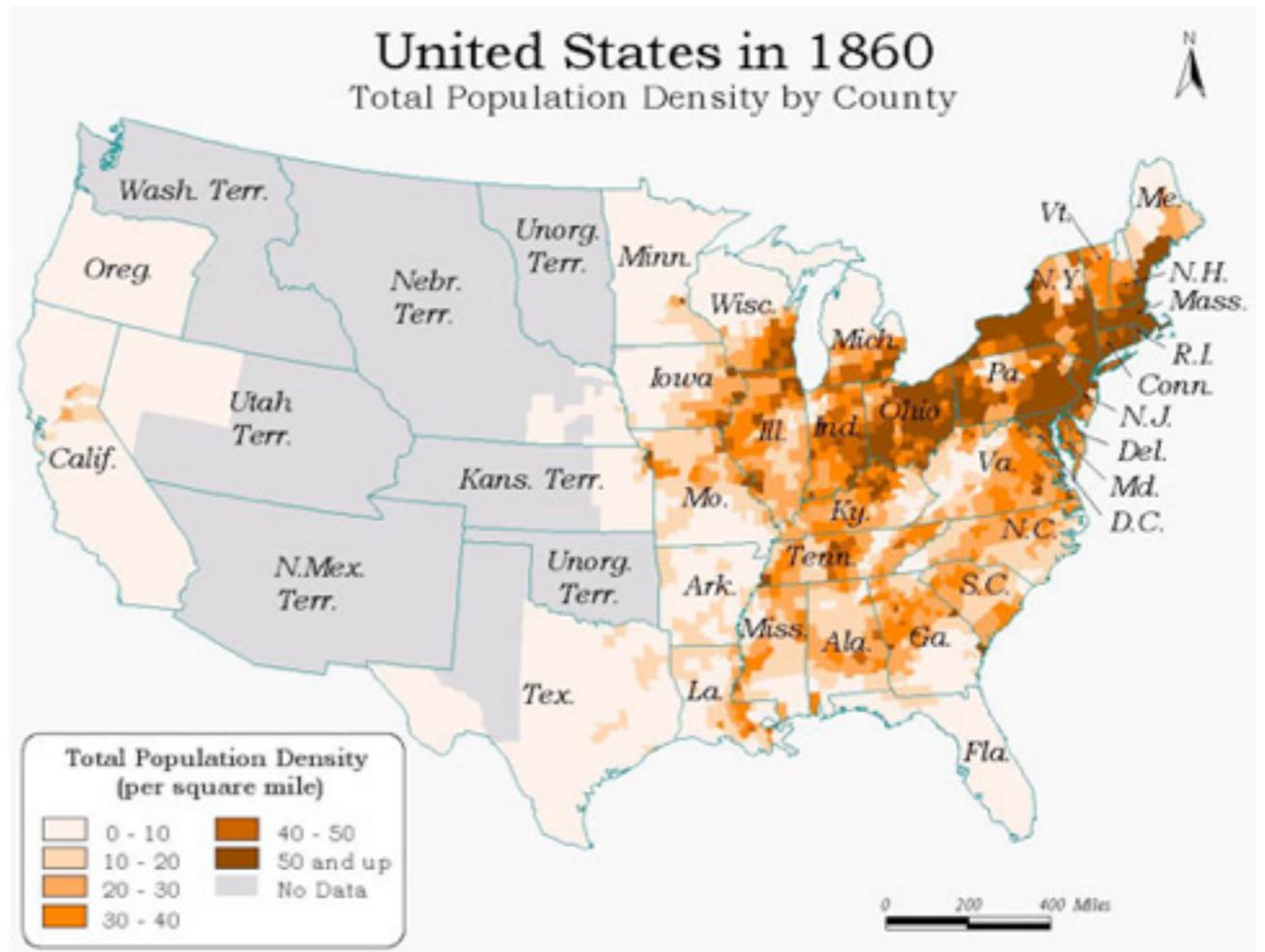
STRENGTHS

Navy



The North has a developed Navy due to being an established nation. This also includes a large fleet of trading ships.

Population



With more cities being in the North, more people live in the region. 22.3 million people live in the North.

Union

STRENGTHS

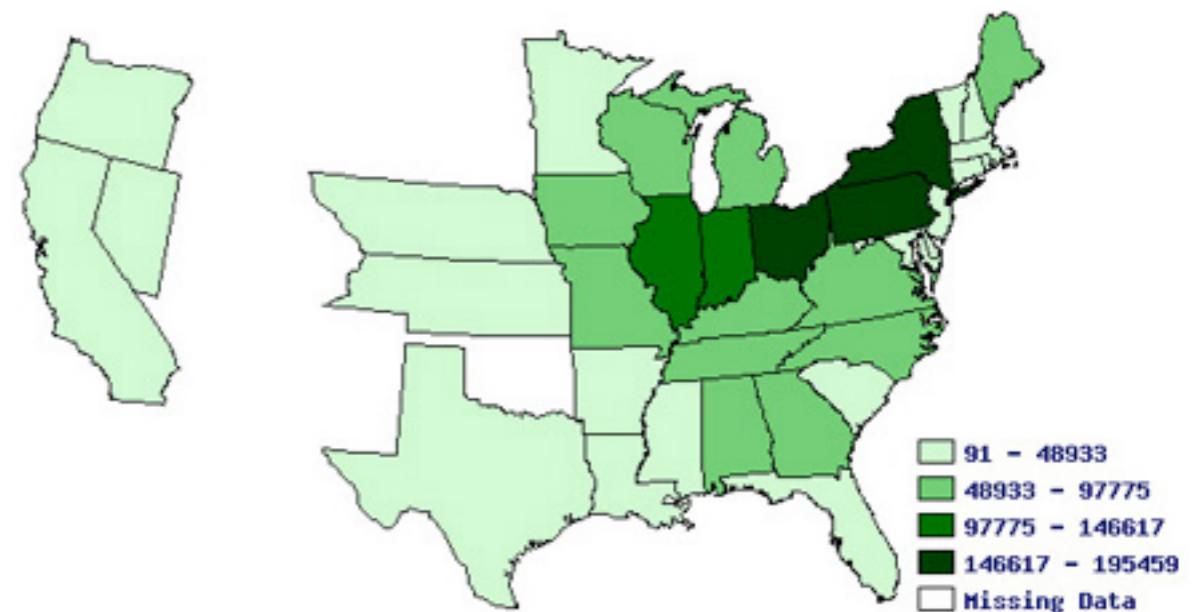
Government Structure



The North is a developed society with complete, established government.

Farming

Total Farms in U.S. (1860)

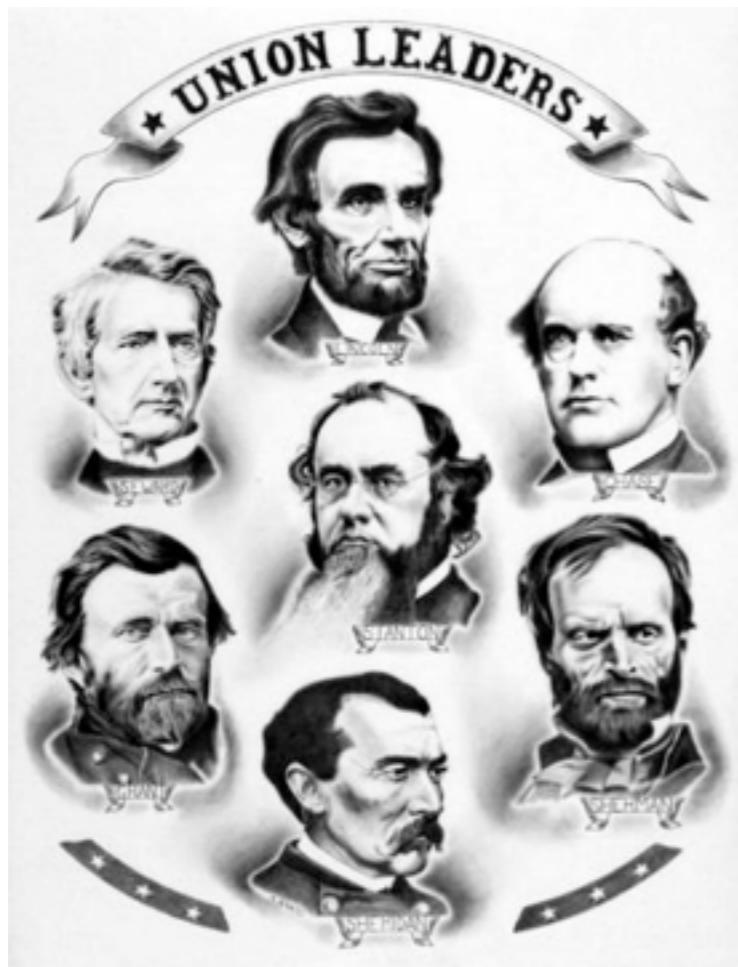


Though the South is known for agriculture, the North has more farmland and consumable crops that will support the military.

Union

WEAKNESSES

Leadership



The North lacked the best military leaders. The majority of the nation's military officers with experience lived in the South.

Poorly Trained



Many men in the North worked in the Industrial society therefore did not have significant military training.

Union

WEAKNESSES

Location of Capital



The capital of the North was Washington DC which bordered the South and was located about a 100 miles from the Southern capital.

Geography

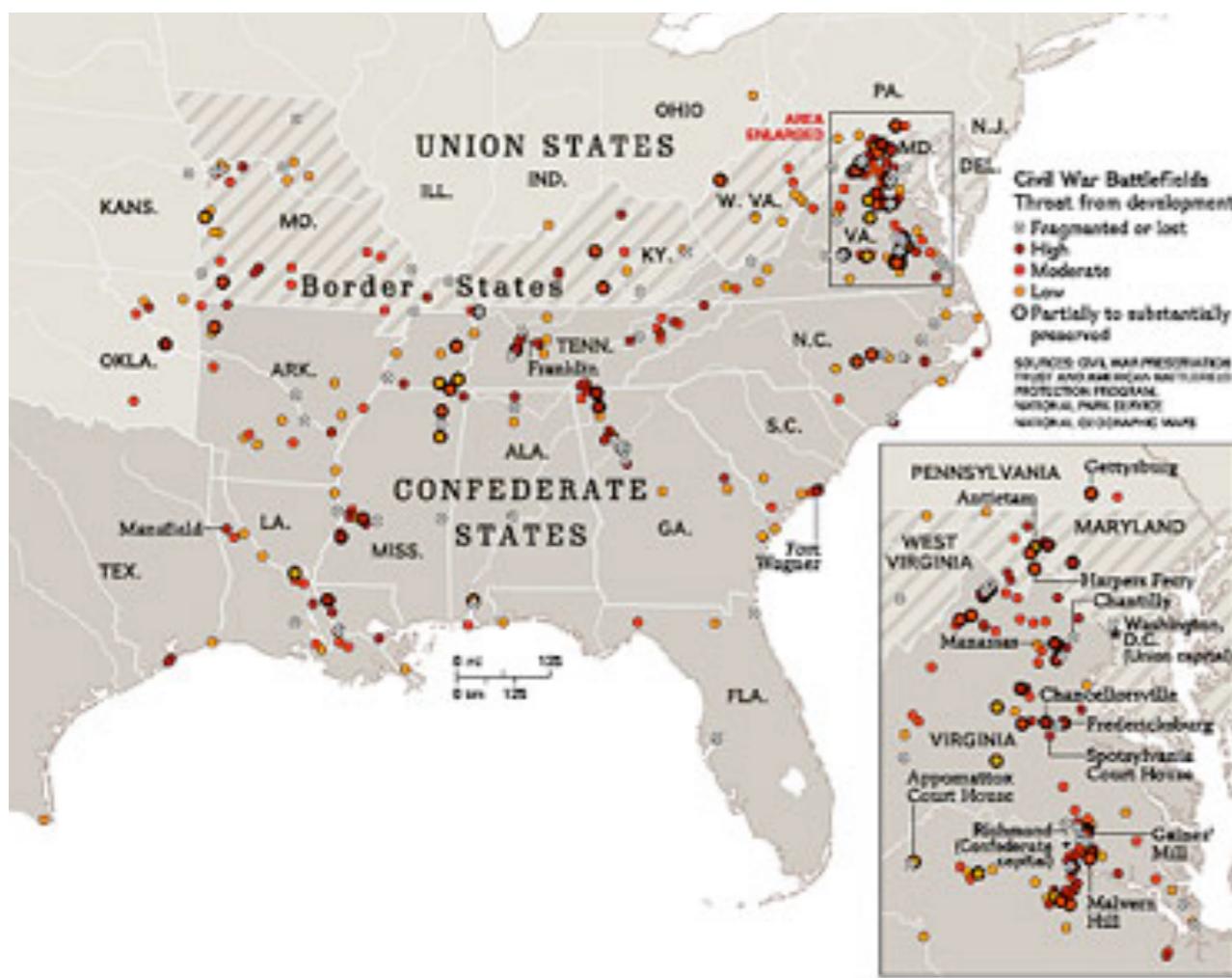


The North needed to conquer the South in order to bring it back to the Union. Therefore, the war was fought on Southern soil. They were unfamiliar with the land.

Confederate

STRENGTHS

Local Geography



The South is fighting on their home soil and therefore more comfortable and familiar with the land.

Rural Lifestyle



Hunting is an important part of life in the South. Effective use of guns and horse are learned early on.

Confederate

STRENGTHS

Well Trained

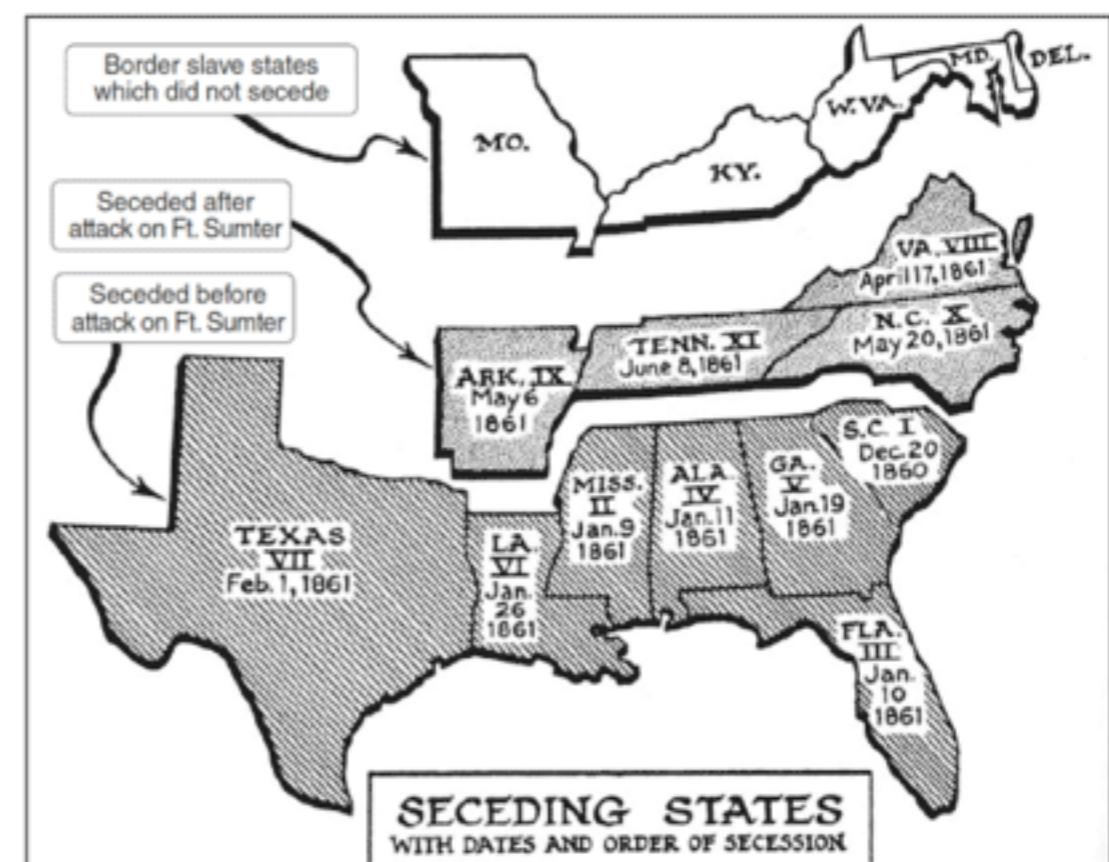


FAMOUS CONFEDERATE COMMANDERS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-'65.

Source: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-100000.

Many young men in the South attended military school as a way to gain recognition and find success.

Motivation



Source: Kennedy and Bailey, eds., *The American Spirit, Volume I: To 1877*, Houghton Mifflin, 2002 (adapted)

Southerners believe that secession is justified. They are essentially fighting for their freedom.

Confederate

WEAKNESSES

Lack of Railroad



The Southern railroads did not connect throughout the region. Leading to a lack of goods being supplied to various parts of the South.

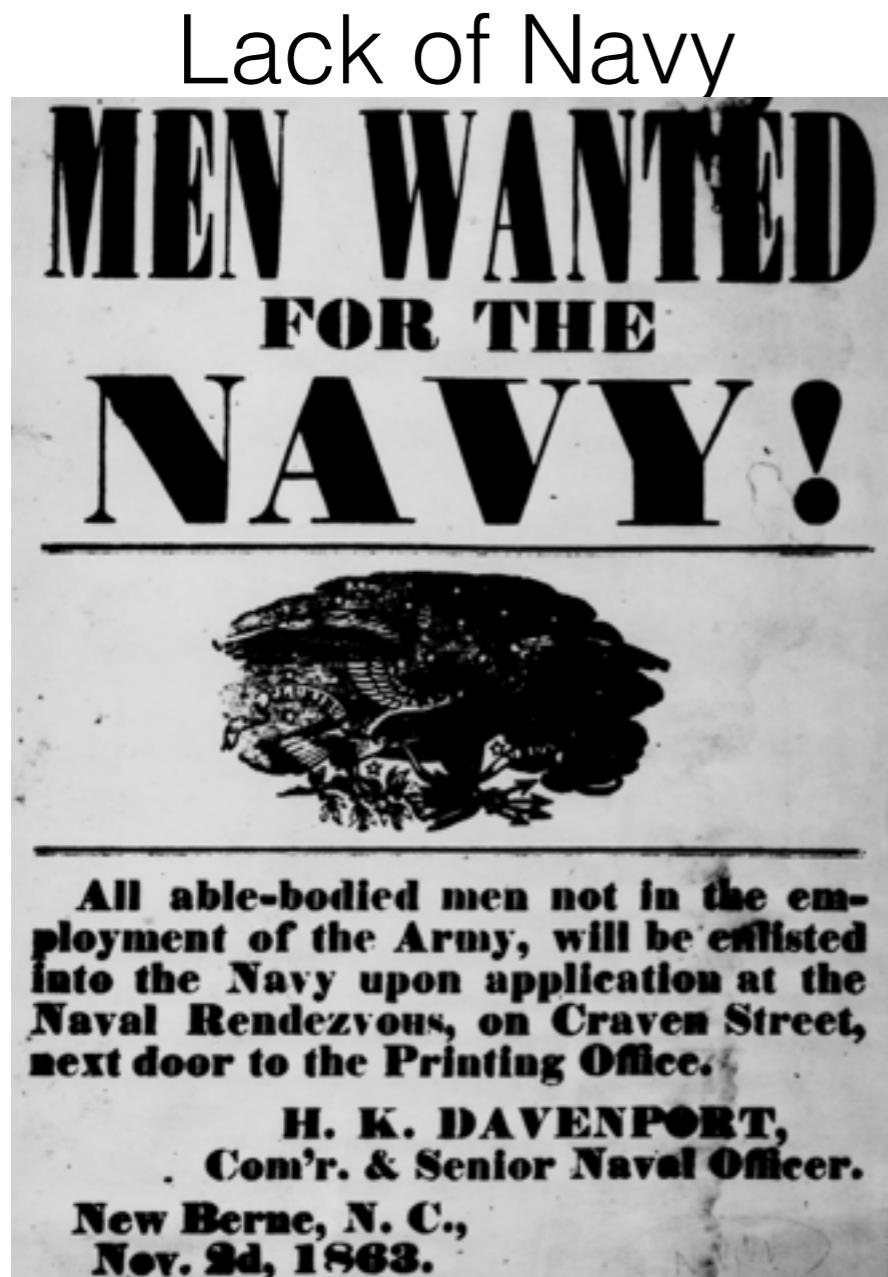
Lack of Industry



The South did not have the ability to manufacture goods needed during wartime.

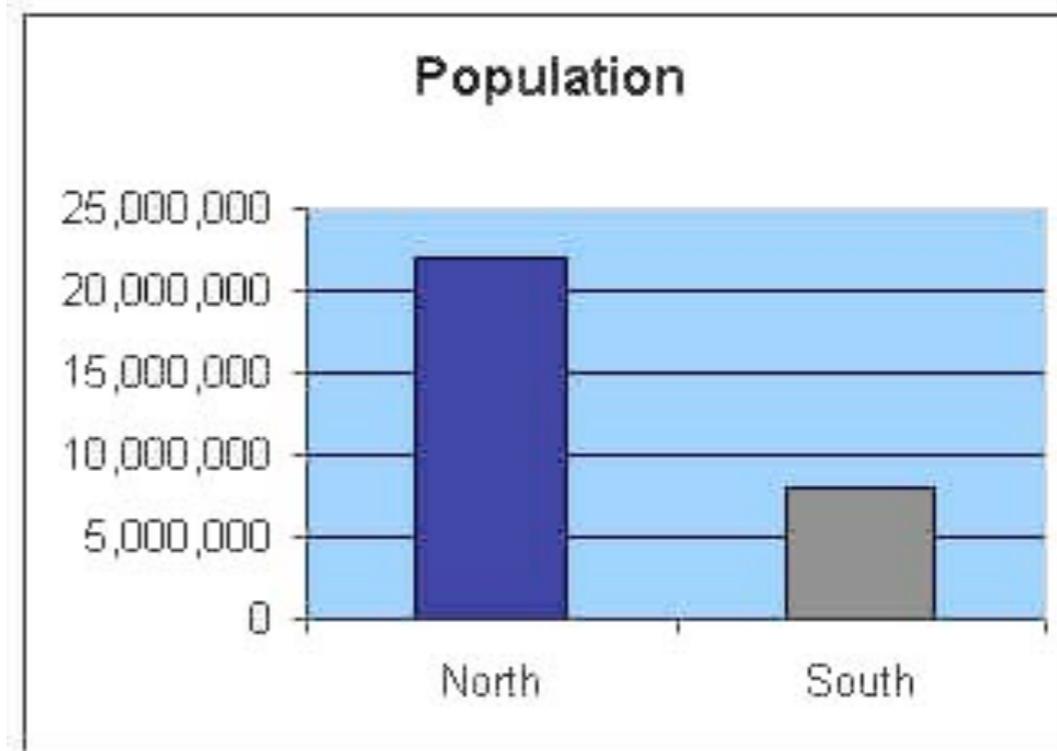
Confederate

WEAKNESSES



The South lacks a formal navy.

Population



There are less people to fight in the South. 9 million are free with 3.9 million slaves.

Confederate

WEAKNESSES

Government Structure



The South did not have an established national government. They favored state's rights over federal control.

Economy



The South lacks financial support as a nation due to its lack of industry and infrastructure

General Battlefield Tactics

Both the Union and Confederate militaries employ similar battlefield tactics during the war.

Exploit Enemy Weakness

Figure out the enemy's weakness and use it against them.

Maneuver

Find ways to move troops in positions of benefit



Exploit Terrain

Utilize the terrain and geography to your advantage

Destroy

Eliminate all aspects of the enemy's military and infrastructure

Survive

Do what it takes to survive and fight another day. Outlast the enemy.

Union

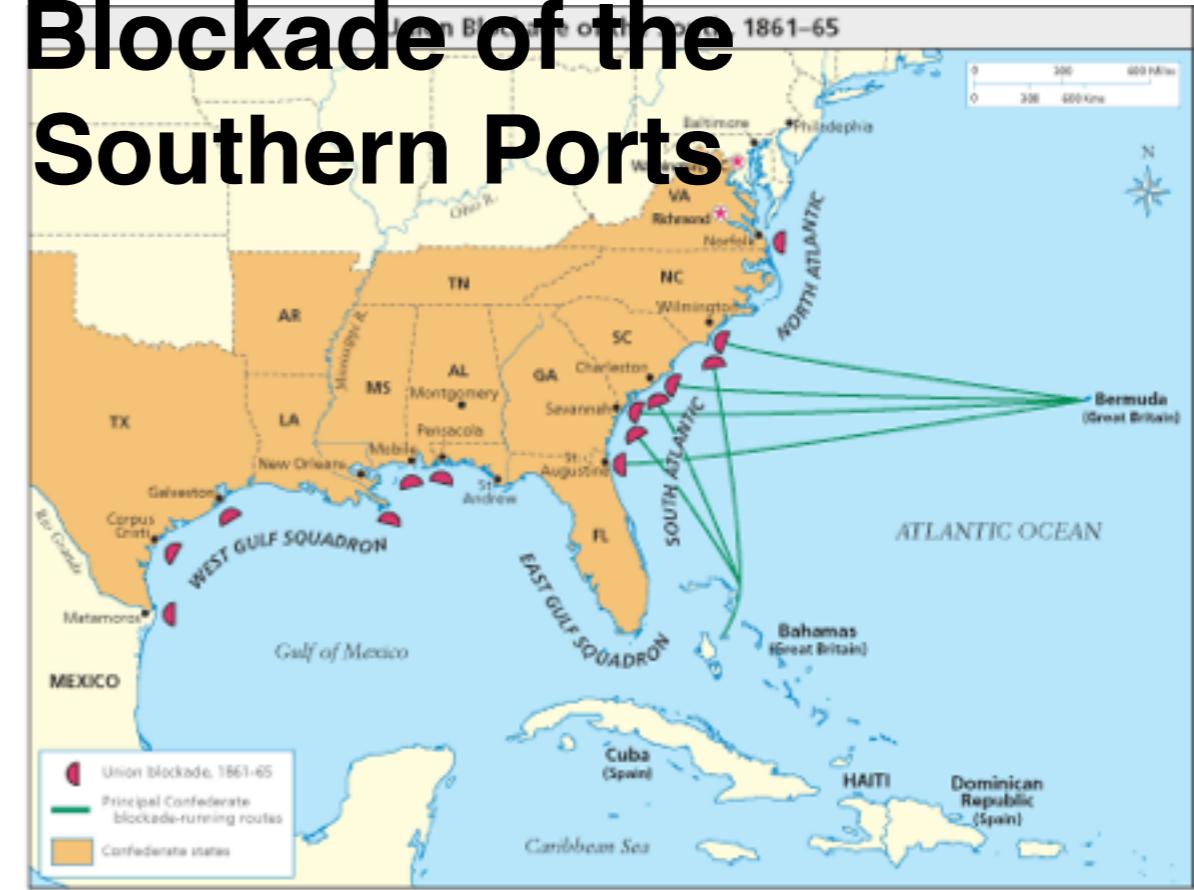
STRATEGIES

“Anaconda Plan”

Divide the South along the Mississippi River



Blockade of the Southern Ports

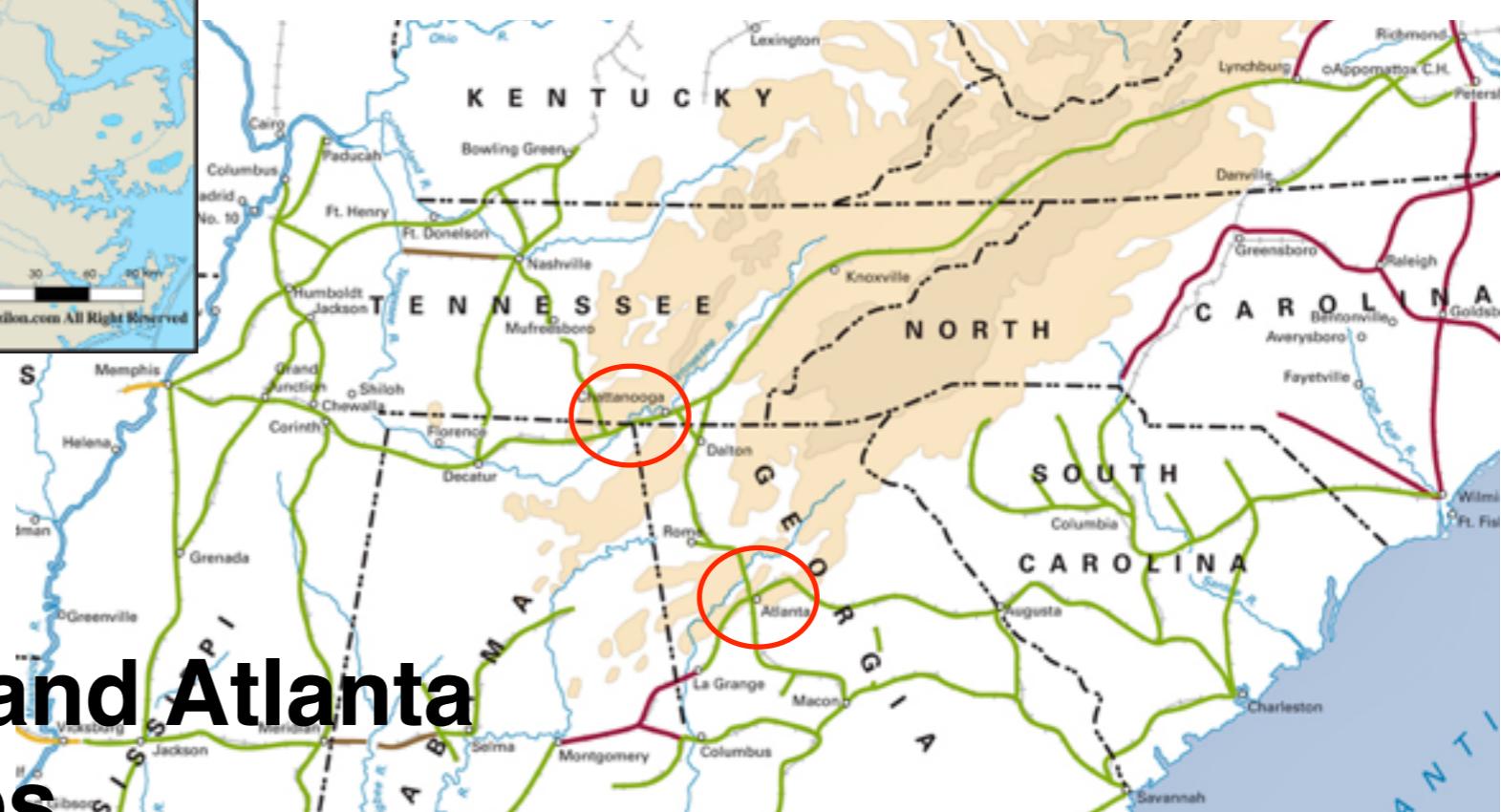


Union

STRATEGIES



Capture Richmond (Southern Capital)



**Capture Chattanooga and Atlanta
Railroad Hubs**

Union

STRATEGIES

Later in the war...

Total War

Wage war against
civilians and the
infrastructure of the
South



Confederate

STRATEGIES



**Use Cotton as a “Weapon”
to Gain European Allies**



Confederate

STRATEGIES

“Two-Step Plan”

Step 1: Wait and Fight for a Defensive War



OVERVIEW OF CIVIL WAR STRATEGY

Step 2: Take the War to the North with Aggressive Actions

Confederate

STRATEGIES

Outlast the North

“Want to fight and win
more than they do”

