

Fighting the Civil War

| | Union | Confederacy |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Advantages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 22 million people lived in the Union • Industrialized • Densely populated urban areas of the Northeast supported a wide variety of manufacturing • With mechanized factories and workers, could produce more ammunition, arms, uniforms, medical supplies, and railroad cars • Had a larger railroad network • Small, but well organized navy • Established government and outstanding leader | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had the psychological advantage of fighting for its survival. • Believed passionately in the Confederate cause • Had a strong military tradition and fine leaders, like Robert E. Lee • Had strategic advantages • Did not need to conquer the North, just avoid defeat • Fought war on familiar and friendly ground |
| Disadvantages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many northerners were willing to let the slaveholding South secede. • New recruits only signed on for three months of service, not nearly long enough to establish an efficient army. • Struggled to find a strong military commander • Had to fight an offensive war on enemy territory • Troops and supplies had to travel • Had to devote many military resources to defending Washington, D.C. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of 9 million, 3.5 million of which were enslaved African Americans • Did not have the capabilities to produce as many supplies as the Union • Had no navy • Faced naval blockades from Union ships which crushed southern trade • Government was new and inexperienced |

