

The Civil War: A Nation Divided

As has been previously noted, the North could rely on important advantages such as a larger population, an already existing navy, more **capital**, or money, more factories, and more railroads.

The South, however, was not without its advantages, too. One distinct edge the South held was that the nation's best military officers were southerners. Many left their commissions in the United States army to take their place among the ranks of the Confederate army. Also, much of the war was fought on southern soil. Thus, the South would be fighting a defensive war. In other words, they would be fighting to protect their own

territory. Such an advantage, while hard to measure, can make a difference in the "spirit" of one's fighting cause. Also, southern soldiers, in general, were better prepared for combat. They were more likely to be skilled horsemen and capable marksmen than were their northern counterparts fighting on unfamiliar soil.

As Lincoln prepared the North and its Grand Army of the Republic for war, he had but one motivation in mind: to save the Union. Only later would he take on the goal of ending slavery. The South also had only one aim: to fight a war for independence from the Union.

Use the Map

Label the states and territories. Color as directed to show the alignment of each at the beginning of the Civil War.

1. Color free Union states blue: OR, CA, KS, MN, IA, WI, IL, MI, IN, OH, PA, NY, NJ, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, and ME.
2. Color slave secession states gray: SC, MS, FL, AL, GA, LA, TX, VA, AR, NC, and TN.
3. Color border states (slave states not seceding) yellow: MO, KY, MD, and DE.
4. Color western territories which supported the Union green: Washington, Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada.
5. Color western territories which supported the Confederacy brown: New Mexico, and Unorganized (now Oklahoma).



6. From the finished map, can you see any advantages for the North? If so, what? _____

For the South? If so, what? _____