

History 217

Re: Notes w/ And the War Came

I. Formation of the CSA

A. Vital Stats(Bean counting)

1. Northern population--19 million(600,000 southern sympathizers).

2. South population--9 million(5.5 whites; 3.5 slaves, and 130,000 free blacks)

3. Border states--3.6 million(450,000 were slaves).

Total=34 million people, white and black

In terms of white men of fighting age(15 to 40)--the North had an advantage of 4 to 1: 4,000 to 1.1 million southerners

North had advantage in industrial strength

North had advantage in railroad networks of 21,000 miles to the South's 9,000 miles (most east of the Mississippi).

North had a navy of 90 ships and 9,000 sailors while the South began the war w/ just a few revenue cutters.

B. Reasons for Southern Optimism(Where there any?)

1. South(as well as the North)never visualized that this would end in a war of attrition--a brutal, savage contest in which one side won by wearing down the other).

South's initial advantage was that her goal was independence. She did not need a total victory. Simply hang in the war until the North lost its morale and decided to quit. For the North to win it would have to conquer the South.

See Text, p 425-426
Furthest America

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Re: Addendum to Lecture # 2/Outline

Cover: Davis & Stephens Inaugurals. Can compare with Lincoln's power of words?

I. Bean Counting: North and South

A. See handout

II. The "One Big Battle War"

A. Expectations North and South.

Lincoln calls for 3-month volunteers. (Was it 75,000?)

Davis calls for 1 year enlistments. His advisers thought that six months would be plenty. Davis was targeting for 3 years but compromised on one year.

Expectations about this war. There were a few exceptions like Sherman in North and Davis in the South.

III. Reasons for Southern Optimism

See old notes

Add Terrain as a factor. Northern Virginia and the dense oak and pine forests--the Wilderness. From Potomac to James and from Blue Ridge to the Chesapeake. (North will lose here both times fighting takes place in this terrain. Chancellorsville (1863) and in The Wilderness Campaign by Grant in 1864.

IV. Mobilization in North and South

McPherson covers in chpt. assigned. Questions.
Say a word about the rifle in this war.

Make point that both sides begin to put together a military force from scratch.

Both sides recruited a citizens army. Most of the fighters were volunteers....See consequences in Embattled Courage in the cult of true manhood among the officer class.

Officers had a 15% greater casualty rate than the troops.
General officers had a 50% greater casualty rate.
Case of foolish machismo

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Lecture # 2

V. Lessons Waiting to Be Learned in this war:

- 1, It would not be a short war.
2. Taking territory would not end the war. The war would only end when it turned into a "total war" aimed at the destruction or killing of the enemy and (for the Union) by turning the war against the Southern population.
3. Frontal assaults on troops in defensive positions was a certain prescription for disaster by the attackers.

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2. In order for Lincoln's military force to achieve this end it would have to invade the South. This was a momentous task because:

The South including Texas was a land mass some 750,000 square miles. That is, it was larger than the area making up the Northern states in 1860. The South had to throw up a line of defense and challenge the North to penetrate it and conquer this vast territory. [South would have the advantage of interior lines in military thinking of the time). It was assumed that defense had the advantage over attack. (Might want to develop).

3. South assumed, with some good reason, that she would have the advantage in morale. Southern boys would be fighting to protect their homeland and their institutions against a foreign invader. Northern troops might be superior in number but they would not have the same high motivation. (South would ultimately under estimate the North's --read Lincoln's--determination to preserve the Union.

4. The South was "solid." Whereas Lincoln went to war with a divided North. There would be strong opposition to the war by the opposition party--the Democratic party--in the North. Lincoln had the awesome task of fighting the war and keeping a divided North unified. (Remember that Lincoln was a minority president).

[Remark here that lincoln achieved this--narrowly--without ever suspending elections in the North despite the national emergency. That was a litmus test of his dedication to a government based on popular will).

4. The King Cotton card--The South made the assumption that Cotton was so essential to the world's economy that it would clear the way for her independence.

So.
Nationalists
not slavery
90% of
Reps had
no stake in
slavery