

Re: Why the North Won? A Speculation

*And American
speculation to see
correct*

I. Bean Counting Not the Answer -

II. Leadership Differentials

A> Jeff Davis vs. Lincoln. Use Potter's tongue in cheek that if the Confederacy had Lincoln and the Union had Jefferson Davis the outcome would have been reversed. Well maybe. But there is a valid point here.

Lincoln became during the course of the war a masterly commander-in-chief. See his dealings w/ Sherman and Grant. He recognized talent when he saw it. (He could not lose Grant because Grant fights. He supported Sherman's March even though he was sceptical about its military soundness. He did not try to micromanage the war.

Davis on the other interferred constantly with the CSA leadership. he played favorites in the field. He placed men in command because of their loyalty to himself rather than their demonstrated military skills.

Lincoln's supreme sense of timing. Note the EP. He was able to convince most northerners that Union and slavery were incompatible, In order to save the Union it was necessary to end slavery. It was Lincoln's special genius to combine war for Union with war against slavery based on military necessity; as a war measure and not on moral or ideological grounds. He realized that this argument on moral grounds would have to be made later. We see a foreshadowing of this in his Gettysburg Address.

III. Confederate Soldiers and the Crisis of the South

A. Confederacy war aim(s) was to achieve indepdence and freedom. And to protect her "peculiar policy." (For the Confederate leadership the preservation of slavery was the supreme goal].

Most souhtherners called to fight in this war were not part of the slavocracy. It was the obligation of the South's leadership to forge a sense of solodarity between the classes in the Confederacy, especuially among the slaveholders and the non-slaveholding majority.

Richmond and the Davis Govt. failed masterfully to do this.

1. 'the "20 Negro rule" revealed the class-ridden nature of the slavocracy. Rise of Rich Man's War/Poor Man's fight

2. Conscription Act of 1862/ raised so much opposition it had to be dropped.

3. Political networking and fixing for the sons of the well-connected. Safe jobs in Richmond for these war dodgers.

4. impressment policies. Utter failure in that it denied families on the home front without being able to supply the armies in the field. A double whammy.

{idea of the 'quiet revolution' among the plain people in the South.

B. Union Strategy/Confederate Morale

Make point of this 'quiet revolt" and the Union strategy at the end of the war.

Sherman's March/Fall of Atlanta/Re-election of Lincoln

Sherman's psychological war of terror/ letters home/ and the impact on Confederate troops. See the dissertation rates w/ Lee's Army of No. Virginia. Only able to muster 50% of its manpower

Confederate willingness to make sacrifices not in question. One out of four CSA soldiers died in the war. Remarkable thing is that the troops stayed loyal to the Cause as long as they did considering the poor leadership in Richmond. Richmond did not deserve this dedication in the final analysis.

C. Northern morale/a study in contrast

1. Higher in the Union army than the home front.

Indicators: About 70% of the soldier vote in the 1864 presidential election went to Lincoln.

Re-up figures for the 1861 enlistments--about 65/70%

IV> Different Wars

History 217
Page two

1. The "twenty-slave rule" Revealed the class-ridden nature of the Confederacy. Ruich man's wear/poor man's fight.

2. Impressment policies of the CSA.

3. The failure to adequately provision the soldier in the field. Food was being denied f amilies back home and it was failing to get to the armies in the field. Depressed morale.