After Sumter -- Preparing for War

- **Comparison of two sides**
  - **Population**
    - Total -- North: 20,700,000  South: 9,105,000
    - Blacks totaled more than 3,600,000 of South’s population → Not eligible for fighting
    - Did free up a higher percentage of whites for fighting
    - North had a 4.5 to 1 advantage of men of military age
    - Before war ended, over 75% of southern white men and 45% of northern men would see service
    - Over 200,000 black soldiers would fight for North
  - **Economy**
    - North had huge advantage in industrial production
      - North -- 110,000 manufacturing establishments with 1,300,000 workers
      - South -- 18,000 establishments with 110,000 workers
      - North had big advantage in textile, coal, and iron production
    - North equaled or bettered the South in all areas of agricultural production except cotton-- including draft animals, livestock (pigs, cows, and poultry), wheat, and corn
    - North could produce 32 times the number of firearms as the South
    - South had only one factory (Trefalger Iron Works in Richmond) capable of producing heavy artillery
  - **Transportation**
    - Railroads
      - North had 2.4 times the railroad mileage of the South
      - South had additional problem in that its railroads often did not connect and track gauges were different
    - North had 9 times the tonnage of merchant ships and 25 times the tonnage of warships to the South
  - **Armies**
    - North has advantage of the Regular Army, but many will leave to join South
    - South has strong military tradition and a number of small military institutes
  - **Why does South think it can win? → American Revolution**
  - **Leadership**
    - West Point connection
      - Most high ranking officers in both armies were trained at West Point
    - Mexican War as training ground
      - Many of the young officers gained practical training during the Mexican War → Lee, McClellan, Jackson, and Grant all served
      - Developed a sense that bold frontal assaults could succeed if used against an enemy whose morale was weakened

- **How long will the war last?**
  - **Neither side thought war would last long**
    - a Confederate congressman claimed he would drink the blood of all who fell in combat
    - Northern newspaper editor claimed the amount of blood shed could be held in a cup
    - Most states, when mustering troops, called for volunteers for 90 days, 6 months, or a year
Only a few states took precautions to call up volunteers for 3 years or the end of the war (whichever came first)

A few leaders argued the war would be long and hard

- Union and Confederate strategy
  - South on the defensive
    - South sought only to protect its territories
    - Problem with defending such a broad border
    - Border defense causes South to spread its troops out early on
  - North on the offensive
    - Winfield Scott's "Anaconda plan": Control the Mississippi River + Blockade southern ports and stop cotton shipments

- Communities go to war
  - News of war reaches communities
    - News takes some time
    - Reactions to news
    - Jubilation in South (some women hesitant)
    - Reactions affect entire community--no one untouched
      - Men who would fight
      - Women who would support
      - Black slaves who were an unknown quantity
  - Choosing sides -- influence of community and family
  - Raising troops
    - Why do men join?
      - For a cause -- unionism, slavery
      - Rite of passage into manhood
      - Adventure and travel
    - Why do others resist joining?
      - Family concerns -- who will care for them
      - Don't believe in war aims of their region
  - Mustering troops
    - Prominent citizens of a town or county would set up recruiting offices
    - They would advertise for recruits--newspapers, broadsides, word of mouth, church and social gatherings
    - Sometimes states offered bounties
    - When enough men enlisted a company was formed and officers elected, company then mustered into state service
  - Outfitting troops
    - Early in war communities and states supplied most of the uniforms and gear for the troops
    - Problems in getting suppliers--corruption and graft
    - Confusion created by the variety of uniform styles and colors
  - State training camps
    - After company mustered, normally went to a training camp in a centralized location in the state
    - Often first time many of the men away from home
    - Hard to adjust to military discipline for some
    - Drill unfamiliar to almost all--including officers