

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