The American Civil War

Prelude
Secession

- December 1860 – South Carolina secedes
- Crittenden Compromise effort fails
- January 1861 – Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Texas
- February 1861
  - Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Delaware, Arkansas, Maryland reject secession
  - Confederate States of America created

**The Progress of Secession**

- **Red**: Union states
- **Blue**: Border slave states that did not secede
- **Gray**: States that seceded after the fall of Fort Sumter
- **Dark Blue**: States that seceded before the fall of Fort Sumter
“Masterly Inactivity” to “the Time that Tried Men’s Soles”, March-July 1861

- Inauguration, 4 Mar
- Fort Sumter crisis, Mar-Apr
- Lincoln calls for 75,000 troops
- Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Tennessee secede
- Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware remain loyal
- Anaconda Proposed, May
- Action, June-July:
  - Boonville
  - Rich Mountain
  - First Manassas
# Civil War Strategies

## US

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## CS

| 1861       | Scott                     | Halleck       | Grant            |
| 1862-63    | Armed Diplomacy           | Decisive Points | Hard War        |
|            | “Anaconda”                | Decisive Battle | Break will      |
|            |                           |               |                  |
| 1864       | Davis                     | Lee           | Defense          |
|            | Armed Diplomacy           | Decisive Points | Break will      |
|            | Cordon defense            |               |                  |
THE REGULAR ARMY ON THE EVE OF WAR

1861 REGIMENTS: 10 INFANTRY, 2 DRAGOONS, 1 MOUNTED RIFLE, 2 CAVALRY, 4 ARTILLERY.

Total Strength: 16,215 (out of 17,867 authorized)
- Regiments in theory, Companies in practice
Location: (198 line Co’s) 183: frontier; 15: Canada/Atlantic
Officers: 286 of 1098 resign, join CSA (very few enlisted)

Concentrate as skilled nucleus?
Scatter as cadre?
Battle of Wilson Creek (10 Aug 1861)

Battle of Pea Ridge (6-8 March 1862)

Fort Sumter (12 April 1861)
The Civil War: 1861 - 1863
American Civil War
North Vs. South 1860

- Population (Millions)
  - USA: 20
  - CSA: 5

- Manufacturing Establishments (1,000)
  - USA: 100
  - CSA: 15

- Pig Iron (1,000 tons)
  - USA: 600
  - CSA: 10

- Warships (x10)
  - USA: 5
  - CSA: 1

USA: Pennsylvania (PA)
Comparative Resources

- TOTAL POPULATION 2.5-1
- WEALTH PRODUCED 3-1
- RAILROAD MILAGE 2.4-1
- MERCHANT SHIP TONNAGE 9-1
- NAVAL SHIP TONNAGE 25-1
- FACTORY PRODUCTION 10-1
- FIREARMS PRODUCTION 32-1
- IRON PRODUCTION 20-1
- FARM ACERAGE 3-1
- COTTON PRODUCTION 1-24
Defending the Confederacy
American Civil War

COA's - South

F Active Defense
American Civil War
COA's - North
Attack Both
(Anaconda Plan)
You may only defend or attack this country along the lines you see. Which points must you defend or capture to win a war?
There are roughly 9,500 miles of RR in the Confederacy.
American Civil War 
Three Separate Theaters 
1861-65

Atlantic Coast 
Gulf Coast

JOINT OPERATIONS

Coastal Theater 
1861-65
Civil War: Strategic Imperatives

Confederate States of America: Independent Sovereignty

Break the Northern Will

- Political Negotiation
- International Recognition
- Keep the Army Alive
- Decisive Victory

United States of America: Re-Establish Political Control

- Isolate CSA
- Unify Efforts
- Destroy Southern Will and Ability to Fight
American Civil War

Eastern Theater

1862

1863

1864

1865

Grant

Pope

Shiloh (6-7 Apr)

Mississippi

Cumberland

Tennessee

Halleck

Joint Operations

JP

Multiple Armies

Multiple States

JOINT OPERATIONS

1862

1863

1864

1865

Mississippi

Tennessee

1863 Western Theater

Appalachian Mountains

Eastern Theater

1861-65

Eastern Theater

1861-65

AOP

ANV
Results for the Union

West

Spring/Summer ‘62
Fall ‘62
Winter ‘62
Spring ‘63
July ‘63
Fall ‘63
Spring ‘64

East

“Grant is my man, and I am his for the rest of the war.”

Fall of Vicksburg

Grant

Lincoln

3rd Result

ATTACK!!!!

ATTACK!!!!
“The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving.”

Ulysses S. Grant (1822 - 1885)
MEADE: “Lee’s army will be your objective point. Wherever he goes, you will go also.”

5 May

“Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving.”

Sherman: “...move against Johnston’s army to break it up and to get into the interior of the enemy’s country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their war resources.”
The Changing Nature of Battle
“…all the armies are to move together…”

Four of the five offensives appear to have failed………….except……

American Civil War

GRANT’S PLAN
1864
“...all the armies are to move together...”

American Civil War

Grant’s Plan 1864

Lee

Sigel

Butler

Meade

Banks

Grant

Hood

“...all the armies are to move together...”

Mobile Bay

5 Aug 1864

Atlanta

2 Sept 1864

J. Johnston
The Election of 1864

Turning Point?

Break the Northern Will
- Decisive Victory
- International Recognition
- Political Negotiation
- Keep the Army Alive!

Lincoln
McClellan
John Bell Hood

- Native of Kentucky
- West Point Class of 1853
  - Graduated 44<sup>th</sup> out of 52
  - Cavalry Officer
- Served with distinction as BDE and DIV CDR
- Aggressive Commander
  - Lee: “All Lion no Fox”
- 33 years old- youngest Army Commander
  - Poor physical Condition by 1864
American Civil War

The Final Actions 1864-65

To Sherman: “...move against Johnston’s army to break it up and to gain in the interior of the enemy’s country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their war resources.”

Sherman: “…the utter destruction of (Georgia’s) roads, houses, and people, will cripple their military resources..... I can make this march, and make Georgia howl!”

Lee

Meade

Butler

Grant

Sherman

Hood

Oct-Nov

Nov-Dec
CSA Situation in the Eastern Theater

• Army of Northern Virginia
  – 100-mile front *protected* by rivers
  – At the heart of resource/transport assets
  – Wealth of prior-service personnel/academy grads
  – Accumulated “winners” from other theaters
  – Grew from pre-existing Virginia army
  – Winning tradition
  – *Strategic defensive* (never won on the road)
CSA Situation in the Western Theater

- Army of Tennessee
  - 300-mile front *penetrated* by rivers
  - Fewer local resources; less CSA support
  - Few prior service/academy grads
  - Accumulated “losers” from ANVas
  - Grew out of politicized Tennessee militia
  - Losing tradition; bickering
  - Impetus for *strategic offense*: homeland in enemy hands
Conclusions

Western Theater
- Union Undefeated
- Davis Can’t find a General

Eastern Theater
- Conf. Undefeated
- Lincoln Can’t find a General

Bottom Line
- Conf. Does not have Enough Resources
- Union Cannot Unify its Efforts to End this.