In December of 1860, after Lincoln won the presidential election, Southern states began seceding from the United States in an effort to preserve their way of life**. What was it exactly about that way of life that southerners were so determined to preserve?** For decades prior to the war, tensions between the North and South continued to escalate as both regions traveled down different paths of advancement. The North, fueled by an immigration boom, industrialized, whereas Southern reliance on "King Cotton" kept them agriculturally tied to the land and dependent on the institution of chattel slavery.

**Objective**

Which side possessed the overall advantage at the start of the Civil War?

(Consider the **economic**, **military**, and **diplomatic balance** of the North and South)

**Sources**

**Military**

**“Meet the Army Commanders!”**

[**http://teachingamericanhistory.org/static/neh/interactives/cmdrs/**](http://teachingamericanhistory.org/static/neh/interactives/cmdrs/)

**President Abraham Lincoln’s Proclamation Calling Militia and Convening Congress, April 15, 1861: http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=411**

**President Jefferson’ Davis’s message to the Confederate Congress, April 29, 1861: http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/csa/m042961.htm**

**Economic**

[**http://teachingamericanhistory.org/static/neh/interactives/civilwar/lesson1/civil\_war.swf**](http://teachingamericanhistory.org/static/neh/interactives/civilwar/lesson1/civil_war.swf)

[**http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/american-civil-war/resources/north-south-comparisons**](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/american-civil-war/resources/north-south-comparisons)

**Diplomatic**

**Speech by Sen. James Henry Hammond (Democrat-South Carolina) before the United States Senate, March 4, 1858:**

[**http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1722**](http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1722)

**“The Secession of Virginia and the American Civil War,” Illustrated London News, May 18, 1861:** [**http://beck.library.emory.edu/iln/browse.php?id=iln38.1089.111**](http://beck.library.emory.edu/iln/browse.php?id=iln38.1089.111)