

21/11/2011 17:42

**Subject:** thesis statement and balanced thread - to the grader



**Sandy  
Cribfield**



Joined:  
16-Mar-  
2011  
Messages:  
3  
Location:  
United  
States of  
America  
Online

"From the outset it was quite clear that the Union would ultimately be victorious in the Civil War" To what extent do you agree with this assessment?

Although the Union had many advantages over the South, such as higher industry, a higher populous with more uniform beliefs between its people, it was not destined to win from the start. From the start, it was anyone's game. If the South had gained the support of the British, they would have won without question. It was Lincoln's decisive foreign affair policy which led to the British not helping the South, as he stated that they were still part of the country, and we were just going through a phase. Also, the South had much better Generals, increasing the efficiency of their lesser numbers. The Union was not destined to win, and although they had several advantages, the South could have won the war.

The Union was much more industrialized throughout the Civil War. They had the ability to produce shoes, guns, and ammunition at a scale large enough for an army. They also had 92% of all pig iron in the country. The abundance of iron led to many new productions, such as the first two iron-clad ships (the confederacy stole one, and later blew it up), and the conical bullet, and the first landmine. The South used rivers as their main form of transportation, and the Mississippi river was as important to them as the Aorta artery is to your very being.

Understandably enough, when the Union placed blockades and prevented Southern ships from using this natural waterway, it was a devastating blow to the South. The North also had railroads, a luxury the South did not have. They could transport their manufactured goods long distances quickly, meaning that their central point of production could remain far North, and bringing the goods west and south would not be an issue. The Union also had the majority of major trans-Atlantic ports, although they were used mostly by the South prior to the war.

Southern refusal to pay tariffs led the Union to shutting down many ports. They were not as independent on the exports associated with ship ports as the south, but they were the only ones who could trade with the British and French at a large scale during the war. Southern blockade runners would try to bypass this issue by bringing their cash crops North for trade, but even then only 15% was exported when compared to their previous trading. Cutting off the South's primary income provided the North with an economic advantage they desperately needed, but it did not stop the Confederates. The Confederacy resorted to growing their own food, and rather than having a standard uniform, they would wear what is called "Patchwork clothing", consisting of the soldier's own wardrobe along with bits of

cloth they would find after battles. It's ironic that the south, being the country's leader in cotton production, struggled to outfit their men with even basic clothing. Although industry is a major Northern advantage, it did not spell catastrophe for the South, and it did not mean they were destined to win. Sheer numbers also put the confederacy at a disadvantage.

The Union had a much more uniform population. Being a cause of Lincoln's election, the North had a majority of republican citizens. The South had mostly democratic citizens, but the democratic party of 1860 was split between 3 different candidates. This meant that the South had to divide their votes, affecting the ultimate president. Aside from differing views among the South, they were also disadvantaged in terms of numbers. The Union had about 2.5 million combat able soldiers, while the South only had about 75000 to 1.1 million. One may question why the war lasted so long, when the south had such few numbers. They even lost a third of their army in just one battle, named the battle of Antietam. The south was able to fight for such a while because they felt like they were preserving their way of life, meaning the soldiers were much more motivated. The Union had many more soldiers because of a larger population to draft from, and also because blacks fought in the war, too. The Secret Society of Friends helped southern Unionists and blacks into the North, where many of them fought. While both sides had internal struggles, the South had much more problematic issues.

Farmers had to resort to Yeomanry, only to have their food taken away by the Confederate army. Logically, this caused many to revolt. Also, most Southerners didn't even own slaves. They thought they were fighting for the rich people who did own slaves. Voters moving from state to state, to change the effects of suffrage, also caused a problem. This led to what is known as "Bleeding Kansas", comparable to a Civil War within a Civil War. The Union did not have problems as great as this, but there was much violence. Northerners actually revolted and rioted for almost a week because they thought that all blacks were the cause of the war. They angry mob actually killed several blacks, and even burned down a black orphanage. Luckily, none of the orphans were injured, and they stayed at the police station until they returned to the originally desired location for the new orphanage. Aside from the internal struggles, the Confederacy was actually a formidable enemy to overcome, and they did have several advantages.

The Confederacy was better than the Union in several aspects. They had 9 of the 10 major service academies, leading to a much better trained commanding force. General Robert E Lee, a west point graduate, never received one demerit during his entire educational career. The best the Union had to offer was Ulysses S Grant, whom at the start of the war was wildly unpopular. It wasn't until later, when he started to prove himself, did the general population accept him as a great leader. One may even consider it a miracle; a drunken cigar smoking fat man won the battle of Gettysburg, which started purely by chance from the South's search for shoes. If the South had gained the support of the

British, we would currently be singing Blue Betty Flag, rather than the star spangled banner. The British favored the Confederacy because of the cotton and textiles exported. Lincoln, miraculously, managed to suppress British interference. He did this by releasing two captured British spies, remarking "One war at a time". The modern day United Kingdom also didn't want to join in the war unless they knew for sure the Confederacy was going to win. This was another reason why they stayed out, and with the Confederate loss of the Battle of Gettysburg, the British knew they were never going to see the Confederacy again. Because of these reasons, the advantaged Union was not destined to win. It could have played either way, and may have been won purely by luck, much like our country's revolutionary war. Industry and a more uniform population both helped, but were not war winning factors. If the British intervened, or if the Confederacy decided to raid another shoe factory, our flag would bear the "Confederate States of America" name, providing an entirely different way of life.

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**Patrick**

**Walsh**

**Atkins**



Really a pretty good essay. If I was marking this with my

11- Knowledge and understanding

11-analysis/argument/quality of answer/balance

3-quality of communication [ out of 25]

method then I would give it

10-very good command of information-difficult to improve on

Joined: 22-  
Jul-2009  
Messages: 8- analysis not quite clear enough- not a coherent enough answer-

clearer answer to 'extent' needed

50  
Location:  
Unspecified  
Offline

2-OK-but bits about 'uniform' not quite clear. Did not read very well.

That was an A grade essay.

For 100% ???? [ and we do like to award 100%- honest]

Clarify the 'extent' part of the answer.

Make sure that each paragraph has a well focussed objective - for example "A key reason why the North was almost certain to win was because it was much more highly industrialised....

Or "The South, however had many strengths which did not make its defeat a foregone conclusion.....with the support of the British and the fact that it had the key Generals...."

To often the answer was implicit in the detail and the basic point not made. I am not paid to work out the answer myself from the information provided-I want to judge the quality of the candidate's answer- so make it very clear.

Patrick

