**Defending Forces**

**Military Resources and Capabilities**

* **Troop Strength**:
  + Maintained a standing force of several hundred thousand active-duty soldiers.
  + Elite units were better trained and equipped than regular forces.
  + Paramilitary forces conducted urban resistance and guerrilla warfare.
  + Morale varied widely, with some forces committed to defense while others surrendered or retreated.
* **Equipment and Technology**:
  + Operated a fleet of aging armored vehicles and battle tanks.
  + Air defense systems were outdated and ineffective against advanced opposition air power.
  + Artillery capabilities were limited in precision and firepower.
  + Lacked modern electronic warfare and night-vision technologies.
* **Logistics and Supply Chains**:
  + Supply lines were heavily disrupted by opposing airstrikes before and during the conflict.
  + Fuel and ammunition shortages significantly weakened defensive operations.
  + Coordination among logistics units was inefficient, leading to disorganization.
* **Intelligence and Surveillance**:
  + Relied on internal intelligence agencies but lacked real-time battlefield surveillance.
  + Minimal aerial reconnaissance and electronic interception capabilities.

**Economic Resources**

* **Defense Budget**:
  + Had a significantly smaller defense budget than the opposition.
  + International sanctions and trade restrictions hindered military modernization.
* **Industrial Base**:
  + Had limited domestic arms production and relied heavily on foreign imports.
  + Key military production facilities were damaged in preemptive airstrikes.
* **Resource Availability**:
  + Possessed vast natural resource reserves but faced extraction and refining challenges.
  + Fuel shortages became a major issue during the battle.
* **Economic Resilience**:
  + The economy was under strain due to long-term trade sanctions and financial restrictions.

**Geographic and Environmental Factors**

* **Terrain**:
  + The urban setting provided opportunities for defensive guerrilla tactics.
  + Bridges, highways, and waterways were key for movement but were targeted by opposing forces.
* **Climate and Weather**:
  + Hot desert conditions posed operational challenges.
  + Sandstorms occasionally disrupted visibility, affecting both sides.
* **Strategic Location**:
  + The capital was a key political and military center.
  + The loss of the capital would mean the collapse of central command.

**Political and Diplomatic Resources**

* **Alliances and Partnerships**:
  + Lacked strong international military alliances.
  + Some non-state actors provided symbolic support but had little impact on conventional warfare.
* **International Law and Norms**:
  + Framed its defense as resistance against foreign intervention.
  + Had limited diplomatic backing due to its international reputation.
* **Domestic Political Support**:
  + The government maintained control through a centralized authoritarian structure.
  + Internal divisions existed, with some citizens opposing the regime and others resisting foreign occupation.

**Human and Social Resources**

* **Population Size and Demographics**:
  + Had a significant population but relied heavily on conscription.
  + Many combat forces were young and had minimal formal training.
* **Morale and Cohesion**:
  + Morale was inconsistent; elite units remained committed while many regular forces surrendered.
  + Widespread fear of overwhelming opposition firepower led to mass desertions.
* **Education and Skills**:
  + Officers were trained in outdated military doctrines.
  + Lack of expertise in modern warfare technologies.

**Technological and Scientific Capabilities**

* **Research and Development (R&D)**:
  + Limited investment in military research due to economic restrictions.
  + Lacked the capacity to develop advanced weapons independently.

**Energy and Infrastructure**

* **Energy Security**:
  + Possessed vast natural resources but lacked refining and distribution capacity.
  + Opposition forces targeted energy infrastructure.
* **Transportation Networks**:
  + Major transportation routes were disrupted or blocked.
* **Communication Systems**:
  + Military communications were outdated and easily intercepted.
  + Cyber attacks further weakened command and control systems.

**Cultural and Psychological Factors**

* **National Will**:
  + Government propaganda aimed to rally public support.
  + Citizens were divided between loyalty to the regime and resentment toward foreign occupation.
* **Psychological Resilience**:
  + Faced severe psychological strain due to overwhelming opposition superiority.
  + Desertions increased as opposition forces advanced.

**Legal and Ethical Considerations**

* **Compliance with International Law**:
  + Claimed self-defense as justification for military actions.
  + Had a history of human rights violations, affecting international legitimacy.
* **Ethical Implications**:
  + Accused of using civilian areas for military operations.
  + Reports emerged regarding mistreatment of prisoners on both sides.