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WHY THE SOUTH LOST THE CIVIL WAR

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Like many other events in history, there is debate over the Civil War. The controversy involves debate over reasons why the South lost. Many people believe the South lost, because the North had better numbers, determination, and leadership. Others believe the South lost, because it had poor resources, morale, number of victories, military commanders, and determination. Ultimately, the South lost the Civil War, because the North was stronger in its morale and in its military.

There are historians who believe the South lost because of the North's strengths. The North had more men and class than did the South, according to William C. Davis. He says the North just plain won the war. Carl Zebrowski believes Lincoln's determination was the reason why the North won. With all the destruction around the people in the South, it was a miracle they stayed in the war. James M. McPherson thought the South lost, because the North had superior numbers and resources, but most likely because of superior leadership.

Other historians think the South lost because of its own problems. A leading historian Robert Krick says the South had inferior resources in military personnel and equipment. The North had twenty-one million in population, the South only seven million. The South didn't have enough soldiers to match up with the North. Brian Pohanka says man-for-man the South was better, but they didn't have industry or man-power or foreign recognition. The South fought with courage, but it was a lost

cause. Unlike the North, the South lacked a moral center, something the whole Confederacy could grasp onto and fight for, according to Noah A. Trudeau. Another historian, Gary Gallagher, says its simple, the South just didn't win enough victories probably because all their commanders, besides Robert E. Lee, were weak. Richard McMurray also asserts that the South's military commanders caused them to lose. General Wheeler went joy-riding; Polk and Hardee undermined commanding general Bragg. Finally, Herman Hattaway believes the South just didn't want to win. The South had a loss of will. These historians suppose that the loss of war was a result of the South's own problems.

The North was much stronger in morale than the South was. It takes military strength to win wars, but it also takes confidence and a country that supports its leader to win wars. The people in the North supported Abraham Lincoln during the first two years of losing in the Civil War, which was what Zebrowski said. The South wasn't behind Jefferson Davis the way the North was behind Abraham Lincoln. The people believed in Lincoln, because he was determined to win the war. Abraham Lincoln went threw several Union commanders before he came to Ulysses S. Grant. The weak generals before Grant didn't have much success. Lincoln turned to Grant. Grant lost many soldiers early in his tenure, but Lincoln had confidence in his commander. Grant obviously remembered Lincoln standing up for him, because his supreme commanding skills showed through. His strategy to

completely destroy the South helped the Union win, according to McPherson. The North, led by Lincoln, was committed to preserving the Union. It was the one constant that bound the North together, as Trudeau points out. The South had nothing in common to link themselves together like the North did.

The North was also much stronger than the South in military. According to legend, the South had better generals, but they actually only had Robert E. Lee. All the other generals were weak, like Zebrowski said. Toward the end of the war, military leadership was strong for the North. Grant was in his prime; Sherman and Sheridan were devastating the South, like McPherson asserts. Confederate generals, Joseph Johnston, Albert Johnston, and Braxton were losing, according to Gallagher. The North's strong military leadership inspired soldiers to fight--a reason for the Confederate generals to lose. The North strongly supplied resources for their army better than the South did. The North had more people than the South, according to Krick. They could supply their army with more men than the South could. The North also manufactured guns, clothing, and other fighting essentials--their industrial base that Pohanka points out. The West supplied the North with food, and the North controlled the railroads. So, the North had the better military.

The South lost the Civil War because the North was stronger in its morale and in its military. The South may have had its problems, but the North was much too strong for the South.