

**Primary
Evidence****American History
Essay**

From 1861 to 1865, the American Civil War became an integral part of our nation's history. The Union, also known as the North and the Confederacy (South), was in a heated battle for several issues. From states' rights to slavery and even the authority of the federal government - every issue was at stake during this devastating war that would forever change America. The American Civil War was a pivotal moment in American history that transformed the country in several ways, including the end of slavery, the shift in power between the federal government and the states, and the changes brought about during the Reconstruction era, with the Union ultimately winning due to their ability to produce supplies and weapons, their population advantage, and effective military leadership.

Explanation

The North had several advantages at the outset of the Civil War. The Union had a larger population and a more extensive transportation system, including railroads and waterways. The North also had a more significant industrial capacity, with factories that could produce weapons and supplies. Additionally, the North had a more extensive network of banking and financial institutions, which allowed the Union to fund the war effort more effectively. While on the other hand, the South had several advantages as well. The Confederacy had more experienced military leaders, as many United States Army officers were from Southern states. The South also had a more significant agricultural economy, with vast plantations that produced cotton, tobacco, and other crops. The Confederacy believed their agricultural output was essential to the British and French economies and hoped they would intervene in the war to support the South.

Ultimately, the North won the war for several reasons. First, the Union's industrial capacity and ability to produce supplies and weapons were crucial. The Union blockade of Southern ports prevented the South from receiving supplies and support from foreign countries.

**Secondary
Evidence**

The North's population advantage also allowed them to field more soldiers than the Confederacy, giving them a numerical advantage in battles. Finally, the Union's military leadership, including General Ulysses S. Grant, was more effective in coordinating military strategy.

The Civil War transformed the United States in many ways. The most significant change was the end of slavery, which had been a divisive issue since the country's founding. On December 18th, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment was passed into law, legally abolishing slavery in the United States of America. The Civil War also marked a shift in the balance of power between the federal government and the states. Before the war, many Southern states believed in states' rights, which held that the states should have more power than the federal government. The Union victory in the Civil War cemented the idea that the federal government was the ultimate authority in the United States. The Reconstruction era that followed the Civil War was also a time of significant change. The Freedmen's Bureau, established in 1865, helped newly freed slaves find work, education, and legal support. In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified and gave all people -- regardless of their background or prior enslavement -- born in or naturalized to the United States full citizenship rights. Republican rule in the South during Reconstruction led to the election of African American officials, including Hiram Revels, who became the first African American senator in 1870. However, Reconstruction also saw significant resistance from white Southern Democrats, who formed groups such as the Ku Klux Klan to intimidate and terrorize African Americans.

In conclusion, the American Civil War was a turning point in American history, resulting in significant changes to the United States. While the North had several advantages at the outset of the war, the Union's ability to produce supplies and weapons, their population advantage, and effective military leadership ultimately led to their victory. The end of slavery, the shift in the

balance of power between the federal government and the states, and the changes brought about during the Reconstruction era all contributed to a transformed United States after the Civil War.

