

Goal 3.01: U.S. History



Economic Resources of the North and South in 1860

Closely examine the chart of data below. Consider these facts when evaluating the causes of the Civil War.

Resource	North (Numbers)	North (Percentages)	South (Numbers)	South (Percentages)
Farmland	105,835 acres	65%	56,832 acres	35%
Railroad Track	21,847 miles	71%	8,947 miles	29%
Value of Manufactured Goods	\$1,794,417,000	92%	\$155,552,000	8%
Factories	119,500	85%	20,600	15%
Workers in Industry	1,198,000	92%	111,000	8%
Population	22,340,000	63%	9,103,000 (3,954,000 slaves)	37%

1. As the war approached, why were Southerners claiming that they were fighting to maintain their way of life?
2. Were Southerners states prepared for life without slavery?
3. What do these figures tell us about the chances of the South being able to win the Civil War?
4. What do these figures tell us about a balance of political power between the North and South?
5. If the North had 65% of the nation's farmland, why were they not dependent upon slavery for their economic activities?
6. Speculate on the difference between what Northern factories manufactured and on what Southern factories manufactured.
7. Think back to the colonial era when the South led the nation in many ways. Speculate on how they must have felt about their role as national leaders at the dawning of the Civil War.