

Was fighting the Civil War worth the cost to our nation?

YOU DECIDE

Deaths



- 670,000 Americans died (including civilians)
- = more than American Revolution, War of 1812, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War combined!
- 1 in 3 Confederate soldiers died
1 in 6 Union soldiers died

Money Spent



- About \$8 Billion was spent fighting the war (total for both sides)
- Today that would be about \$160 Billion
- Compare: This year, the U.S. will spend \$122 Billion fighting the war in Afghanistan

Slaves Freed



- Although it wasn't Lincoln's original goal, over 4 million slaves were given freedom as a result of the war.
 - 13th amendment gives freedom
 - 14th amendment gives citizenship and equality
 - 15th amendment gives right to vote
- Being new citizens, slaves after the war could learn to read, travel freely, make their own money, marry, and vote.
- Many whites were threatened by the freedom of slaves after the war. Racism was common and freedoms were restricted.
- At an average cost of \$1000/slave, the South lost \$4 Billion in "human property" when the slaves were freed.

Hardships for Soldiers



During the war, soldiers faced many horrible circumstances.

- 50,000 soldiers lost a limb due to amputation.
- Soldiers lived outside for 4 years – eating bad food, walking for miles – many without proper clothes or shoes.
- Soldiers were rarely able to see their families.
- Soldiers saw death on a regular basis and had to deal with the loss of many friends and fellow soldiers. Some had trouble coping with the horrors they saw.

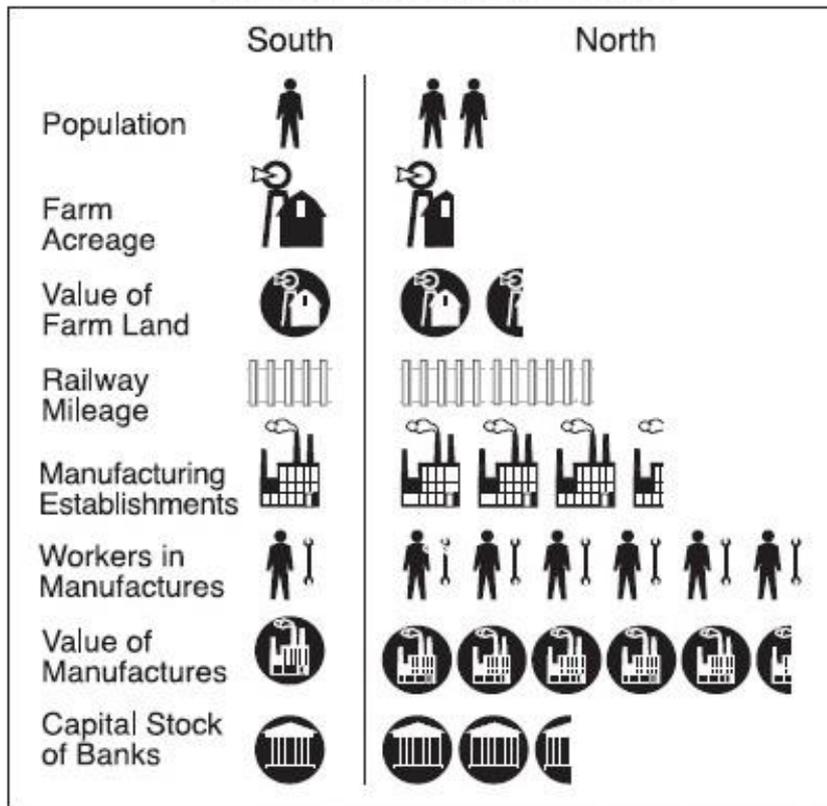
Destruction in South



- **Soldiers returned home to farms, businesses, and entire cities that were severely burned and destroyed.**
- **Southern civilians had to live with fear of invasion, theft of their crops and animals, and disruption to every part of their lives.**
- **Land was left uncultivated, so very little was growing.**
- **Bridges were burned and railroads were ripped up.**
- **Houses had been ransacked and sometimes lived-in by Union officers.**
- **Rebuilding provided job opportunities for newly freed slaves and other workers**

The U.S. Remains One Country, Not Two

The Year 1860: A Comparison



Source: Melvin Schwartz and John R. O'Connor, *Exploring American History*, Globe Book Co. (adapted)

If the North had let the South secede

- It would send a message to the rest of the world that our democracy (only about 100 years old at the time) was a failed experiment.
- The South (by itself) would have been very dependent on the sale of cotton (and slave labor to pick it) for its wealth. Would it have been a successful country by itself? Look at the chart.
- The North and South would not be as strong separately as together. How would the world wars of the 20th century have turned out differently without a united America?
- The two separate countries (North and South) could have decided whether they wanted slavery, without blood being shed in a war.

Thank You