Fitzgerald

Topic 6 civil War – Union and Confederate Strategies

Read the following description of the Union and Confederate strategies and then draw on the attached map symbols that indicate these strategies.

**Union Strategy**

The Union strategy to win the war had three key goals. The first two goals formed what is known as the Anaconda Plan, which would eliminate all help from outside the Confederacy. The Union would fully blockade all Southern coasts, preventing the Confederacy from importing goods that would help them in the war effort and from making any money by exporting their cotton. The Union would also gain control of the Mississippi River. The Confederates would not be able to use the river to transport goods or troops, and Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas would be separated from the other Confederate states. As the Anaconda Plan would take a long time, the Union would seek to break the morale of the South and keep General Robert E. Lee busy by fighting to capture the Southern capital, Richmond, Virginia.

**Confederate Strategy**

The [Confederate States of America](http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h4015.html) recognized from the outset of the Civil War that they had disadvantages in terms of population and industrial output. The Confederates relied on the fact that they did not need to occupy and hold Northern territory; they need only defend their homeland, not defeat the Union. Defending their homeland would give Confederate soldiers a stronger reason to fight. The Confederates also believed they could take advantage of their military heritage, as their leaders and soldiers were better trained by far. They also believed that Britain, with its heavy dependence on Southern cotton to supply its textile mills, would assist them in their fight for independence. Thus they would be able to hold out until Northerners tired of the war.

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