SS.912.A.2 - Civil War and Reconstruction – Example 1 Answer

Use the following quote and your knowledge of US History to answer the following question.

"This country will be drenched in blood. The people of the North are not going to let the country be destroyed without a mighty effort to save it. Besides, where are your men and appliances of war to contend against them? You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical and determined people on earth - right at your doors. Only in spirit and determination are you prepared for war. In all else you are totally unprepared."

The quote above was spoken by William T. Sherman upon hearing the news that the southern states had begun to secede. Which of the following is Sherman's projection as the outcome and/or consequence of southern secession?

A. There will be a war in which the South will win due to their militaristic nature and abundance of weapons.

B. There will be a war in which the South will win due to their governmental dominance and obvious determination.

C. There will be a war in which the North will win due to their technological advancements and lack of southern military.

D. There will be a war in which the North will win due to their stability though political, social, and economic conditions.

Answer

C. There will be a war in which the North will win due to their technological advancements and lack of southern military.

The North was the more industrialized side and better equipped for the coming war. They had a larger population and more a more effective railroad system as well. And although the South possessed a better crop of military leaders most historian agree that Abraham Lincoln was a better leader than Jefferson Davis (president of the Confederacy).

The advantages enjoyed by the North at the start of the American Civil War should have pointed toward a short confrontation, in line with General Winfield Scott’s initial estimation. Even a worried but confident Abraham Lincoln perceived his response as a “police action” designed to bring the recalcitrant states back in the Union. Yet it was the immense advantages of the North that ultimately allowed the Union cause to prevail as war goals and strategies transformed into unconditional surrender.
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