**American Civil War**

The civil war which was fought from 1861 to 1865 began as a result of uncompromising differences that emerged between the slaves’ states and the Free states concerning the supremacy of the national government in outlawing slavery in regions that were not yet declared states. The war involved the south and the north where the south for various reasons as discussed below were eventually defeated. The American civil war was the largest and the most damaging conflict in the western world in the course and the end of the Napoleonic era. Even though it has been contended that the souths downfall was because of the appointment of weak generals and poor tactics in the military, their defeat was also as a result of not being in a better economic position to wage a successful war.

To begin with, the south was despairingly out supplied and outgunned and thus the North was capable of repressing the Southern economy with the Anaconda plan which was a naval barrier of the southern harbors. The south even though were capable of temporarily putting a dent in the barrier with barricade ironclads and running ship and in general they were unable to halt it away and hence they were not able to raise currency in order to get supplies and weapons which they were not able to manufacture by themselves (Foglesong, 2014). The north had greater manpower than the south, overall. With this, the north assembled a bigger army and workforce. Still, the south did make use of their slaves to their advantage. The north even though they not really have access to it either they were advantageous because they money from customs from trade and gold reserves which mostly assisted them in the course of the war and thus they did not have to rectify the tax and acts as the south did. The Northern side also had a much sturdier economy, that was in good shape of recovering from inflation more better than the south.

In addition the south applied a lot of obsolete weapons due to lack of enough manpower unlike the north that had the most recent weapons and they were able to produce them easily as a result of economic progression. For instant, even when capturing weapons such as repeating rifles the south were not able to make cartridges and ammunition that required in the war. Thus when compared to the south the north had greater wealth for war effort as they has a reinforced economy which was as a result of industrialization (Foglesong, 2014). Their values of exports and manufactures, bank deposits, capital stock in back were all better than the south. Eventually the south would overprint their currency and thus causing inflation. Thus I believe the economic weakness of the south greatly affected the outcome of the war as the south was not able to sustain the war for a greater period of time since they also made costly decision in the course of the war and ended up losing valuable cotton trade with Britain.

In conclusion, the north destroyed the south economy and introducing total war. The invading Union army destroyed a lot of properties including the few factories and railroads that were in the south as well as burning cities and plantations. This drastically weakened the south to an extent of easily being defeated for the first time in the history of US war. Even though the European nations as part of an economic cooperation agreed to sell weapons to the south the north responded with naval blockades which were a part of anaconda plan to strangle the south.

There is no discussion of “the South's ability to benefit from a defensive position”.

**Work Cited**

Foglesong, D. S. (2014). America's secret war against Bolshevism: US intervention in the Russian Civil War, 1917-1920. UNC Press Books.