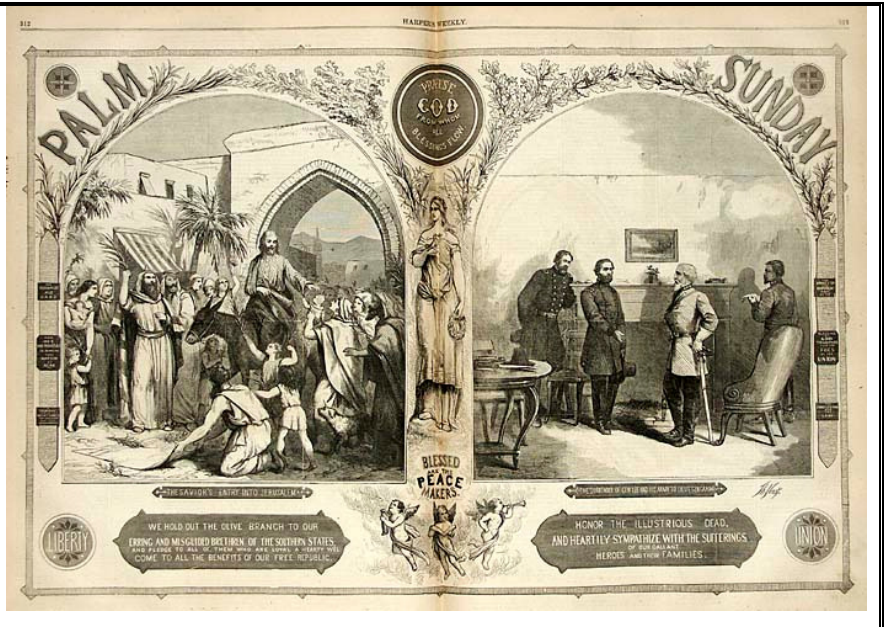


# REASONS FOR THE UNION VICTORY

A Harper's drawing of the surrender at Appomattox (9 April 1865)



1. Far greater Union material advantages: “The Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources”—Robert E. Lee
  - a. 21 to 5 million free population
  - b. 10 times dollar value of manufactured goods; 38 times the coal production; 2 times the railroad mileage; 25 times the naval tonnage
  - c. These advantages didn’t make a Union victory inevitable...

*Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard said that “no people ever warred for independence with more relative advantages than the Confederacy; and if they must have failed, then no country must aim at freedom by means of war.”*

...but it did help

2. Anaconda Plan
  - a. Gave Union forces ability to split the Confederacy, and then push eastward
  - b. Prevented British naval support or Southern exports (for cash or weapons)
  - c. The plan was implemented, and the successes in 1864 and 1865 were based on the foundation that this plan gave the Union

### 3. AWOL Confederate forces

Jefferson Davis in 1864 said that 2/3 of the Confederate soldiers were absent, most of them AWOL: “If one-half the men now absent without leave will return to duty, we can defeat the enemy.”

Reasons: disaffection with war, and lack of food

### 4. Willingness of Grant to fight (and Lincoln’s promotion of him)

He led the first victories of the Union (in the West), and then launched the Overland Campaign against Lee in 1864 that wore down Lee’s army (with almost twice as many men, Grant took almost twice as many casualties, to reduce Lee’s army to the point of surrender).