

Harrison Roberts

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Dear Robert E. Lee,

I don't know how much longer we can do this. They outnumber us in every way and our citizens are struggling. Is it even worth fighting for? We need a change if we want to win this War and I need your help. I understand that we have plenty experience to beat them, but we need to get our resources sorted first. I'd like to meet up soon, if possible, to discuss our shortages, and what we can do about the blockade. Printing money won't work forever. This War is starting to take a toll on our economy and army, and we will lose if we don't destroy the blockade.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Davis

*Letter from Jefferson Davis to Robert E. Lee (August 1863)*

To what extent do sources A-D support the notion that the South was bound to lose the War?

Source A is the strongest to support the idea that the South was bound to lose the War. The document directly supports this notion in the line "we will lose the War," and all the reasoning and hardships listed in the South. Davis mentions the Anaconda Plan being used by the North to drain southern resources and considering this was written a couple years after the start of the War, the Anaconda Plan likely has drained most of the South's resources. This was written the month after Gettysburg, which was considered the turning point of the War, so it is expected that worry started to build up among southern leaders. The only part of this document that doesn't support the idea that the South was bound to lose the War is the fact that Davis shows hope, like when he said "we have plenty experience to beat them." This source can be trusted as well, as it is a private letter from the southern president sent to a trusted and respected general. This means that Davis will not display fake confidence to try to impress the audience, so honesty can be expected. Assessing the importance of the source credibility and doubts presented by Davis in this source, one can see why it is the best source to support the idea that the South was bound to lose the War, as it is a private letter, and he admits winning will be a great challenge.