

Confederate Invasions – The Union In Peril
Part 1 – The Maryland Campaign: Antietam and Emancipation
Class Notes

Lecture 2 – “You Are All Green Alike”: Campaigns of 1861-1862

A. Both Sides Mobilize

- North has advantages in manpower; manufacturing; and railroad network
- South has advantages in 3.5 million slaves; armed state militias; geography
- U.S. military has only 15,000 men; 42 ships (only 3 ready on 15 Apr)
- Many Southern officers resign, join Confederacy
- Lee turns down command of Federal forces; Goes with Virginia

B. Political & Military Strategies

- Lincoln and Davis – contrasting Commanders-in-Chief
- Union Strategy: Scott’s Anaconda Plan – Subdue south with minimum of bloodshed
- Southern Strategy: Defend the homeland and erode Union public support
- Northern Pressure to Act: On to Richmond

C. Eastern Theater – First Manassas; McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign

- First Manassas/Bull Run (21 July 1861) – demolishes many myths
- Rise of McClellan - “Little Napoleon”
- Lincoln forced to become his own general-in-chief
- Peninsula Campaign (April-May 1862) – plan to flank Confederate defenses
- Army of Potomac, 100,000 strong, advances slowly, cautiously
- Battle of Seven Pines – Johnston wounded; Lee assumes command
- Jackson’s Valley Campaign – one bright spot for Confederacy

D. Western Theater – 1862 Early Union Successes – Grant Emerges

- Grant captures Forts Henry & Donelson in February 1861
- Nashville is abandoned by retreating Confederates
- Battle of Pea Ridge (8 March): Union victory
- Battle of Shiloh (6-7 April): Grant again victorious
- New Orleans falls to Admiral Farragut on 25 April
- Halleck’s Union forces capture Memphis on 6 June

E. Political Dimension

- Despite Union successes in the Western Theater, the key to victory in the Civil War is the public's "will to continue" in the face of mounting costs.
- The Eastern Theater paramount, with both capitals and largest portion of populations.
- As Lincoln knew: "Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail. Without it nothing can succeed. He who molds opinion is greater than he who enacts laws."

F. Confederate Reversal of Fortune – Lee's Seven Days Campaign

- Lee Takes Command: Joe Johnston wounded at Seven Pines on 31 May
- Lee background: West Point; Mexican War hero; Virginian; offered Union command; leads Virginia Militia; military adviser to Davis
- Interim 1-26 June: McClellan inches closer to Richmond; while Lee reorganizes and renames Army of Northern Virginia
- Seven Days Battles: Lee moves first. Take the offensive on 26 June. In five battles, his army suffers 20,000 casualties. But he halts Union offensive (16,000 Union casualties). Army of Potomac is driven back to James River at Harrison Landing.
- McClellan is "out-generaled" by Lee and discredited in the eyes of his superiors, including Lincoln. His caution and retreat in the face of Lee's audacity snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.
- 23 Jul – 3 Aug: Halleck replaces McClellan as general-in-chief; orders McClellan to withdraw his army and return to Washington