

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

**Lecture 3 – Confederates Gamble on a Bold Strategy: Invade the North**

**A. Review: Repercussions of McClellan’s failed Peninsula Campaign**

**B. June-Aug – John Pope organizes Army of Virginia (40,000 men)**

**C. Confederate Strategic Objectives: Take the Offensive - Two Invasions of North**

- Recruit soldiers in border states of Kentucky & Maryland
- Seek tactical military victories
- Take the war into northern territory; create panic; gather food & fodder
- Exploit weakening northern public support for the war
- Influence November mid-term elections in North. Help Peace Democrats
- Gain foreign recognition – England & France need Southern cotton for textile mills

**D. Kentucky Campaign: August – October 1862**

- Two Confederate armies under Braxton Bragg & E. Kirby Smith invade Kentucky
- Battle of Perryville – Union commander Buell defeats Confederate Bragg
- No Confederate objectives are achieved

**E. Second Manassas: 28 - 30 August 1862**

- Confederates route Pope’s army – another failed Union commander
- Utter confusion in Washington. Remnants of two defeated armies fill the town.
- How will Lee exploit victory?

**F. Maryland Campaign: 3 – 20 September: Lee’s Bold Move to End War**

- Lee convinces Davis to keep the initiative by an invasion of northern territory
- Lee’s army is weakened by casualties & poorly equipped. But, morale is high.
- Confederate invasion causes panic in north – a national emergency
- Lincoln reluctantly turns again to McClellan to take charge; move against Lee
- Emancipation: Lincoln seeks to use Presidential war powers to end slavery in states under rebellion. Viewed as a necessity of war to deny slave labor to the rebels. Cabinet urges caution, delay pending Union military victory

**G. Opening Military Moves - A Campaign of Three’s**

- Special Order 191: Lee’s audacious plan to eliminate threat to his rear.

- Lee divides his army into 5 parts in enemy territory
- McClellan moves quickly to consolidate, reequip & resupply Army of Potomac.
- Jackson begins Harpers Ferry mini-campaign 10-14 September
- Union garrison of almost 12,000 troops threatens Lee's rear
- Strategic location is indefensible due to surrounding heights
- Jackson approaches from three sides; seizes heights; places artillery
- 14 September: Jackson's artillery begins shelling Harpers Ferry

**H. Intelligence Coup:** On 13 Sep. lost copy of Lee's Special Order 191 delivered to McClellan in Frederick. McClellan has Lee's plan! He does virtually nothing to exploit this opportunity for 18 hours.

### **I. Battle of South Mountain – 14 September 1862**

- Lee seeks to delay Union approach until Jackson can seize Harpers Ferry
- Three passes are "choke points" that offer the only Union access to Lee's army
- Lee has less than 10,000 men to hold against 3 Union Corps (30,000 men)
- Confederates hold all day; fall back after dark. McClellan fails to pursue
- Evening of 14 Sep. is critical moment. Lee's army is open to destruction.

### **J. Harper's Ferry Surrenders on 15 September**

- Almost 12,000 Union troops - largest U.S. surrender in history until WWII
- Huge number of supplies captured (13,000 rifles, 200 wagons, 73 artillery pieces)
- Jackson begins moving men north in late afternoon of 15th.

### **K. McClellan Advances Slowly - Union Opportunity Missed**

- 15 September – Moves Union Army to east bank of Antietam Creek
- 16 September – Content with scouting; preparing to attack
- Lee uses critical time to complete Harpers Ferry capture, reunite his army
- McClellan, Intelligence Chief Pinkerton consistently inflate enemy troop strength.