American Civil War, 1861 to 1865, Volume III The Foreign Intervention

A historical simulation

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As a Military Historian I rely on a summary of the historical fact, I analyze and highlight the decisive factors, before simulating hypotheses "what if…" hypotheses through a board game. In the simulation, all possibilities of the purpose of the study are completed, when the past of history is analyzed based on the theory of the present and projected for similar situations in the future. Since 2010 I have published the following series of simulations: I. Historical Simulation of the Wars of the First Empires; II. Historical Simulation of the Wars in Classical Greece; III. Historical Simulation of the Roman Wars; IV. Historical Simulation of Wars in the Medieval Era; V. Historical Simulation of Wars in the Modern Era (1453 to 1774); VI. Historical Simulation of Wars in the Age of Revolutions (1775 to 1860); VII. Historical Simulation of Wars in the Industrial Age (1861 to 1913); VIII. Historical Simulation of the First World War; IX. Historical Simulation of World War II; X. Historical Simulation of the Cold War (1917 to 1991); and XI. Historical Simulation of Contemporary Wars (1991 to ...).

Keywords: History. Art of War. Science of War. War Games.

HISTORICAL FACT

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Root Cause and Onset

Between April 12, 1861, and May 26, 1865, in the United States, between the Union ("the North") and the Confederacy ("the South"), which was formed in 1861 by states that had seceded from the Confederacy. The central cause of the war was a dispute over whether slavery should be allowed to expand into the western territories, leading to more slave states, or be outlawed, which many believed would set it on a course toward eventual extinction.

The future of slavery in the territories caused a series of political crises. These crises led to a series of legislative compromises designed to assuage Southern fears that slavery would be abolished. These compromises were designed to maintain a provisional Southern equality in the Senate. The South believed that as long as this balance of votes was maintained, they would legally have the power to prevent the emancipation of slaves.

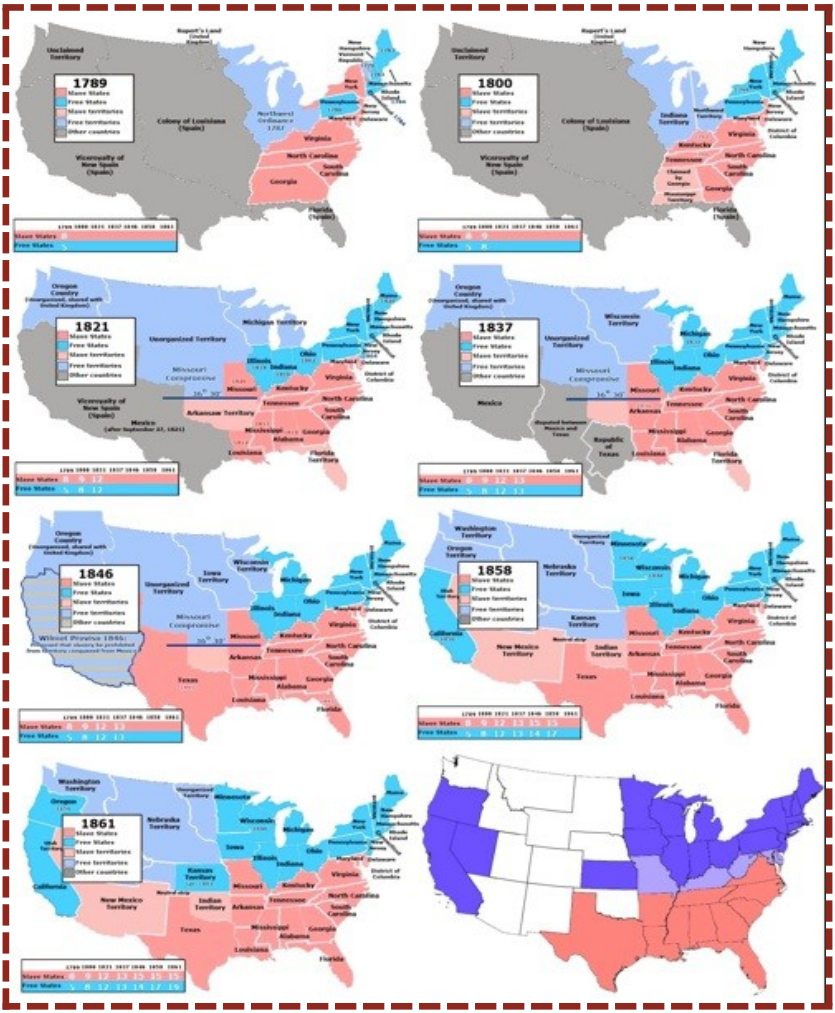
From this series of political compromises and public debates, four basic positions evolved. The hard-line Southern perspective was that slavery should be allowed to expand without restriction. The "home rule" position, as

articulated by Stephen Douglas, was that each local community should decide whether the state should be slave or free. The Republican Party platform, as represented by Abraham Lincoln, was that slavery could continue where it already existed, but no expansion into the territories was tolerable. Finally, the abolitionist position was that the institution should be eliminated immediately. It was the evolution of these four basic positions that caused the collapse of the two-party system when the Whig Party fractured in the 1850s.

Out of the ashes of the Whig Party emerged the Republican Party, which focused and sharpened the regional issues associated with slavery. The 1860 election saw each of the four candidates represent one of these positions, except abolition. The moderate appeal of the Republican position in the North culminated in the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. Lincoln’s election sparked a secession crisis when South Carolina declared that it had withdrawn from the United States. Before Lincoln's inauguration, President Buchanan did little, as several other states followed South Carolina's lead, resulting in the formation of the Confederate States of America.

Playing it safe, Lincoln did not act immediately after his inauguration, instead attempting to keep the border states in the Union while maneuvering the newly declared Confederate States of America into open hostilities and rebellion. The firing at Fort Sumter gave Lincoln the casus

belli he needed. With his call for volunteers, Virginia and other states left the Union, and the Civil War began.



Img 1: United States until the First Civil War.

In Img 1: evolution of the border, with the slave states (in red) and abolitionist states (in blue), from 1789 to 1861; and in the last map, below right, the Union with the states in blue and the Confederacy with the states in red.

Other Alleged Causes

In alphabetical order.

Antebellum South

(From the Latin ante bellum, literally before war) was a period in the history of the Southern United States that extended from the conclusion of the War of 1812 to the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861. It was marked by the prevalent practice of slavery and the associated social norms it fostered.

During this period, Southern leaders underwent a transformation in their perspective on slavery. Initially viewed as a strange and temporary institution, it gradually evolved into a cherished concept, with proponents arguing for its positive merits while simultaneously vehemently opposing the growing abolitionist movement. The society was stratified, unequal, and perceived by immigrants as lacking opportunities, and consequently the manufacturing base lagged behind that of the non-slaveholding states.

Wealth inequality grew as the largest landowners took the lion's share of the profits generated by enslaved people, which also helped to consolidate their power as a political

class. As the country expanded westward, the spread of slavery became a major issue in national politics, eventually spilling over into the Civil War.

Lost Cause

In the years following the Civil War, it was romanticized by historical revisionists (and deniers) to protect three central claims: that the Confederate cause was heroic, that enslaved people were happy and content, and that slavery was not the primary cause of the war. This phenomenon has continued to this day to contribute to racism (*), gender bias, and religious attitudes in the South and, to a lesser extent, the rest of the country. Professional historians have been dismantling this Lost Cause myth.

(*) Modern science considers the concept of "human races" to be a social construct, an identity assigned based on rules established by societies. Although partly based on physical similarities within groups, the term "race" has no inherent physical or biological meaning in the human species.

Economic

The Panic of 1857 was a financial crisis in the United States caused by the decline of the international economy and the over expansion of the domestic economy. Because of Samuel F. Morse's invention of the telegraph in 1844, this "Panic" was the first financial crisis to spread

rapidly throughout the United States. The world economy was more interconnected in the 1850s, making this one of the first global economic crises.

The result of the Panic of 1857 was that the largely agrarian Southern economy, which had few railroads, suffered little, but the Northern economy took a significant hit and was slower to recover. The area most affected by the crisis was the Great Lakes region, and the problems of that region were quickly passed on to businesses in the East that depended on sales to the West. Within about a year, much of the economy in the North and the entire South had recovered.

By 1859, tensions between the North and South over the issue of slavery in the United States were rising. The Panic of 1857 emboldened those in the South who believed that the North needed them to maintain a stable economy, and Southern threats of secession were temporarily suppressed. Southerners also believed that the crisis had made the North more receptive to Southern demands and would help keep slavery alive in the United States.

Nullity

This idea became increasingly associated with issues of sectional conflict and slavery. The best-known statement of nullification theory during this period, authored by John C. Calhoun, was the South Carolina Exposition and Protest of 1828. Calhoun argued that the Tariff of 1828, which favored the industrial states of the North and

disadvantaged the agricultural states of the South, was unconstitutional.

Calhoun argued that each state, as "an essential attribute of sovereignty," has the right to judge the extent of its own powers and the allocation of power between the state and the federal government. Calhoun argued that each state therefore necessarily has a "veto," or a "right of interposition," with respect to acts of the federal government that the state believes invade its rights.

Political Parties

American electoral politics has been dominated by successive pairs of major political parties since shortly after the founding of the United States republic. This party system materialized from two realignments in 1828. The first realignment was of several Democratic-Republican voting blocs realigning into the newly formed Democratic Party, which acted as the successor to the entire Democratic-Republican Party, as the conservative party of the slaveholding areas of the South and the non-coastal counties of the North.

The second realignment in 1828 was of Federalist-aligned voters who formed the Clay and Adams factions on the North Shore, realigning into the National Republican Party in 1828. This northern base of Republicans, along with wealthy slaveholders from the Southern slaveholding centers and anti-Masons in Vermont, Massachusetts, upstate New York, and Pennsylvania, realigned into the

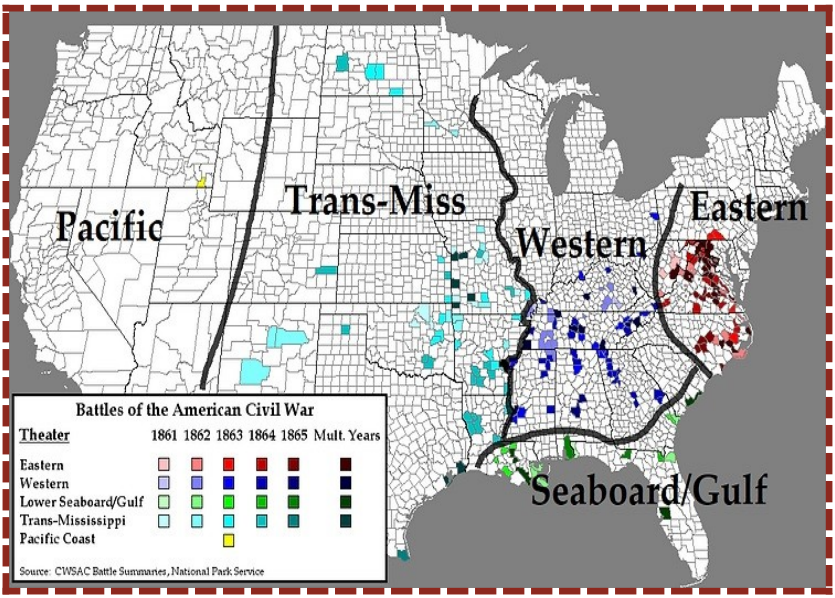
newly formed Whig Party in 1836. With the collapse of the Whig Party in 1856, a Whig coalition unaffected by the Free Soil movement in New England and the Great Lakes region realigned into the Know Nothing ticket that same year and then into the Constitutional Union Party in 1860.

In 1854 the Republican Party emerged to combat the expansion of slavery into western territories following the passage of the Kansas–Nebraska Act. The early Republican Party consisted of northern Protestants, factory workers, professionals, businessmen, prosperous farmers, and, after the Civil War, former black slaves. It had very little support from white Southerners and Irish and German Catholics, who overwhelmingly supported the Democratic Party.

Secessionist

It refers primarily to the voluntary withdrawal of one or more states from the Union that constitutes the United States (U.S.). Threats and aspirations of secession from the United States, or arguments justifying it, have been a feature of U.S. politics almost since its inception. Some have defended secession as a constitutional right, others as a natural right arising from revolution. The most serious attempt at secession was made in 1860–61, when 11 Southern states declared secession from the United States and united to form the Confederate States of America, a procedure that the U.S. government refused to accept. In the history of the United States, the only territories that have been withdrawn from the country are

the small historical portions of the so-called Louisiana Purchase north of the 49th parallel north, established as the boundary between the United States and the United Kingdom (now Canada) by the Treaty of 1818; and the territory of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, which became independent after the Treaty of Manila.

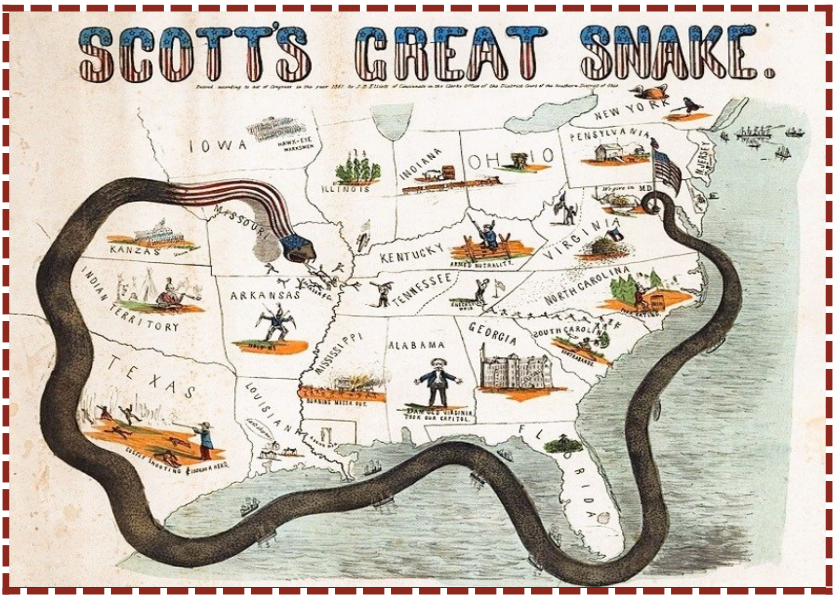


Img 2: Theaters of the War.

Theaters of the War

The Western Theater of the American Civil War encompassed major military operations in the states of Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee, as well as Louisiana east of the Mississippi River.

Operations on the southern coasts of these states, except Mobile Bay, were considered part of the Lower Coast Theater. Most other operations east of the Appalachian Mountains were part of the Eastern Theater. Operations west of the Mississippi River occurred in the Trans-Mississippi Theater.

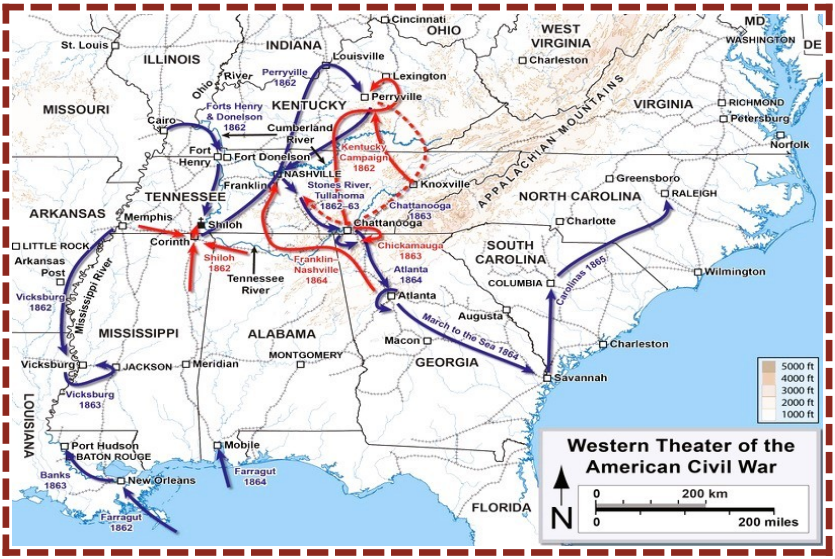


Img 3: Anaconda Plan.

Western Theater (Western in Img 2)

It was, in some ways, the most important theater of the war. Control of the Mississippi River was a key tenet of the Anaconda Plan (Img 3) of the first Union commander in chief, General Winfield Scott (1786–1866). Military historian J. F. C. Fuller described the Union invasion as a

massive strategic envelopment movement that began in Kentucky, moved south along the Mississippi River, and then east through Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolina.

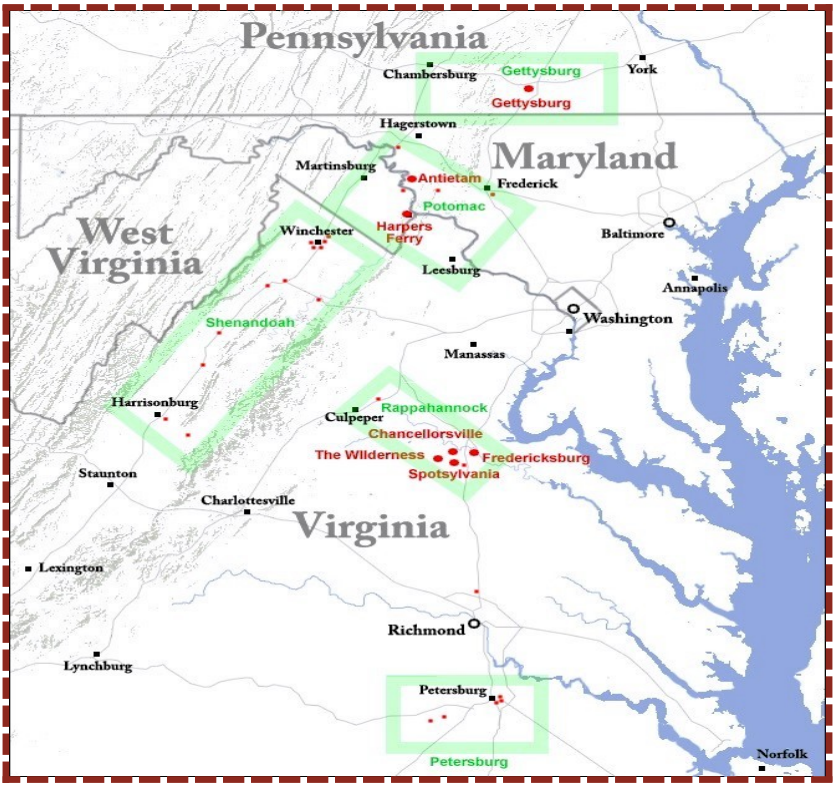


Img 4: Western Theater.

In Img 4 the blue lines represent the northern maneuvers (of the Union), the red ones those of the southerners (of the Confederacy).

With the exception of the Battle of Chickamauga and a few daring raids by cavalry and/or guerrilla forces, the four years in the West marked a series of almost continuous defeats for the Confederates; or, at best, tactical draws that eventually turned into strategic setbacks. The Union generals — I single out Halleck, Grant, and Sherman — consistently outmaneuvered most

of their Confederate opponents, with the exception of cavalry commander Nathan Bedford Forrest.



Img 5: Eastern Theater.

Eastern Theater (Eastern in Img 2)

It included the campaigns that are generally most famous in the history of warfare, if not for their strategic importance, then for their proximity to the major population centers, major newspapers, and capitals of the

adversaries. It consisted of land and naval operations in the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, the national capital district in Washington, and the coastal fortifications and seaports of North Carolina. The interior of the Carolina was considered part of the Western Theater, and other coastal areas along the Atlantic Ocean were part of the Lower Coast Theater.

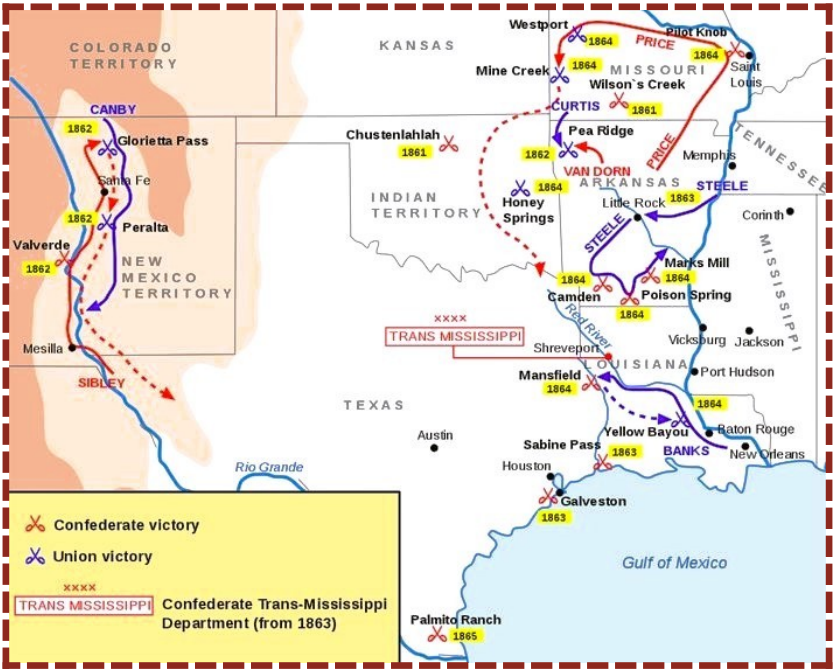
The Eastern Theater was the scene of several major campaigns launched by the Union Army of the Potomac to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. Many of these were thwarted by the Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by General Robert E. Lee, as part of the Confederate States Army.

President Abraham Lincoln responded by seeking a general who would match Lee's boldness and successively appointed Generals Irvin McDowell, George B. McClellan, John Pope, Ambrose Burnside, Joseph Hooker, George G. Meade, and finally U. S. Grant.

Trans-Mississippi Theater (Trans-Miss in Img 2)

It was the scene of major military operations west of the Mississippi River. In 1863, General Edmund Kirby Smith assumed command of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department and attempted unsuccessfully to relieve Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant's siege of Vicksburg on opposite banks of the Mississippi River. As a result of the long campaign, siege, and surrender in July 1863 by Confederate General John C. Pemberton, the Union gained

control of the entire Mississippi River, dividing the Confederacy in two and leaving the Trans-Mississippi Department isolated from the rest of the Confederate states to the east.



Img 6: Tran-Mississippi Theater.

In Img 6, the blue lines represent the northern maneuvers (of the Union), the red lines represent the southern maneuvers (of the Confederacy).

Pacific Coast Theater (Pacific in Img 2)

It consisted of military operations in the states and