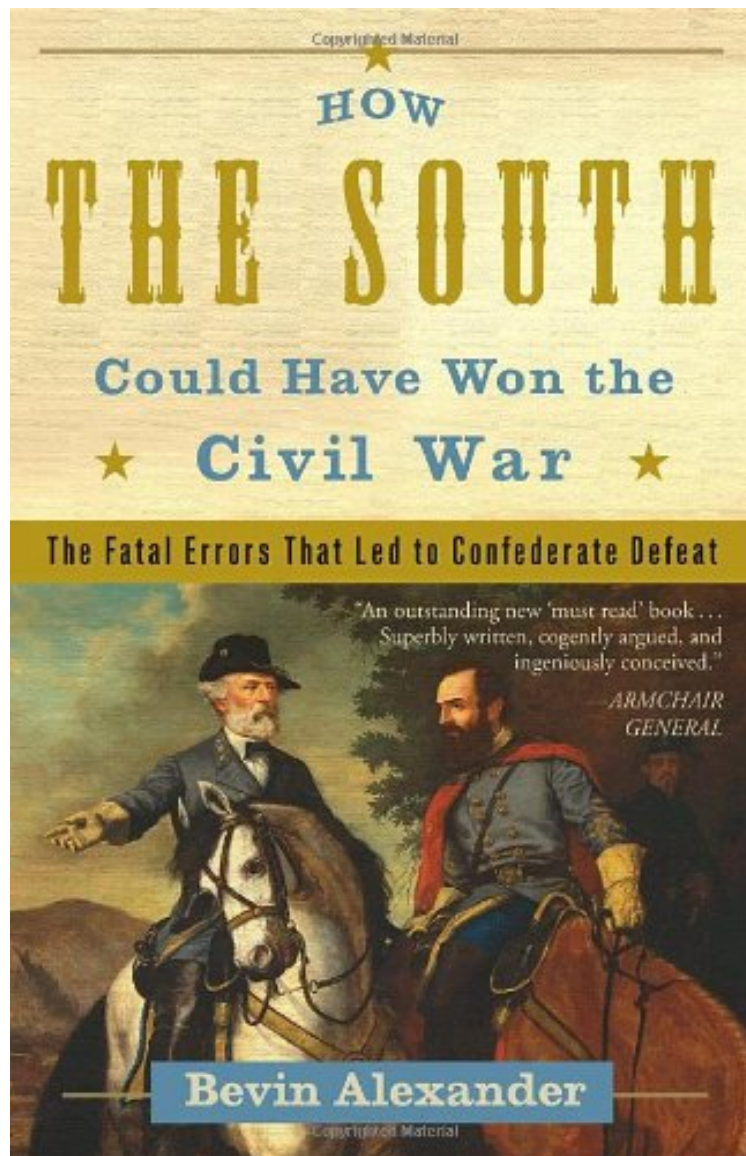


(Free download) How the South Could Have Won the Civil War: The Fatal Errors That Led to Confederate Defeat

## How the South Could Have Won the Civil War: The Fatal Errors That Led to Confederate Defeat

*Bevin Alexander*

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**Bevin Alexander : How the South Could Have Won the Civil War: The Fatal Errors That Led to Confederate Defeat** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How the South Could Have Won the Civil War: The Fatal Errors That Led to Confederate Defeat:

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Destroying conventional historical wisdom, acclaimed military historian Bevin Alexander reveals how the South most definitely could have defeated the North—and how close a Confederate victory came to happening. Alexander shows:

- How the Confederacy had its greatest chance to win the war just three months into the fighting—but blew it
- How the Confederacy's three most important leaders— President Jefferson Davis and Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson— clashed over how to fight the war
- How the Confederate army devised—but never fully exploited—a way to negate the Union's huge advantages in manpower and weaponry
- How Abraham Lincoln and other Northern leaders understood the Union's vulnerability better than the Confederacy's leaders did

How the South Could Have Won the Civil War provides a startling account of how a relatively small number of tactical and strategic mistakes cost the South the war and changed the course of history.

From Publishers WeeklyMilitary historian Alexander (Lost Victories et al.) offers a well-reasoned brief that lays the blame for the Confederate defeat in the Civil War primarily on President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Robert E. Lee, and their war-long insistence on conducting toe-to-toe frontal assaults against the much-stronger Union Army. Alexander argues that had Davis and Lee listened to Gen. Stonewall Jackson, things very well could have turned out differently. Jackson—and like-minded generals Joseph E. Johnston, Pierre G.T. Beauregard and James Longstreet—warned against conducting an offensive war against the North. Instead, they advocated waging unrelenting war against undefended factories, farms, and railroads north of the Mason-Dixon line, bypassing the Union Army and winning indirectly by assaulting the Northern people's will to pursue the war. While Alexander convincingly argues that there was nothing inevitable about a Southern defeat, he is no Lost Cause advocate. Instead, he presents well-drawn and clear-eyed tactical and strategic analyses of the war's most crucial battles (including First and Second Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg) to buttress his contention that had Jackson not perished in May of 1863 (and had Lee and Davis adopted Jackson's strategy), the South just might have won the Civil War. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Alexander argues persuasively that the wartime policies of President Jefferson Davis and the military strategy of General Robert E. Lee led to the failure of the Confederacy. . . . Thought-provoking and informative."—Washington PostAbout the AuthorBEVIN ALEXANDER is the author of nine books of military history, including How Hitler Could Have Won World War II, How Wars Are Won, How America Got It Right, and Lost Victories.