THE LOST ORDERS

Case Study in Contingency and the Nature of History

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ROBERT E. LEE'S LOST FIELD ORDERS SEPTEMBER 1862

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"No other campaign and battle in the war had such momentous, multiple consequences as Antietam."

James McPherson



THE PROMISE OF THE PENINSULA CAMPAIGN



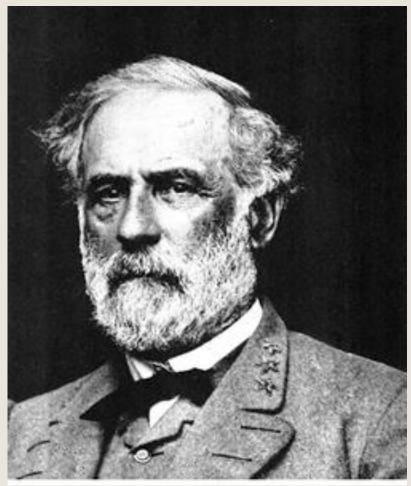


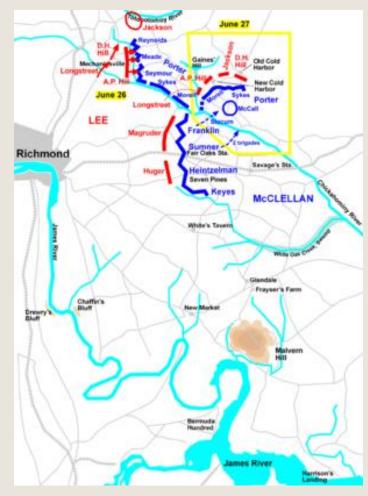
AT THE GATES OF RICHMOND





ROBERT E. LEE AND THE SEVEN DAYS







MCCLELLAN'S RETREAT TO HARRISON'S LANDING





LINCOLN'S DECISION ON EMANCIPATION





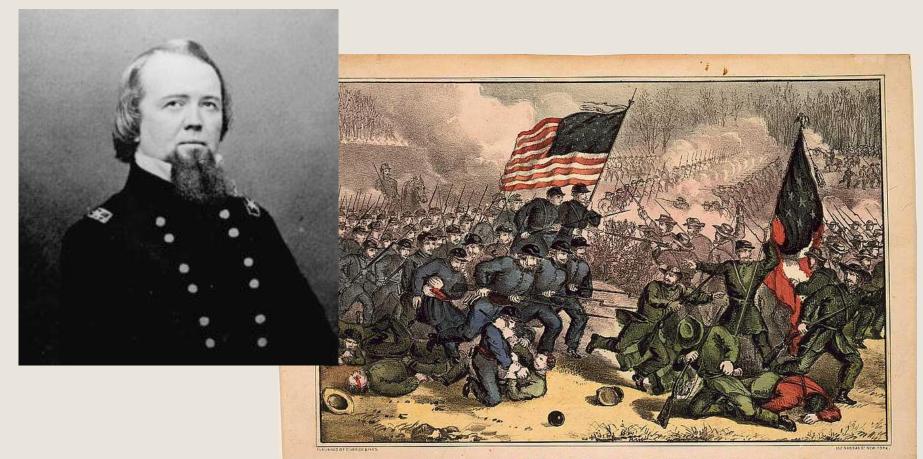
WILLIAM SEWARD'S ADVICE TO LINCOLN



Seward's recommendation to delay issuing the Emancipation Proclamation until a victory was accepted by Lincoln and the cabinet. As Seward is reported to have said: "such a proclamation ought to be borne on the bayonets of an advancing army, not dragged in the dust behind a retreating one."

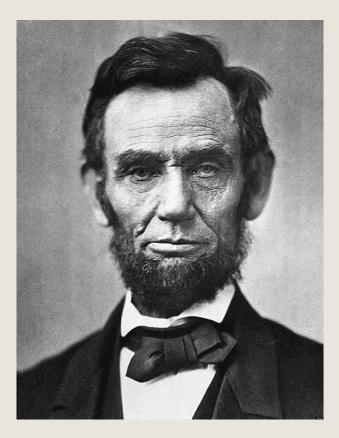


JOHN POPE AND SECOND BULL RUN



THE SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN, FOUGHT AUG? 29 19 1862. Between the Army of Virginia' under Mar, Gent John Pape, and the combined forces of the Robel News under Lee, Jackson and athere. This territie battle me foughese the identical battle field at Battern, and lands with great fuer from darlight until after dark adm the robels were deven back and the thom Wing rooted in triumph on the field.

LINCOLN'S REACTION TO THE SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN



"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go." A. Lincoln

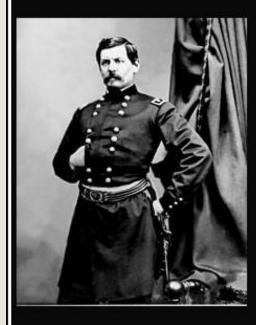


LEE INVADES MARYLAND





MCCLELLAN RETURNED TO COMMAND AND REJUVENATES THE ARMY'S MORALE



When this sad war is over we will all return to our homes, and feel that we can ask no higher honor than the proud consciousness that we belonged to the Army of the Potomac.

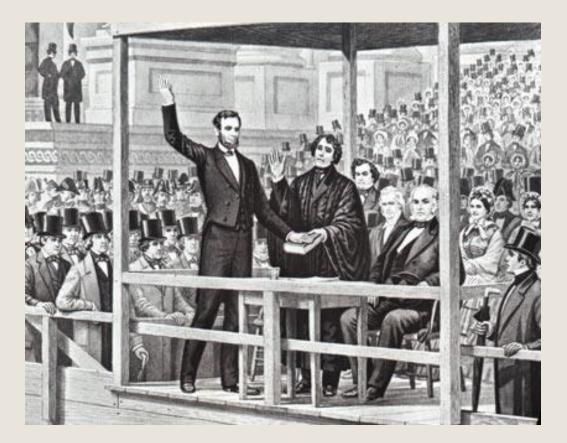
(George B. McClellan)

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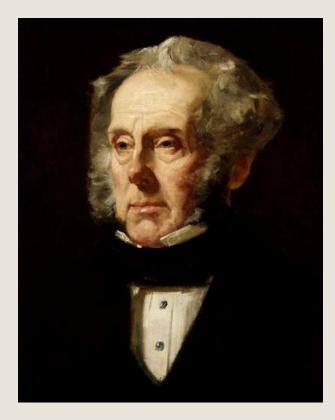
LINCOLN, GOD, AND THE FUTURE OF EMANCIPATION

According to Salmon Chase, Lincoln told him that "I made a solemn vow before God, that if General Lee was driven back from Maryland I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves."





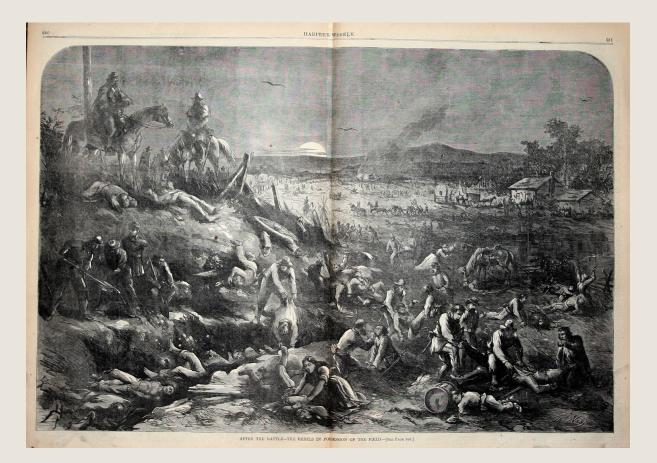
ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND THE FUTURE OF CONFEDERATE RECOGNITION



Lord Palmerston, British Prime Minister

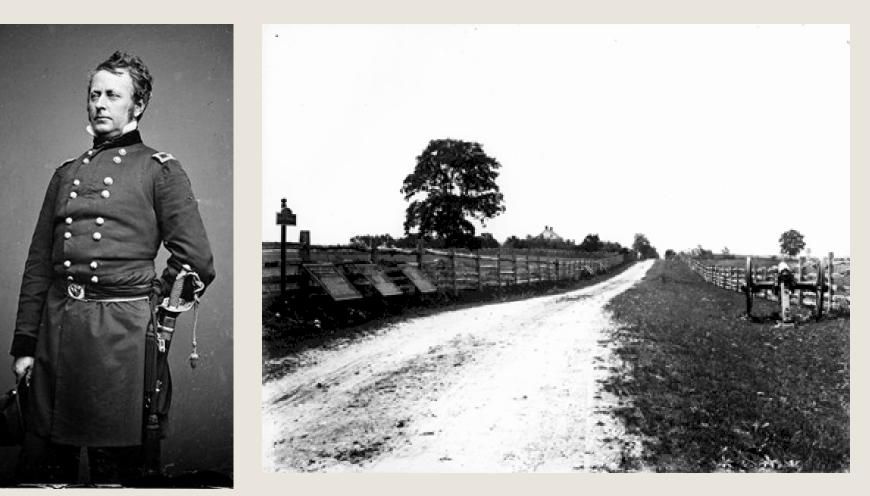


BATTLE OF ANTIETAM 17 SEPTEMBER 1862



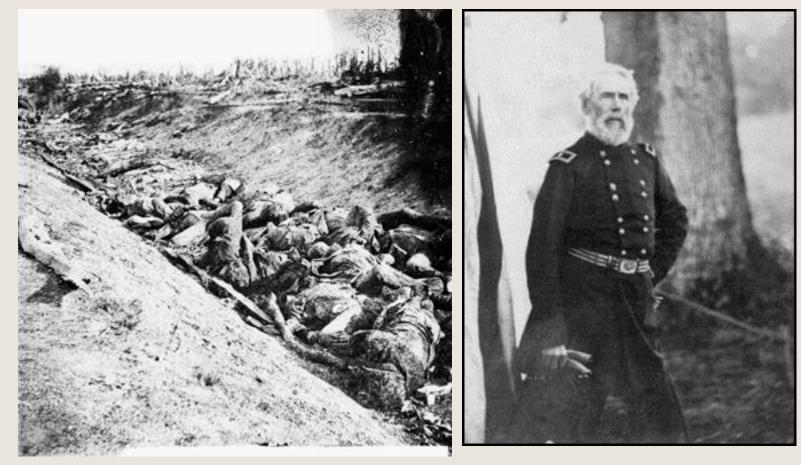


JOSEPH HOOKER



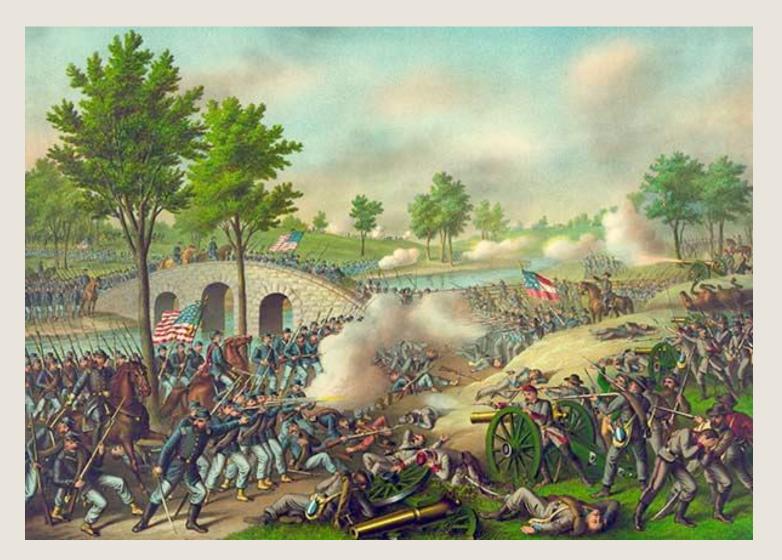


THE SUNKEN ROAD, GENERAL EDWIN SUMNER, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR THE CENTER





BURNSIDE'S BRIDGE





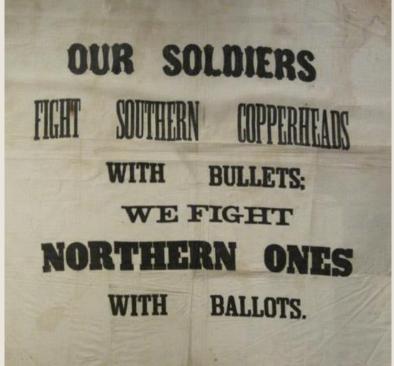
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANTIETAM, PART ONE



McClellan's victory dashed the best chance that the Confederacy had to win foreign recognition. Only two days before news of Antietam reached London, the Confederacy's diplomats had been told that "the event you so strongly desire ... is very close at hand."



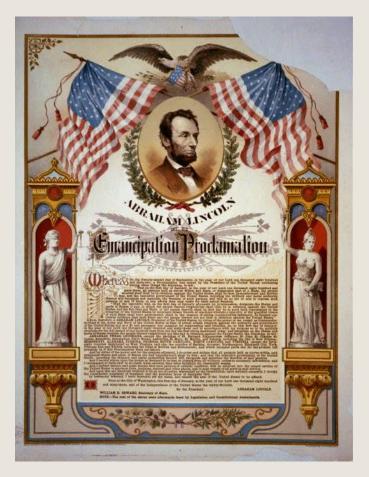
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANTIETAM, PART TWO



It helped slow the growth of the Peace Democrats in the North who otherwise might have gained control of Congress in the November elections.



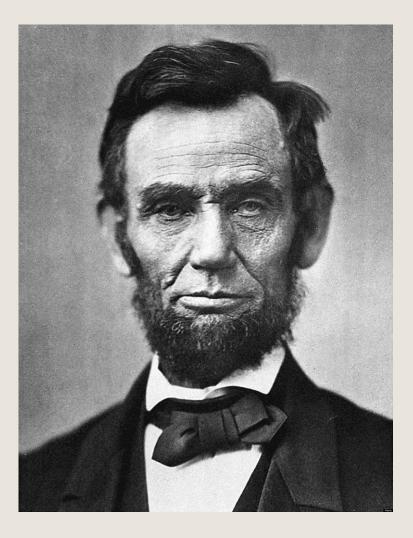
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANTIETAM, PART THREE



It allowed Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Over 186,000 blacks would eventually serve in the Union armies.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANTIETAM, PART FOUR: STRENGTHENING OF LINCOLN'S DETERMINATION



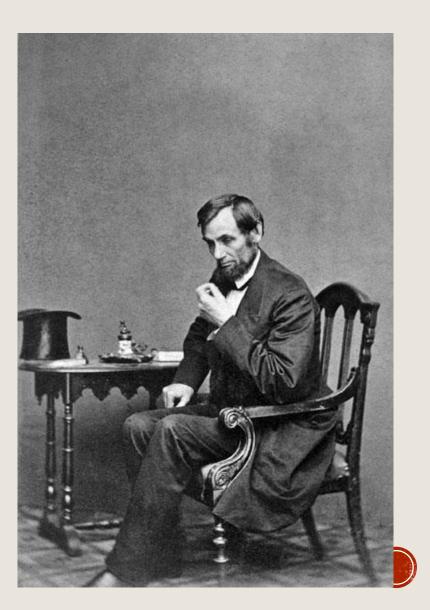
"The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise -- with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country." December 1, 1862



LINCOLN'S CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN 1862

"The people are impatient; Chase has no money...; the General of the Army has typhoid fever. The bottom is out of the tub. What shall I do?"

Abraham Lincoln to General Montgomery Miegs, January 10, 1862



FINDING THE LOST ORDERS





MCCLELLAN'S FAILURE TO DESTROY LEE





LINCOLN ON THE PURPOSE OF THE WAR Almost two years before the second inaugural

"The will of God prevails.... In the present civil war it is quite possible that God's purpose is something different from the purpose of either party I am almost ready to say that this is probably true -that God wills this contest, and wills that it shall not end yet. By his mere great power, on the minds of the now contestants, He could have either saved or destroyed the Union without a human contest. Yet the contest began. And, having begun He could give the final victory to either side any day. Yet the contest proceeds."



"Sir, my concern is not whether God is on my side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right." -Abraham Lincoln 2013 HENCEFORWARD SHALL BE NCIPATI PROCLAMATI ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1863 FOREVER * * * USA