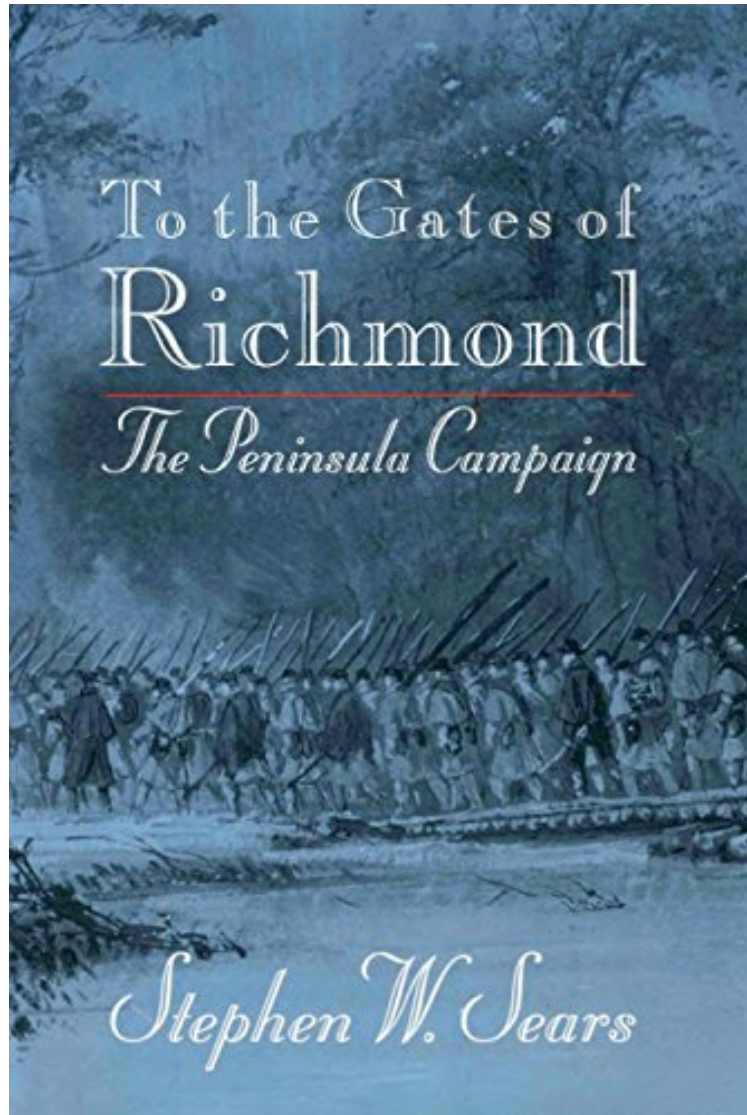


[Mobile pdf] To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign

## To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign

Von Stephen W. Sears

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**Von Stephen W. Sears : To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Thorough history told well.Von Wayne A. SmithSears does his standard job with Civil War history. McClellan's Penninsula Campaign is explored in detail with those details woven into a compelling story. Meticulous but not swallowed up in minutia. Well told, but not over dramatized. Sears delivers the fights, strategy, personalities and conclusions in masterly style.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. War as farceVon Tom

Munro At the start of the Peninsular campaign General McClellan the Union Leader had an overwhelming force at his command. Not only did he have more men than the Confederates but he had more and better weapons. Despite this he was fearful of defeat if he simply moved his army from Washington to Richmond. He thus evolved a complex scheme to move his forces by sea close to Richmond and instead of fighting a battle try to involve the Confederate forces in an engagement similar to a siege. After the initial leader of the Confederacy was injured General Robert E Lee was given command of their armies. He developed a risky plan of having General Stonewall Jackson take part of his army and to attack the Federals from the rear. To do this he reduced the size of the forces that he had facing McClellan. The plan should have been a disaster. Jackson got his orders confused and didn't turn up for the battle. The Confederates suffered high casualties. Instead of moving to take Richmond by pushing through the weakened forces in front of him, McClellan decided to retreat. No one has been able to provide a rational explanation for this bizarre decision. It seems that he either suffered some form of breakdown or was delusional. This caused the loss of enormous amounts of material which had his army had to leave behind. General Lee then pursued McClellan fighting two more battles. Both battles were poorly thought out, badly run and should have led to the ruin of the Confederates. Luckily they were fighting a general incapable of rational decision making. Gaines's Mill was a battle in which Lee won at a significant cost a minor tactical victory but in which the Federals were able to keep their army intact. The second battle was Glendale in which the Confederates were beaten off again with heavy casualties. If General McClellan had simply left his army where it was there is no doubt that General Lee would have continued to destroy his armies with more poorly coordinated ruinous attacks. The Federals could then have walked into Richmond. General McClellan however was a general so poor that he was probably personally responsible for the Confederacy to drag on for four more years. Following these battles General Lee was able to develop as a general and he in future battles was to ensure that his orders were clearer and that his subordinates followed his commands. With numerically inferior armies he was able to beat larger Union armies as long as they were led by incompetent generals. Things fell apart when General Grant was put in charge of the Union armies and the contest became one of material. This book captures the detail of the campaign and its ridiculous and comic elements. With so many civil war books there is a tendency to try to write myth or to make the characters heroes. This book simply tells it as it happened. It is a readable book and impressive work of historical scholarship and a book to destroy some of the myths of the past. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. McClellan Blenches and the Legend of R. E. Lee is Born Von Ein Kunde In the anxious days following Federal defeats at First Manassas, Big Bethel and Ball's Bluff, Lincoln was in desperate search of military leadership to take charge of the Army of the Potomac and bring victories to the Union cause. The physical security of Washington and the nation's morale and willingness to conduct war were at risk. Lincoln turned to McClellan, the "Young Napoleon". The sequence of events that followed would have qualified as high comedy, except for the pall of death, suffering and human misery which fell over each blundering engagement of the great armies of North and South. As Sears so clearly and carefully explains, nothing - from the first concept of an approach on Richmond from the East at Urbanna - went according to plan, on either side. Gross conceptual errors and uncoordinated actions were endemic to both camps. Deceptions were carried out on grand scales and orders were mis-carried on even grander ones. In the end, Lee knew his opponent too well, and even though the Seven Days was one mistaken operation after another (Stonewall himself, exhausted to the point of incompetence after his famous Valley Campaign, was the biggest failure on the Confederate side) - Lee seized the initiative and thereby saved Richmond. McClellan looked and acted and talked the part of a great general - but he was hollow at the core. The image of the beaten, intimidated McClellan hiding on the gunboat Galena during the critical battles of Glendale and Malvern Hill haunts him forever. This is Sears' best work - and the best from Sears is absolutely first rate military history. This is a confusing, complex subject matter - an understanding of the politics, personalities, tactics and strategies requires thorough research and patient, lucid thought. Sears has produced the definitive work on a difficult subject. A great read.

Kurzbeschreibung To the Gates of Richmond charts the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, General George McClellan's grand scheme to march up the Virginia Peninsula and take the Confederate capital. For three months McClellan battled his way toward Richmond, but then Robert E. Lee took command of the Confederate forces. In seven days, Lee drove the cautious McClellan out, thereby changing the course of the war. Intelligent and well researched, To the Gates of Richmond vividly recounts one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.