

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Confederate Commerce Raiders

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Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Sturtevant, Dwight H. and Craig L. Symonds	<i>The Civil War at Sea</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Books and Articles

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year. "Title," in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Butler, Leslie S.	<i>Pirates, Privateers, & Rebel Raiders of the Carolina Coast</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002.
Canney, Donald L.	<i>The Confederate Steam Navy: 1861-1865</i> . Atglen, PA: Schiffer Military History, 2015.
Chaffin, Tom	<i>Sea of Gray: The Around-the- World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah</i> . New York: Hill and Wang, 2006.
Cochran, Hamilton	<i>Blockade Runners of the Confederacy</i> . Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill, 1958.
Cook, A.	<i>The Alabama Claims</i> . Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1975.
deKay, James T.	<i>The Rebel Raiders: The Warship "Alabama", British Treachery and the American Civil War</i> . London: Pimlico, 2003.

_____.	<i>The Rebel Raiders: The Astonishing History of the Confederacy's Secret Navy.</i> New York: Ballantine Press, 2003.
Hearn, Chester G.	<i>Gray Raiders of the Sea: How Eight Confederate Warships Destroyed the Union's High Seas Commerce.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1992.
McKenna, Joseph	<i>British Ships in the Confederate Navy.</i> Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2010.
McPherson, James M.	<i>War on the Waters: The Union and Confederate Navies, 1861-1865.</i> Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.
Marquis, Greg.	<i>In Armageddon's Shadow: The Civil War and Canada's Maritime Provinces.</i> Montreal, Kingston, Ithaca and London: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1998.
Scharf, J. Thomas	<i>History of the Confederate States Navy.</i> New York: Random House, 1996.
Sturtevant, Dwight H.	<i>A Confederate Biography: The Cruise of the CSS Shenandoah.</i> Annapolis: U.S. Naval Institute Press, 2015.
Weitz, Mark A.	<i>The Confederacy on Trial: The Piracy and Sequestration Cases of 1861.</i> Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2005.
Wilson, Walter E and Gary L. McKay	<i>James D. Bullock: Secret Agent and Mastermind of the Confederate Navy.</i> Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2012.

Organizations

Web Resources

Other Sources

Scholars

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Topic Précis

Arguably the Confederacy's maritime efforts rank among its greatest wartime successes. Starting literally from scratch, the Confederacy immediately mustered a small but effective privateer fleet that not only met with some success, but forced the early resolution of the Confederacy's status as a legitimate belligerent. Following its privateer successes, the Confederacy's small but formidable commerce raider fleet dealt a crushing blow to the Union merchant marine. Not only did the Confederacy successfully take or destroy hundreds of Union vessels, but it forced the Union to transfer almost 800,000 tons of shipping to foreign carriers to avoid the attacks of the Confederate surface fleet. As the war progressed, the Confederate success on the high seas drove up the cost of maritime insurance premiums making the carriage of goods for Union merchant ships even more costly. But while Confederate maritime efforts were impressive, they never seriously threatened the Union blockade. As a result, most nations, even Great Britain eventually, recognized that the Confederacy's status as a belligerent had limitations. Most nations would not allow Confederate commerce raiders to claim prizes in their ports. Coal, the essential fuel of 19th century steamships, was often denied to Confederate vessels in neutral ports. After the war the Union made demand on Great Britain for the damage done to its merchant marine by British built commerce raiders. The original claim in 1869 of 2 billion dollars was ultimately reduced through arbitration to 15.5 million dollars in 1871, and finally paid in 1872. Even after it ceased to exist the Confederate Navy continued to have an effect on international law. The *Alabama* Claims dispute established the principle of international arbitration. In the ensuing years, a movement to codify public international law gained real momentum. In many ways the arbitration of the *Alabama* Claims laid the groundwork for international institutions of peace like the Hague Convention and the United Nations.
