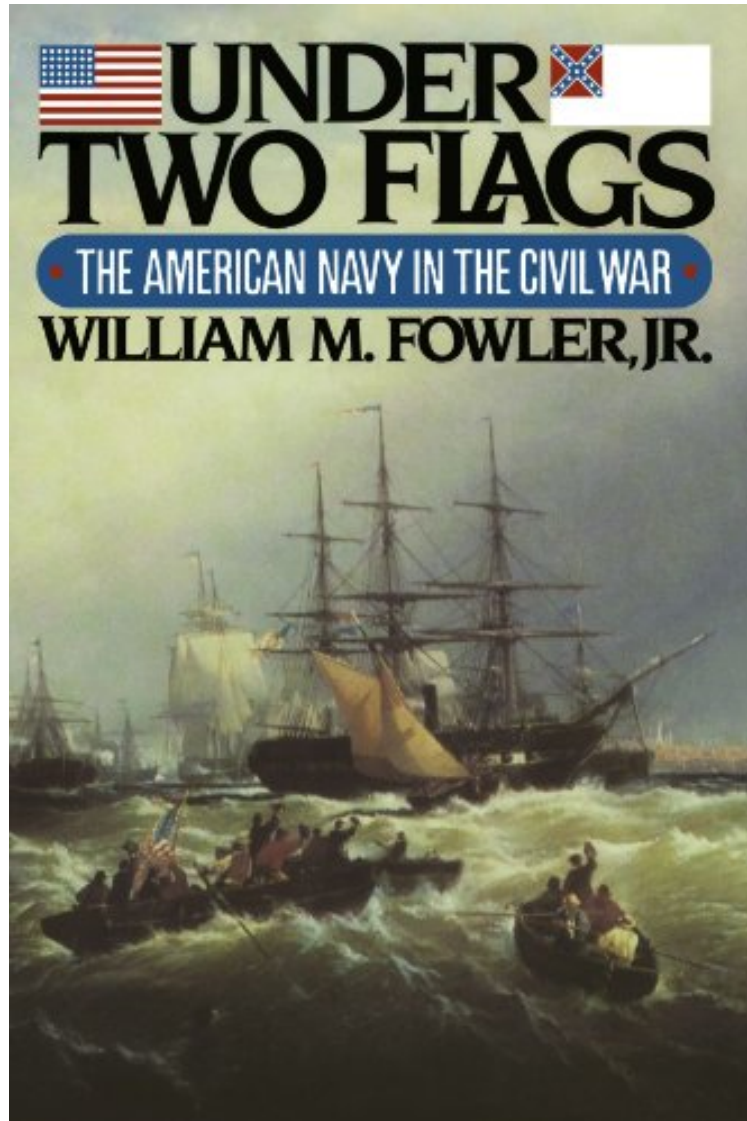


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Under Two Flags: The American Navy in the Civil War

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This is an account of naval conflict in the American Civil War. The author describes scenarios such as primitive Northern gunboats drifting through Louisiana's muddy bayous, rebel privateers capturing Yankee merchantmen at sea and Union ironclads subduing Southern forts with relentless gunfire.

From Publishers WeeklyBy the author of *Jack Tars and Commodores*, this is a lively popular account of Union and Confederate naval operations during the War Between the States. Fowler describes how the Union blockade of Southern ports isolated the Confederacy and the subsequent struggle for inland waterways as control of the Mississippi became a crucial strategic factor. He reveals how Confederate naval secretary Stephen Mallory squandered the South's slender resources on the impractical raiding of Federal merchant shipping on the high seas. He explains why both sides were slow to recognize the usefulness of the ironclad warship which, with the appearance of John Ericsson's *Monitor*, revolutionized naval warfare. The narrative hangs on a series of vivid accounts of naval campaigns and battles, including David Farragut's victories at New Orleans and Mobile Bay and David Porter's contribution to Ulysses S. Grant's Vicksburg campaign. Without a powerful navy, Fowler argues, the North could not have won the war. Photos. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalThis is a very readable history of action on the seas during the Civil War. More than a mere military account, it provides a vivid picture of how, out of the chaos of war, the U.S. Navy emerged as one of the most powerful seaborne forces in the world; and then, just as quickly, how it lapsed into decline and neglect. Beyond policy, there are also the personalities: Union Naval Secretary Gideon Welles and his Confederate counterpart Stephen Mallory as they engage in a deadly duel of strategies; Welles and Secretary of State William Seward competing for Lincoln's attention; and more. Much is included here, from the Union ironclads to the Rebel privateers, from primitive gunboats, aging steamers, and paddleboats to effective fighting machines at war's end. Recommended for buffs as well as public and academic libraries with holdings in Civil War history.- Jason H. Silverman, Winthrop Coll., Rock Hill, S.C.Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorWilliam M. Fowler Jr. is the director of the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston and teaches maritime history at Munson Institute of American Maritime Studies in Mystic Seaport. He is the author of numerous books, including biographies of Samuel Adams and John Hancock.