

Designing Victory on the Civil War's Sea: The Development and Use of Ironclad Warships in the American Civil War, 1830-1865

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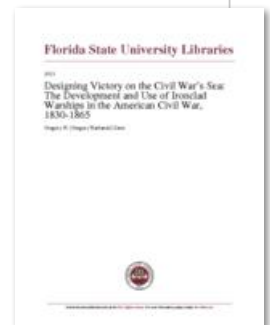
Designing Victory on the Civil War's Sea: The Development and Use of Ironclad Warships in the American Civil War, 1830-1865.

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This is a study of the strategic and tactical use of ironclad warships during the American Civil War. The project seeks to examine why the naval administration on both sides (led by Gideon Welles for the Union and Stephen Mallory for the Confederacy) decided to give such vessels an opportunity in combat, their reaction to early operations (such as the famous battle at Hampton Roads on 8-9 March 1862), and how they learned to deploy the ships as the war progressed--accounting for difficulties with terrain, fortified opposition, learning curve for personnel, and weaknesses of the weapon system technology. The study also encompasses history of science and technology concepts such as gatekeeper theory and social construction of technology. The military gatekeepers, Union and Confederate, had to adopt weapons that suited their strategic needs as a part of their overall objective. The Confederate's need to maintain open ports and fend off the Union Navy's superior numbers made superior quality of ships a viable recourse. The Union's need to defeat the Confederate Navy, including overcoming any of the South's technological leaps, made inclusion of ironclad

warships a valid plan. However, both sides of the conflict had to deal with different socially constructed backgrounds. The South's agricultural heritage and lack of industrial development hindered its ability to build or improve naval technology at home—forcing it to look abroad for assistance at a time when major nations would not recognize the Confederacy's official existence. The Union's entrenched naval traditions and cumbersome bureaucracy slowed approval of new and often unproven technologies. The result of these forces, military and technological, was an unforgiving trial by fire for the ironclad armored warship in the American Civil War.

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The Civil War in the United States began in 1861, after decades of simmering tensions between northern and southern states over slavery, states' rights and westward expansion. Eleven southern states seceded from the Union to form the Confederacy. Ultimately more than 620,000 Americans' lives were lost in the four-year war that ended in a Confederate defeat. Growing abolitionist sentiment in the North after the 1830s and northern opposition to slavery's extension into the new western territories led many southerners to fear that the existence of slavery in America—and thus the backbone of their economy—was in danger. Did you know? Many elements of Civil War scholarship are still hotly debated. The facts on this page are based on the soundest information available. We provide facts, dates, figures, tables and clarification of common misconceptions. The American Civil War was the defining event in our nation's history. Between 1861 and 1865 10,000 battles and engagements were fought across the continent, from Vermont to the New Mexico Territory, and beyond. Many

elements of Civil War scholarship are still hotly debated. CSS Virginia was the first ironclad warship constructed by the Confederate States Navy during Civil War (1861-1865). Lacking the numerical resources to take on the US Navy directly, the Confederate Navy commenced experimenting with ironclads in 1861. Built as a casemate ironclad from the remains of the former steam frigate USS Merrimack, CSS Virginia was completed in March 1862. On March 8, Virginia inflicted severe losses on Union naval forces at the Battle of Hampton Roads. The next day, it engaged in the first battle between ironclads when it engaged USS Monitor. Forced to withdraw to Norfolk

INFOGRAPHICS #6: American Civil War ironclads - Major combatants, cutaways and photos. USS Monitor

The American Civil War was fought from 1861 to 1865 between the United States of America, consisting of the Northern State CSS Virginia was the first steam-powered ironclad warship built by the Confederate States Navy during the first year of the American Civil War; 1862. Missouri iron ship to battle against Virginia Iron clad (New Medrid Lincoln gun boats in Civil war). USS Carondelet Civil War Union Navy Ship. The last shot of the civil war fired was in the Bering Sea, off the coast of Alaska on a Confederate ship, June 28, 1865. You learn something new every day; what did you learn today? Submit interesting and specific facts about something that you just found out here.