

RAILROADS AND TELEGRAPHY IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

A. Technology and the conquest of space and time: Some general observations on the nineteenth century

1. Time and time-keeping
2. The advent of cheap clocks and watches
3. Early railroads
4. West Point engineers and early railroads
5. The origins of modern management

B. The railroad system and the Civil War

1. Railroads and logistics
2. What they carried; where they went
3. A serious bottleneck: track gauges and transshipment problems
4. Railway management and control
5. Railway maintenance issues
6. “That Man Haupt”

C. The railway war

1. Railroads and the Eastern Theatre:
 - i. 1st Manassas, 1861
 - ii. the Peninsula Campaign, 1862
2. Troop movements in the Western Theatre
 - i. Longstreet’s trek to Chickmauga, 1863
 - ii. Hooker’s trek to Chattanooga, 1863
3. Did the “victory ride the rails”?

D. Telegraphy and the communications revolution

1. European precedents: the Crimean War, 1854
2. Anson Stager and the Military Telegraph Service
3. The Signal Corps and the tactical uses of telegraphy
4. Ulysses S. Grant and the strategic uses of telegraphy
5. Lincoln in the telegraph office
6. Telegraphy, news reporting, and politics

E. Conclusion: railroads, telegraphs, and the origins of modern warfare