October 2

The War in the Eastern Theater (Peninsular Campaign to Fredericksburg)

Little Mac lacked will and inflated intelligence but he planned a good strategic war and built a superb Army of the Potomac. Once Lee took the field, he outclassed McClellan and Mr. Lincoln sought new generals. Often viewed as the war, the conflict in the east became a holding action.

OUTLINE

I. McClellan’s Strategic Plan and Mr. Lincoln
   A. McClellan’s Plans
   B. Mr. Lincoln’s General War Order No. 1

II. McClellan Moves to the Peninsula
   A. “Prince John” Magruder at Yorktown
   B. Advance on Richmond
   C. Lee Takes Command; The Seven Days
   D. Hunkering Down on the James
   E. Going Back to Where They Came From

III. Gen. Pope and the Army of Virginia
   A. Pope’s “Headquarters in the Saddle”
   B. Jackson and Longstreet
   C. Lee’s Campaign
   D. Second Battle at Manassas Junction
   E. Pope is Unemployed

IV. Gen. Lee’s Maryland Campaign
   A. The Strategic Setting
   B. Lee’s Decisions – S.O. No. 191
   C. McClellan’s Luck
   D. Battle at Shaprsburg
   E. Emancipation Proclamation

V. Gen. Burnside and his “DO SOMETHING” Campaign
   A. Burnside Takes Command
   B. The Battle of Fredericksburg
   C. The Mud March of January 1863

VI. War in the East: Main Effort or Holding Action

GOOD READS:
Stephen W. Sears, George B. McClellan: The Young Napoleon (1999)
John C. Waugh, Lincoln and McClellan: the Troubled Partnership Between a President and His General (2010)
Stephen W. Sears, To the Gates of Richmond: the Peninsular Campaign (2001)
Benjamin F. Cooling, Counter-Thrust: From the Peninsula to the Antietam (2008)