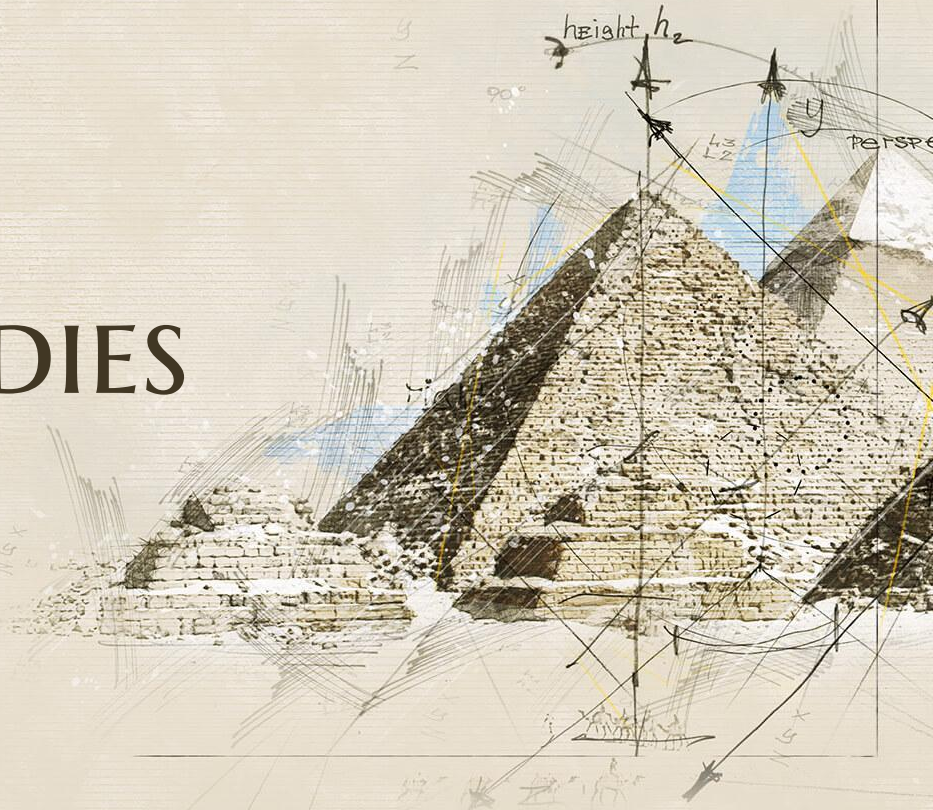


MILITARY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

ITSC 201 Winter 2021





ANTOINE HENRI JOMINI

Chief interpreter of
Napoleonic Method

Close observer of
operations

Essentialized strategy to a
handful of core principles



THE METHOD

War as science

Universal and immutable laws

Maneuver (and thus commander skill) key

Capitals the normal objective

“Strategy is the art of making war upon the map, and comprehends the whole theatre of operations. Grand tactics is the art of posting troops upon the battlefield according to the accidents of the ground, or bringing them into action, and the art of fighting upon the ground in contradistinction to planning upon a map ... strategy decides where to act, grand tactics decides the manner of execution and the employment of the troops.

“Strategy ... is the art of bringing the greatest part of the forces of an army upon the important point of the theatre of war ...”

ANTOINE HENRI JOMINI

“This employment of forces should be regulated by two fundamental principles: the first being, to obtain by free and rapid movements the advantage of bringing the mass of the troops against fractions of the enemy; the second, to strike in the most decisive direction ... in that direction where the consequences of his defeat may be most disastrous to the enemy ... The whole science of great military combinations is comprised of these two fundamental truths.”

ANTOINE HENRI JOMINI



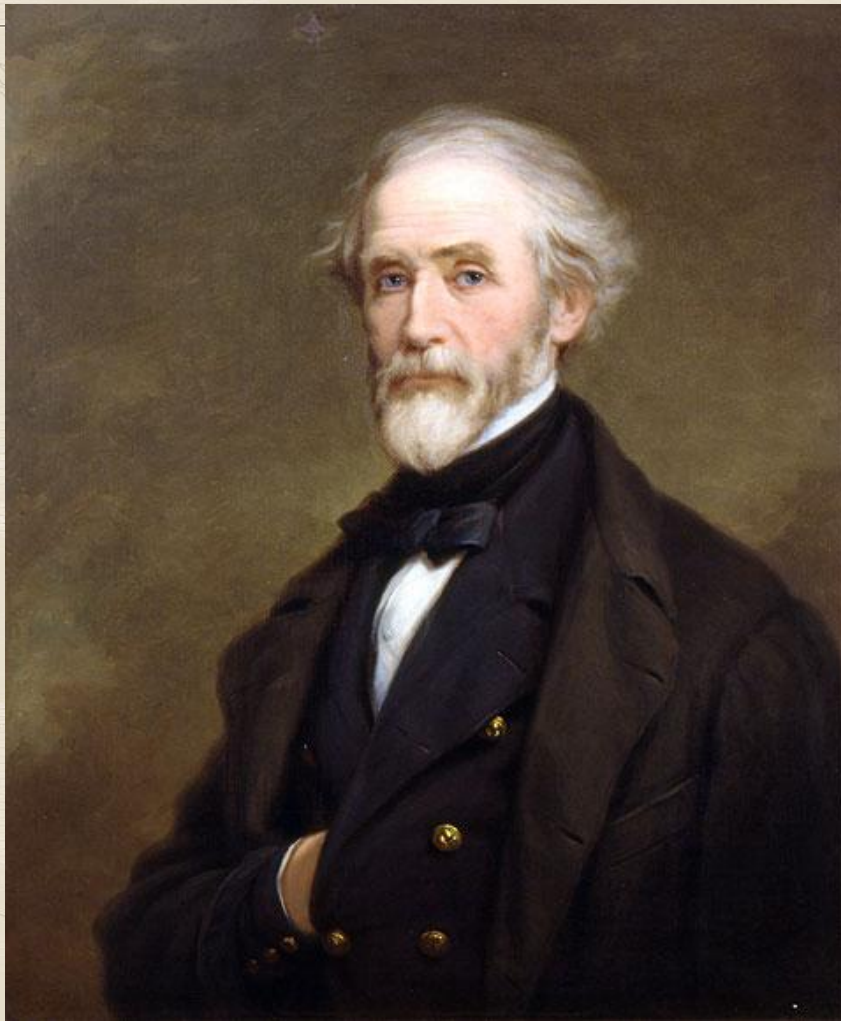
THE METHOD

Disinterested in
epiphenomenal features
of war

Social, Economic,
Political factors

or

Technological change



THE HEIRS

Hugely Influential

Not least in the U.S.

The Civil War
Generals all steeped
in Jomini



ALFRED THAYER MAHAN

Naval Strategy a
neglected tradition

Naval power historically
important

But under-analyzed



STEPHEN B. LUCE

U.S. Rear Admiral

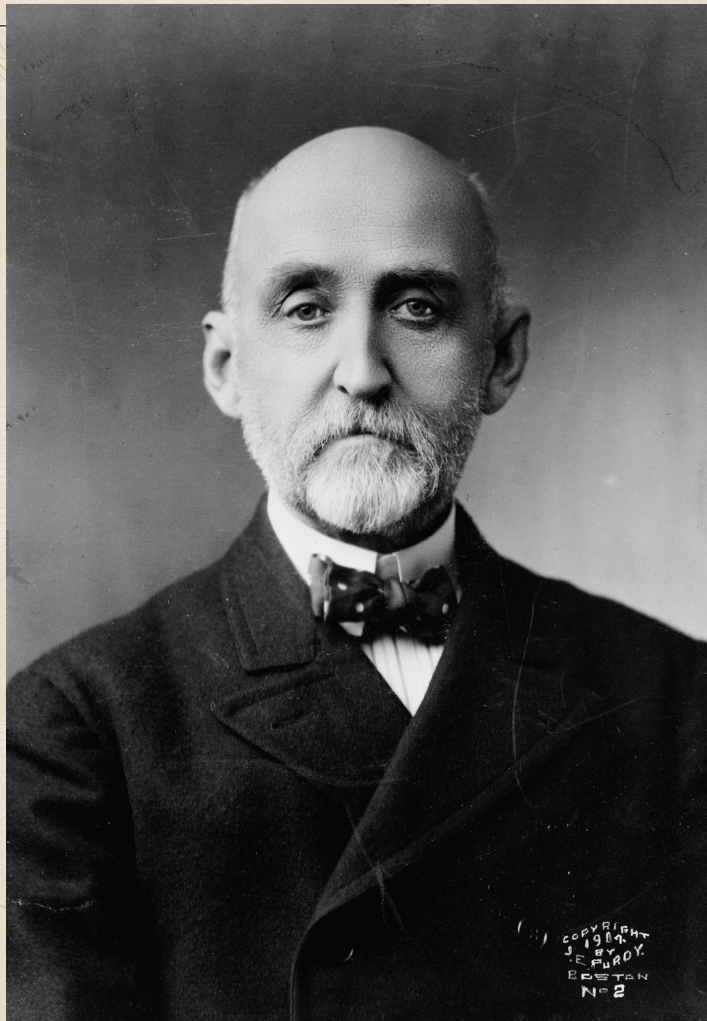
Incident with Sherman

The U.S. Naval War
College



“Naval history abounds in materials whereupon to erect a science, as science has been defined and illustrated, and it is our present purpose to build up with these materials the science of naval warfare. We are far from saying that the various problems of war may be treated as vigorously as those of the physical sciences; but there is no question that the naval battles of the past furnish a mass of facts amply sufficient for the formulation of laws or principles which, once established, would raise maritime war to the level of a science.”

Stephen B. Luce



ALFRED THAYER MAHAN

An odd saviour

Distinguished in all the
wrong ways

The first NWC lecturer
in Strategy and Tactics



ALFRED THAYER MAHAN

Not studied in his subject

Devoted nearly two years
in the NYPL

A founder of naval
strategy

THE INFLUENCE OF SEA POWER UPON HISTORY



Mahan's focus
the age of sail

Unsurprising
Influences



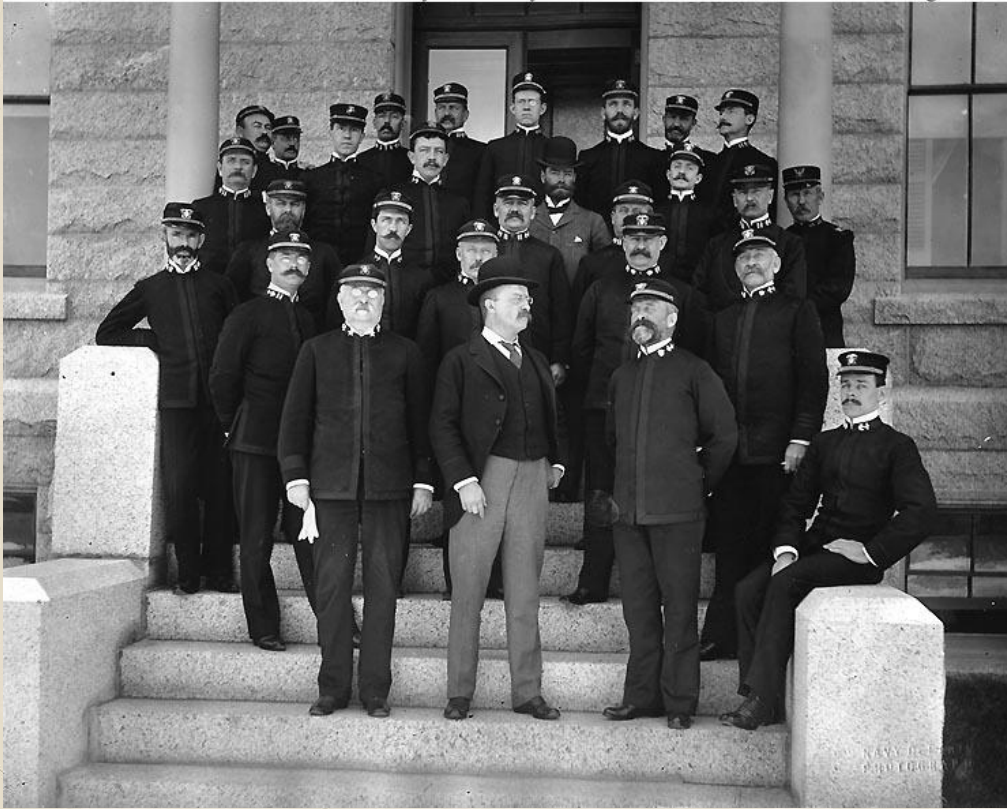
THE PROPHET OF SEA POWER

Jominian

But also a dash of
Clausewitz

And one of the first
theorists to consider
Grand Strategy

Photo # NH 102928 Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt at the Naval War College



THE THESIS

England's Navy the
key

Naval Power
hugely important,
and ignored by
theory

THE KEY OBSERVATIONS



1 Geographical
Position

2 Physical
Conformation

3 Territorial
Extent

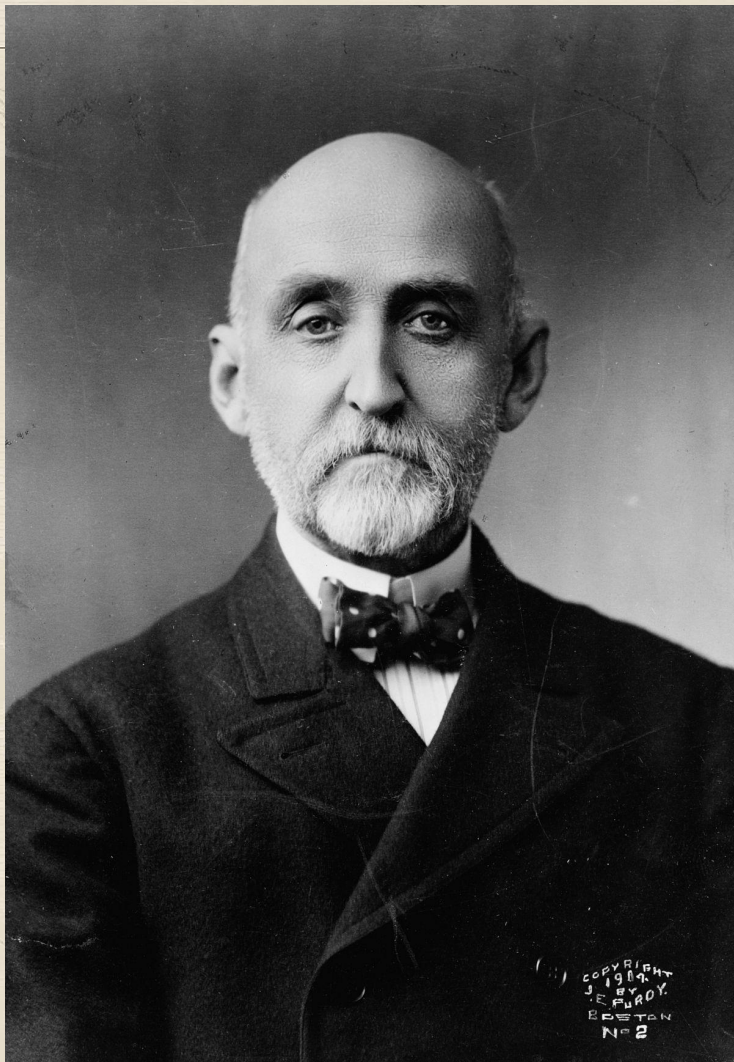
THE KEY OBSERVATIONS

4 Population Size

5 Character of the People

6 Character of the Government

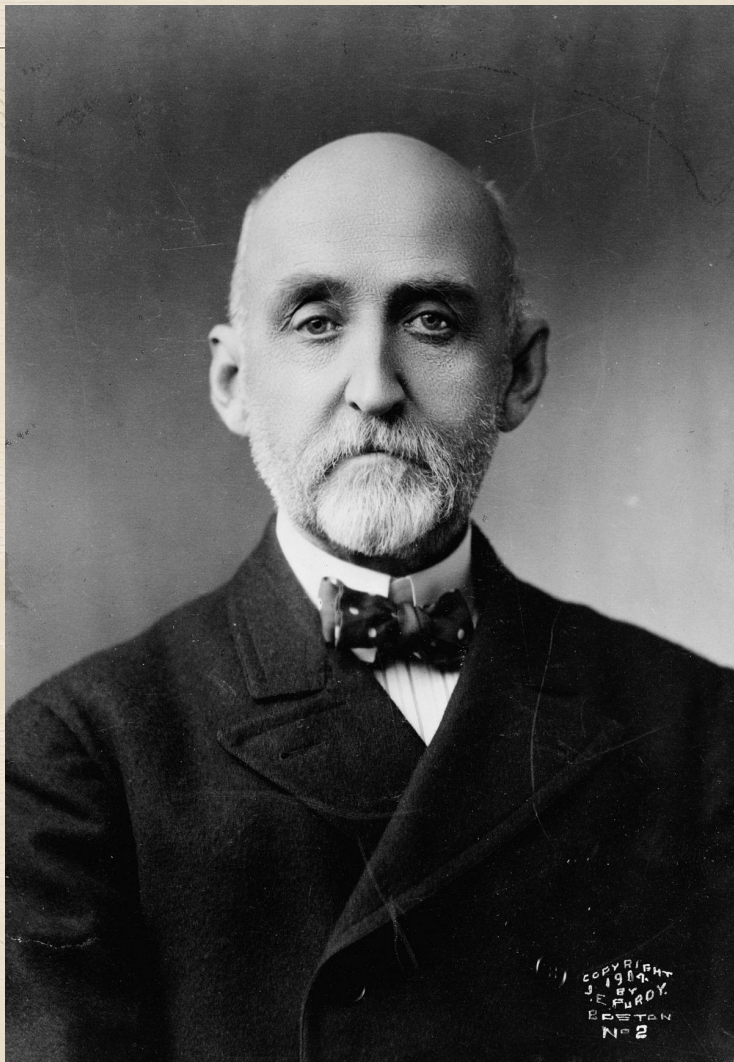




ON SEA POWER

“the possession of that overpowering power on the sea which drives the enemy’s flag from it or allows it to appear only as a fugitive; and which, by controlling the great common closes the highways by which commerce moves to and from the enemy’s shores.”

A.T. Mahan

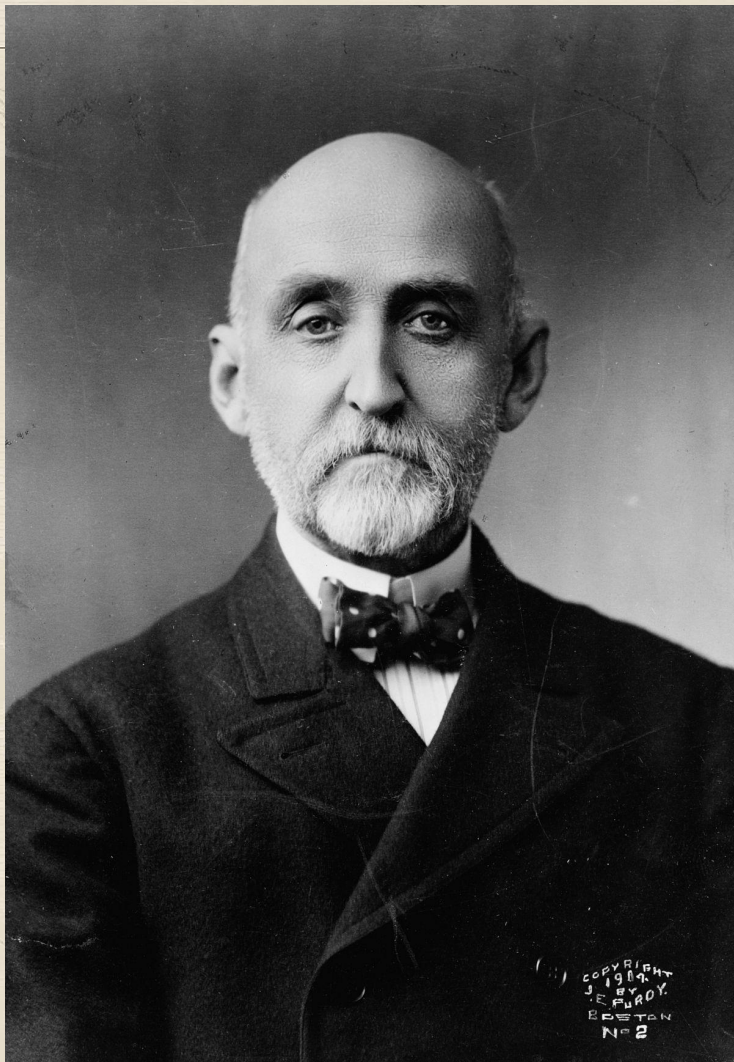


ON SEA POWER

Power measured by
battle fleets

Gained by battle or
blockade

Aggressive to a fault



THE STRATEGIC THINKER

Single-minded in conflict

But a nuanced
appreciation of context
and conditions

The message

PRESCRIPTIONS



Fleets

Colonies

The Need for Sea
Power

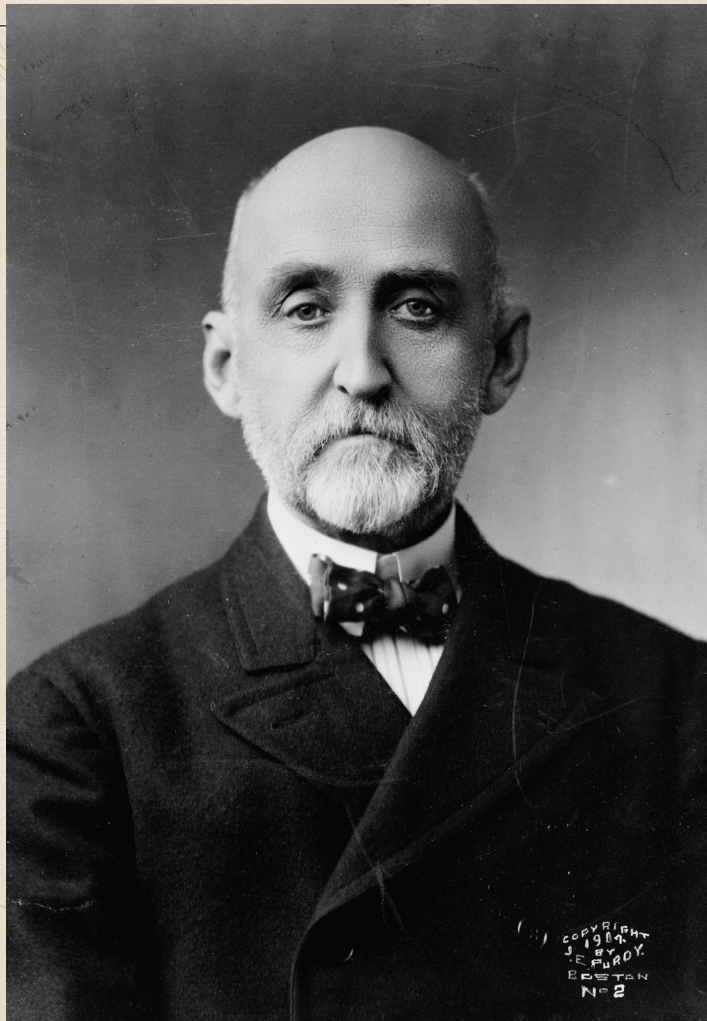
SHORTCOMINGS

Land Power

Changing Technology

An Excessive Focus on
Decisive Battle





CONCLUSION: A PIONEER

Framed Power as
National and Varied

Demanded Governments
Prepare the Nation

Enormous Influence

REFERENCES

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