**Alessandro Barbero - La Grande Battaglia: Gettysburg 1863 - Guerra di Secessione (Audiolibro 08) HQ transcript (english)**

the battle of gettysburg fought near this town of pennsylvania between the first   
and the third of July 1863 is always considered the decisive battle of what we in   
  
Italy call the war of American secession because Americans don't really dream of   
calling so they call it the American Civil War the war to be clear between northerners   
  
and southerners also these two terms that we Italians invented they don't use them,   
they don't talk about forces of the union or federal forces those who obey the government   
  
legitimate of Washington and the Confederates or even the rebels normally when the   
northerners spoke of the southerners they said the rebels battle of gettysburg and   
  
the decisive defeat of the southerners by the rebels that puts an end to their hopes   
that they will ever win this war one day in reality then things are not exactly   
  
like that the American Civil War is a complicated war that has not only lasted for   
years but that is to say, the confederation was fought over vast territories rebel   
  
went from virginia to texas and the war was not only fought in the east there was   
fighting over the whole territory of the confederation i northerners have essentially   
  
always been on the attack and gradually invaded piece after piece the enemy country   
and today is a critical analysis can not fail to say that the war was not won in   
  
gettysburg but was won in the west is the west was won because there on the mississippi   
the federal forces have the confederation cut in two the dates on which the south   
  
lost the war are the fall of new orleans already in april 1862 with new orleans   
the south loses its one true major port which it would have been key to try again   
  
to be able to trade with the world and then and then slowly the entire course of   
the mississippi falls into the hands of the feds there is still a fortified town   
  
held by the southern vicksburg vicksburg is besieged for a long time by the northerners   
and falls on July 4, 1863 the day after end of the battle of gettysburg is taken   
  
by a general who is doing Quickly career the general grant and then he will become   
the commander-in-chief of federal forces here is the fall of Vicksburg on July 4th   
  
and probably more important than the three-day battle of gettysburg precedents to   
decide the death of the confederation than with the loss of vicksburg is cut in   
  
half and no longer controls the mississippi it was the main commercial axis of all   
that part of the united states but not historically there has always been a lot   
  
of talk more than the battle of gettysburg and even contemporaries have talked about   
it much more because it is a question of perspective, a distortion of prospect the   
  
united states were immense but no one knew yet truly the importance and depth of   
the west was everyone's attention concentrated in the east on the east coast which   
  
were the two Washington capitals richmond is not even 200 kilometers away from each   
other and for the whole war were fought there between washington and richmond the   
  
two armies and more famous of the two armies the two most famous armies because   
precisely there there were the capitals there were the politicians there there were   
  
the journalists there were the foreign ambassadors attention was entirely fixed   
ii e these two armies entered the history and indeed in the legend they were the   
  
army of the north virginia of the confederates how did general lee and the army   
of the potomac of the federals of the unionists as they also say of the northerners   
  
in short the army of the northern virgin is one of the legendary armies of the military   
history because because general lee had brought it up to Gettysburg from victory   
  
to victory and even after Gettysburg will continue to snatch an incredible streak   
of victories to snatch them from the jaws of defeat as American military historians   
  
say general lee is a in turn a legendary character in military history many say   
one of the greatest generals of all time what is sure is that his men loved him   
  
general lee robert lee master a robert as his soldiers said maas robert in the accent   
Southern drawl patron robert was was a young officer that hair blacks and the black   
  
goatee at the outbreak of war at the end of the war will be an old man with white   
hair and a white beard and he will have entered history in fact many say he is one   
  
of the greatest generals of all time others say plan he had a defect he was too   
aggressive he always attacked and always attacking in certain cases brings you good   
  
dismay the opponent the bewilderment but it costs expensive it costs you a lot of   
losses and in some cases it is the wrong thing to do we will see just in the case   
  
of gettysburg on the other side is the army of the potomac is not as legendary as   
that of northern virginia is an army of volunteers only at the beginning but then   
  
quickly becomes an army of conscripts and is an army that does not identify with   
a single general because it changes them continuously because it changes continuously   
  
because at every battle general lily defeats and consequently president lincoln   
changes the commander of the army of the patom in the spring of 1863 the battle   
  
of gettysburg will take us then we said it in July in the spring of 63 the army   
of the potomac after suffering a disastrous one defeat in fredericksburg in december   
  
changed commander to new commander general joku car and an ambitious brilliant general   
all aim a lot on him and joe cocker calmly prepares his move it is a question of   
  
invading the virginia the move is always the one the northerners are stronger have   
an enormously more populous country enormously richer an enormously superior industry   
  
so it is always they who attack the Southerners generally defend themselves very   
well joe cocker in the spring of 63 prepares for the umpteenth time the invasion   
  
of the south the hopes are at most the army of the potomac begins to cross the rivers   
that mark the border and into battle of chan silos ville which ends on 6 May is   
  
defeated for the umpteenth once by general lee and is forced to go back to cross   
the river again to return to lick his wounds in his camps the defeat of chance lors   
  
ville as to say is the straw that breaks the camel's back and public opinion in   
the north the president lincoln who had really hoped this time the brilliant joe   
  
cocker arrived in richmond and brought him richmond and il president lincoln is   
terrified, among other things, his career is at stake lincoln's reaction if he doesn't   
  
win this war quickly when news of chance arrives, my development what the country   
will say the country is fed up with this war and in the north there is none it is   
  
only the abolitionists who say god is with us because we we fight a holy war against   
slavery there are also those who hate black people and do not understand why this   
  
must be done war and would rather end it all and be suspended and in this situation,   
general lee decides that now he will try to invade the north had only done this   
  
once a year the previous one had not gone so well and normally it is in fact never   
again tried because he is too strong the enemy though at this time this summer in   
  
1863, however, general lee begins to think that perhaps it is the move to make and   
the move to make because public opinion in the north it starts to falter and if   
  
we invade the north and march on washington it is It is possible that public opinion   
really decides that peace is better then if we march on washington cooker it will   
  
have to meet us we have already defeated him once we will defeat him another time   
this time we will defeat him in his home on his territory is a similar blow it could   
  
really end the war and then there is also another reason why general lee padron   
robert decides to bring the war to the north and that so far the war has been fought   
  
in virginia on the southern territory is a fighting country where two armies live   
enemies is a country that is destroyed the virgin is exhausted there are no more   
  
animals the peasants starve the army no longer invade resources the north means   
that we will enter a rich country untouched by the war there will be a way to feed   
  
the soldiers to their fill and accumulate loot to hoard cattle and horses and finally   
let the exhausted countryside rest of virginia and therefore the general lee decides   
  
to invade the north one of the reasons why he does it and also that he is sure his   
army is invincible has won too many battles so far the army of the northern virgin   
  
and here it may be that it is the first calculation in part wrong of the general   
there because because in this war even the victories cost battles of the American   
  
Civil War are battles they see appalling and generally equal losses between the   
winners and sometimes even defeated they have more losses the general winners lee   
  
has won so many battles and he bled his army to death many of the enthusiastic recruits   
of the early days there are no longer many of the more experienced officers there   
  
are no longer a charlottesville fell the best of his generals also a general legendary   
jackson stonewall jackson died in sounds lousville for le consequences of a wound   
  
he took for friendly fire he shot at him at night his own men without recognizing   
him jackson was the only god lieutenants there that he was truly a military genius   
  
the others are good generals but none of the highest level have lost jackson i his   
regiments his brigades are impoverished and the south has no more men from to give   
  
his is a sparsely populated country and where more than half of the population made   
of black slaves and are certainly not enrolled in the army then the army of northern   
  
virginia even though it is proud sure to be the best army in the world is perhaps   
no longer that tool perfect that he was used to handling them and on the other side   
  
of the frontier instead the army of the potomac is always that is an army where   
in fact recruits prevail over volunteers many are immigrants are not people who   
  
always fight so willingly but they are well placed well paid and there are many   
many many and well dressed and well armed and after each defeat thousands of new   
  
and perfectly trained recruits perfectly armed they are poured into the ranks of   
the army of the patom that after each defeat the army of the patom that releases   
  
stronger than before the industrial economy of the north is running at full capacity   
pulls out guns guns ammunition in comparison the men there are also badly armed   
  
often with inferior weapons and in short it is a bit of a bet but there is a man   
who is used to betting and he is used to attacking therefore in mid-June he enters   
  
maryland formally a northern state has not joined the confederation but it is one   
status that at sight there is also this paradox the north some small st frontier   
  
states that are slavers and when president lincoln declares Slavery illegal declares   
it legal only in the southern countries of the United States Northern states slavery   
  
continues to be legal instead wherever there is the troops of they cross the maryland   
which is a country that is still in part almost a friend and then they enter pennsylvania   
  
which is really the north a country of immigrants partly of German immigrants truly   
where slavery does not really exist very different from the southern country, it   
  
is now possible to enter pennsylvania to really say that 80,000 men of the virgin's   
army are invading the north and northerners begin to beat their heels on the Pennsylvania   
  
roads city ​​after city, village after village, the Southerners pass and it is not   
certainly the invasion of attila is a war between southern gentlemen yes still delude   
  
themselves to make war between gentlemen we are still in america among fellow citizens   
until yesterday we were fellow citizens but of course the war and the war wherever   
  
you go you take the city and villages are obliged to pay contributions to provide   
food to provide cattle and then and then if war is waged between white men and soldiers   
  
from there if they meet any black family who are black in Pennsylvania free it takes   
nothing to capture them and send you south like slaves because in the south there   
  
is slavery and therefore pennsylvania crosses them demanding contributions and gradually   
strengthening his material point of view down-and-out army and on the other side   
  
and on the other side general cooker who still commands the army of the potomac   
must decide what to do and must do something the potomac army at 100,000 men and   
  
stronger than the army there however, the courage to fight is not so easy to find   
they are all a little scared and what he will do there will march on washington   
  
that is the fear and they actually have plans to march sooner or later on washington   
therefore cooker is forced to move and the army of the po toma that slowly moves   
  
trying to stand between the pennsylvania and washington to block the way to iii   
meanwhile, it was car furiously arguing with president lincoln on what needs to   
  
be done do and eventually quarrel and president lincoln is enough and game car is   
fired you have to find a new commander for the army of the potomac I to decide in   
  
a few days and on the 28th June when cooker resigns in his place a general is appointed   
which at lincoln at that time seems the best and general mib george smith is a general   
  
who turns out to be quite colorless and not great personality and not even a genius   
for sure at the moment seems the least worst in general med who formerly commanded   
  
an army corps becomes commander in leader of the potomac army and on his shoulders   
is the frightening responsibility to cope with preventing him from picking up Washington   
  
and if possible give battle under favorable conditions there he moves through pennsylvania   
street after street trying to approaching washington trying to figure out where   
  
the enemy is there he has an ace up his sleeve to a formidable cavalry the army   
Confederate has always been very strong from the point of view of the cavalry also   
  
a legendary cavalry commander james stewart and jamie stewart formerly in another   
campaign did an extraordinary thing brought his cavalry to make a huge raid into   
  
enemy territory by making a whole I turn behind the army of the potomac cutting   
communications by capturing the supply convoys terrorizing the population now stewart   
  
asks ali for permission to do the same thing and there he gives it to him and Stewart   
leaves with almost all the cavalry to make another turn a wide circle in enemy territory   
  
behind the potomac army it seems like a good idea historians will later say that   
that cavalry there he would have done better to keep it with him because in Gettysburg   
  
he will find himself without buts he couldn't know he couldn't know why the battle   
of gettysburg was born by chance it is true that both opponents a they are groping   
  
for each other but no one has decided to fight ii and to fight that day the battle   
arose by chance because the 1 July 63 a Southern division approaches the town of   
  
gettysburg apparently cerali a shoe factory and the commander Southerner of that   
division and wanted to go and stock up on shoes are always a big problem the soldiers   
  
from there often march barefoot therefore there southern division marches on gettysburg   
which is a place in itself totally insignificant and that no one had ever heard   
  
of but there in Gettysburg there is a Nardi cavalry division that is entrenching   
itself out of town the northerners have a lower cavalry at the beginning of southern   
  
war the gentlemen of the south are used to horseback riding go hunting the fox and   
delude themselves that they are ancient knights the Southern cavalry and very brave   
  
the Northerners do not have a cavalry of this level, however, their cavalry is used   
to fighting in a modern way there Northern cavalry uses horses to move but then   
  
stops and goes down trench fires the cavalry division and northerner stands up to   
the Southern infantry Southerners attack attack attack are decimated not in the   
  
meantime they manage to break through other departments, however, hearing it firing   
squads begin to march towards Gettysburg, both Southern departments and Northern   
  
departments head towards the sound of the cannon always new ones arrive forces the   
Southerners continue to attack the northern cavalry in the long run and forced to   
  
retreat more troops arrived at the end there are two Whole Northern Army Corps lined   
up in front of Gettysburg, however, i Confederates attack attack from all sides   
  
and eventually break through the two bodies The Northerners retreat and the Southerners   
occupy the city of Gettysburg it was in its own way a great battle this July 1st   
  
could also finish here because in the past usually after such a fight not it occurred   
to the loser to start over in the past, the northern departments would have retired   
  
to lick their wounds and instead I make the most important decision his life leads   
to gettysburg the rest of the army the other five corps who remain to do battle   
  
there the Southerners have occupied the city but a south of gettysburg there is   
hilly terrain very suitable for defense there a long ridge that takes its name from   
  
the town cemetery precisely la crest of the cemetery there is a wooded knoll which   
they call liter round top the small round peak there I deploy the army of the potomac   
  
between the first and the 2 july and wait to see what general lee and general lee   
will do once he knows for sure that the entire army of the potomac and at gettysburg   
  
he decides the only thing a man like him could decide too we go there all the army   
of northern virginia converges on gettysburg we will attack the enemy from multiple   
  
sides and if possible we will surround him and him we will also annihilate this   
lee critics say and one of the faults of the limits of this great general the illusion   
  
but all the generals of the nineteenth century they had it is the illusion of being   
able to win Napoleonic of being able to completely annihilate the enemy army with   
  
one great battle therefore also makes them all converge not all but most of his   
troops arrived on gettysburg on 2 July of his army and there and throughout the   
  
2nd of July the Southerners attacked what does it mean in the American Civil War   
to attack it's not World War I yet but it's starting to look a bit like us because   
  
when one defends himself now in the American Civil War everyone has learned that   
the first thing to do is work with picks and shovels and entrench themselves trenches   
  
are dug and if trenches cannot be dug, trees are felled the united states is a land   
of woods and trees are being felled everywhere and a barricade is created no one   
  
remains deployed as in the era of Napoleon in the plain or on the hill in the open   
waiting for anyone to attack he defends himself if he has had at least a moment   
  
of time and has already put up a barricade a parapet and defends behind and the   
attacker must go forward in the open as in the time of Napoleon, however, in the   
  
time of Napoleon you were attacking an enemy who shot you with muskets that were   
not needed over 100 meters practically nothing therefore at the time of Napoleon   
  
we went attack across a plain and yes the enemy shot you with cannons but i cannons   
alone have never stopped anyone's dramatic moment an offensive during a Napoleonic   
  
battle since reaching 100 meters and the muskets were starting to shoot you but   
at that point you had to do only 100 meters now at the time of the civil war American   
  
most of the guns are still the same ones he used Napoleon there are more perfected   
but they still don't know how to use them very well the bulk of the guns still work   
  
as they did many years ago and instead the firearms have improved a lot especially   
the northerners by now they have muskets that shoot hundreds of meters far farther   
  
than they used to and that means going on an attack on an entrenched enemy here   
is not like attacking against the machine guns of the first war world but it is   
  
still frighteningly bloody but there is a man who attacks and therefore for the   
whole of July 2nd the Southerners attack up across the board trying to break through   
  
to outflank the enemy and take him in trap to lock him in a bag all day attack in   
certain sectors successfully at one point an entire Northern Army Corps does a wrong   
  
movement comes out in the open is attacked blown away but the main positions hold   
the crest of the cemetery resists the hillock at the bottom of the array letter   
  
a top is about to give up but resists the evening the Southerners are not managed   
to get on nowhere the losses are terrible on both sides and it is the second day   
  
of battle on July 2 in other times a battle lasted two days would already seem very   
long and who had for the whole second day attacked and had not managed to pass in   
  
other times he would have said no okay just the lost battle is useless to insist   
we go but in those days in gettysburg something happens that also from the point   
  
of view of military history is exceptional two generals each of which refuses to   
admit that the battle is lost and decides to continue it this time it's up to the   
  
evening of the 2nd to decide that the battle is not yet lost that we continue tomorrow   
we attack of new the bulk of the army and devastated by fatigue losses it is not   
  
that one can think of attacking all day with certain divisions and send them on   
the attack again tomorrow but there are the divisions they have attacked the day   
  
before they suffered tremendous losses but now they are a little more restful and   
then came a new division the last we remember that he had ordered them to all his   
  
army to converge on gettysburg this army was spread across half pennsylvania there's   
a split coming in late and pickett's split and split crime recruited all in virginia   
  
the most famous state and from a certain point of southern most glorious sight the   
state where general lee la was also born division of spades between virginian division   
  
arrives on that evening of 2 not yet fired a shot them decides that tomorrow will   
be the split of spades a lead the offensive on its flanks other divisions already   
  
tired already bled but they will resume the attack but at the center of everything   
there will be division of pickett and the next day on July 3 the offensive starts   
  
which went down in history as the charge of spades it is one of those moments that   
have remained in the imagination for a long time collective of Americans in particular   
  
of those of the south there is a book by william faulkner the great writer of southern   
mississippi then in the first half of the twentieth century which is one of the   
  
great interpreters of the Southern soul of the regret of the defeat of the just   
cause that has instead been defeated here and there is a passage from a folk book   
  
where volker says in the head of each southern boy there is this idea of ​​that   
pickett e charge that day what would have happened if it had gone another way in   
  
the head of every southern boy is this thing that moment suspended that day under   
the July sun when nothing was still decided and we could still have won the war   
  
in fact this is a romantic view of the matter to watch the forces in field seems   
very difficult that piquet could make it is perhaps one of the greats errors in   
  
the life of general lee this having believed that the strength of will that the   
moral superiority of his soldiers could lead them to do the impossible pickett and   
  
glia and the other divisions with him attacking is about crossing a vast plain and   
arriving at positions fortified the crest of the cemetery first before it is done   
  
as Napoleon did the enemy position is bombarded with artillery for a long time to   
weaken it times of napoleon it worked now it works a little less than in the times   
  
of Napoleon cannons could get close to 400 500 meters from the enemy and muskets   
they could not do anything about the enemy now the rifles of the northerners have   
  
one very long range the guns of the Southerners must stay very far and in general   
the southern artillery is weaker and the artillery of a country than it does not   
  
have a large industrial base, the Southern artillery bombs for hours the fortified   
positions of the northerners inflict losses but not significant basically the mad   
  
deployment of the potomac army is still intact when pickett goes on and so does   
the split of spades other divisions cross the plain under a terrifying fire moving   
  
forward their generals fall at the head of the brigades they go forward the same   
fall thousands go on all the same they arrive at enemy positions the first groups   
  
break through enter the enemy positions take the first ones guns but those positions   
are full of soldiers are full of reserves i Northerners counterattack whoever has   
  
managed to enter is captured and in the end the charging stops and the survivors   
go back the legend says that the general rides them among his men who they are returning   
  
distraught and wounded by this failure rides in the midst of his men saying boys   
it's my fault it was just my fault it's not my fault yours then goes to know the   
  
wars and battles that is to say, what the battle is sure of is a harbinger of legends   
lost or so we know the truth is that throughout the 4th of July i two armies remain   
  
firm on their positions there he does not want to retreat and gives me the courage   
to attack both armies are enthroned overwhelmed by fatigue and losses scary then   
  
it starts to rain there if he wants to return home he must crossing rivers cannot   
afford to wait any longer if i rivers swell if you take away the walkways you risk   
  
staying trapped and then on July 5 admits them that the lost battle and the winner   
of a big one normally begins the retreat decisive battle the enemy is pursued by   
  
the army of the po toma which remains motionless on its positions it has suffered   
such losses that it is unable to move although of course made it will then be criticized   
  
by public opinion for not having chased but only he knows what state his army is   
in some 50,000 were dead and wounded and missing between both armies half for one   
  
of these the dead are about 8000 echoes in the days 8 thousand dead will have to   
be buried around gettysburg e burn 5,000 horse carcasses because horses also die   
  
naturally as much as the men in these battles and therefore the Southern army he   
returns home defeated and a few months later president lincoln comes to gettysburg   
  
to celebrate the victory and gettysburg the speech perhaps most famous in American   
history where he says those phrases that little boys Americans at school memorize   
  
we here make the sacred decision that these men will not have died in vain that   
this nation under god will be reborn in freedom and that the government of the people   
  
made by people for the people will not disappear from this land understand what   
it means we think the American Civil War was fought for the cause of slavery is   
  
not like that civil war was fought because the southern states after the election   
of the president since a president had been elected who didn't like lincoln decided   
  
to leave and according to them they had the right to do so and instead according   
to the north and second lincoln did not have the right to do so because even in   
  
a confederation no one can say since I don't like the result of the elections then   
me i dont accept that the essence of democracy lincoln says lies in the fact you   
  
have to accept the election results as you see the stakes it was politically complex   
and Lincoln and the Northerners believed they were fighting for democracy and freedom   
  
and the Southerners were convinced they were fighting for democracy and freedom   
for their right to leave in this case it is of course to keep their black slaves   
  
the war is certainly not over, the grant general he has will last two more years   
taken vicksburg will be sent to command the eastern front will become the superior   
  
of made in which nobody much trust and general grant and in the summer of 64 he   
too will cross the rivers that mark the border e he will try to go to richmond and   
  
will make it in time by meeting general lee a suffer a series of catastrophic defeats   
with terrifying losses but the north can afford the terrifying losses and the south   
  
cannot and the following year again in 65 the army of northern virginia will be