

History 225
Re: Notes w/ Gettysburg

CTF

End the Gettysburg battle as Second Turning Point of the War

First turning point was Antietam

Gettysburg, in retrospect only, because the war goes on for almost two more years, was the Second Turning point for the following reasons:

1. Lee would never again be able to invade the North

2. Gettysburg and Vicksburg campaigns end for good any possibility of foreign intervention in the war. (Not Antietam but these victories in the field shut down any residual interest by the British to offer mediation in this war. See Chpt. 22 of BCF for the material on this last effort. McPherson talks about Napoleon Bonaparte III's futile efforts to try and interest the Palmerston Government in intervention. Coupled with the fact that the British stop Bulloch from releasing his "superweapon" Laird rams from leaving England. I believe only one got away.

3. Point out too that after Gettysburg and Vicksburg the Confederate Government began to develop a broad program of clandestine action to demonstrate to the Northern electorate that the Lincoln administration's war effort was ineffective. Part of this program was to increase sabotage efforts in the Union rear (like burning down large sections of New York City) and the kidnapping of the president; and apparently, blowing up the White House as an alternative act of terror and disruption or decapitation of the Union leadership.

Point here is that after the defeat at Gettysburg and Vicksburg it was clear to Richmond that if there was any chance of winning Southern independence it could only be won by convincing the Northern people that to continue the war would be too costly in manpower casualties and in money. The Confederate war would now be a desperate war to attrit the morale and the fighting spirit of the North. To do whatever it took to wear down the North's perseverance.

Looking ahead especially to the election of 1864. Which would be the Third turning Point of the War.