

# A STUDY OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIPLOMACY

*The diplomacy of the American Civil War involved the relations of the United States and the The British textile industry depended on cotton from the South, but it had Historians have studied Washington's team of hard-working diplomats, cotton at the risk of losing the large quantities of food imported from the North.*

Monaghan, Jay. The Americans shipped grain to Britain while Britain sent manufactured items and munitions. Benjamin, Confederate Statesman. Few on either side, envisioned a bloody four-year war that would pit brother against brother. Their goal was to obtain recognition for the Confederacy. England, on the other hand, supported the Confederacy, believing that a break in the United States would limit their growing power. As the war dragged on the need for Confederates to get cotton out of Southern ports became far greater than the European need to bring cotton into their textile mills. Pressure from southern states had neutralized this, but the Lincoln administration was now eager to sign up. He seriously considered breaking the union blockade of Southern ports to obtain the cotton. Thus, England preferred to witness the decline of American maritime and commercial strengths, and favored the increase economic incentives produced by the conflict. Chapel Hill, N. Mason and John Slidell. A study of the first year of the war. Nearly all of the nation's manufactured goods, including 94 percent of the nation's cloth, and 91 percent of its footwear, were produced in the northern states. The Canadian government captured the Confederates who robbed a bank and killed an American, then released them, angering American opinion. There was little left that the diplomats could do to reverse the tide. Stern, Philip Van Doren. Owsley presents a compelling argument about Southern diplomacy, but the legacy of King Cotton Diplomacy lies in the general historiographical trend it inspired rather than the particular thesis it asserted. Recognition and Support? Britain and the War for the Union. Despite its years, King Cotton Diplomacy still offers an important contribution to Civil War historiography. Owsley demonstrates the reasons why Europe never formally recognized the South as a belligerent nation. During the early 20th century, Secretary of State William Seward was seen as an Anglophobe who dominated a weak president. Long coastlines and many navigable rivers made the Confederacy vulnerable to an overwhelming Northern advantage—naval power. The United States had warned that recognition meant war. Warren, Gordon H. Garibaldi declined the offer because he would not be given supreme power over all the armies, and because the United States was not yet committed to abolishing slavery.