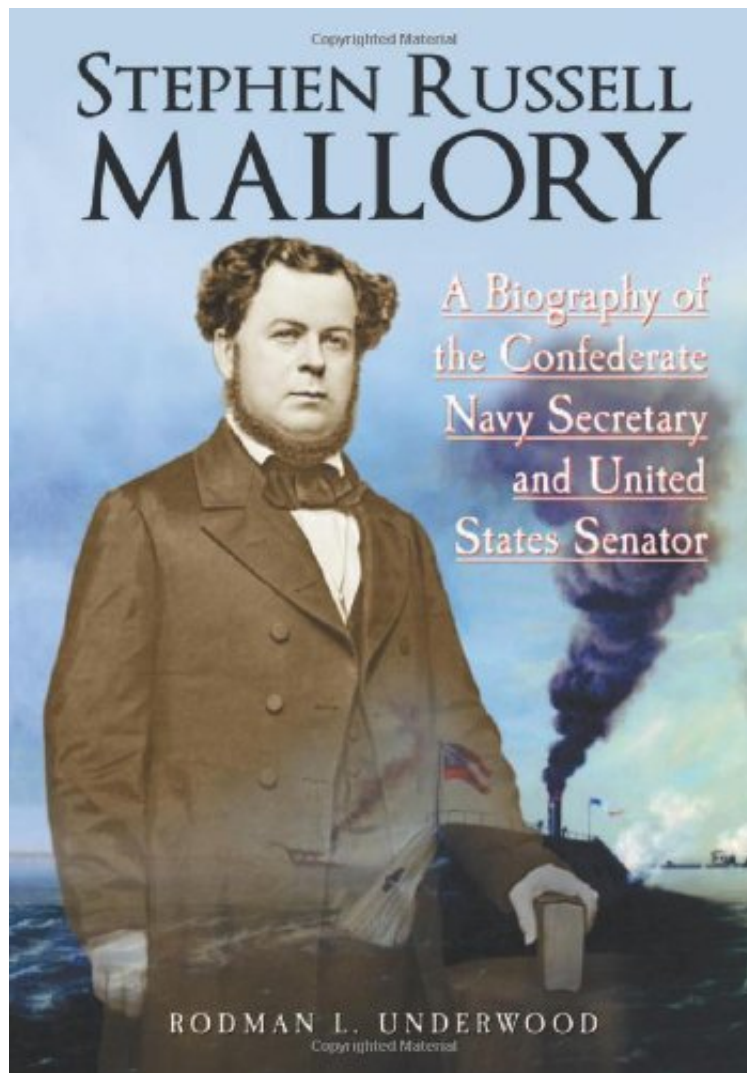


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## Stephen Russell Mallory: A Biography of the Confederate Navy Secretary and United States Senator

*Rodman Underwood*

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**Rodman Underwood : Stephen Russell Mallory: A Biography of the Confederate Navy Secretary and United States Senator** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stephen Russell Mallory: A Biography of the Confederate Navy Secretary and United States Senator:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Biography of the Confederacy's Neglected Secretary of the Navy By A. A. Nofi A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com: 'In the first biography of Mallory in over 50

years, Underwood, who also wrote *Waters of Discord: The Union Blockade of Texas During the Civil War*, gives us a highly detailed, comprehensive look at the man's life and work. Judah Benjamin aside, Mallory was the ablest member of Jefferson Davis' cabinet. He entered the U.S. Senate from Florida in 1851 and quickly proved himself a sound expert in naval affairs. Staying with his state when the Civil War broke out, Mallory became Davis' Secretary of the Navy and, unlike most other Confederate cabinet members, held his job through to the end of the war, proving a fine administrator, a master of improvisation and innovation, and a sound strategist. Although some readers will be put off by the overly detailed look at Mallory's family history with which the book opens, this should not deter the serious student of the Civil War or American naval history. For the full review, see [StrategyPage.Com](http://StrategyPage.Com)

Just as Confederate naval action is commonly overshadowed by the land battles of the Civil War, the navy's originator, Stephen Mallory, is often overlooked in favor of more famous leaders. Mallory had served as one of Florida's U.S. senators for ten years before becoming navy secretary in the Confederate government, challenged to create a valid military force where none had existed. This biography chronicles Mallory's formative years in Key West, his decades of public service, and his declining days. It discusses his career in the United States Senate, where he chaired the Committee for Naval Affairs, helping to strengthen--in an ironic twist of fate--the very navy he would later attempt to defeat. The work also examines the challenges and obstacles Mallory faced in creating a navy for the South. Special attention is given to Mallory's family relationships. Primary sources include autobiographical documents and archival records.

"excellent...very well written...highly recommended" --Civil War News  
"worthy" --The Civil War Courier  
About the Author  
Lecturer and author Rodman L. Underwood lives in Port Orange, Florida.