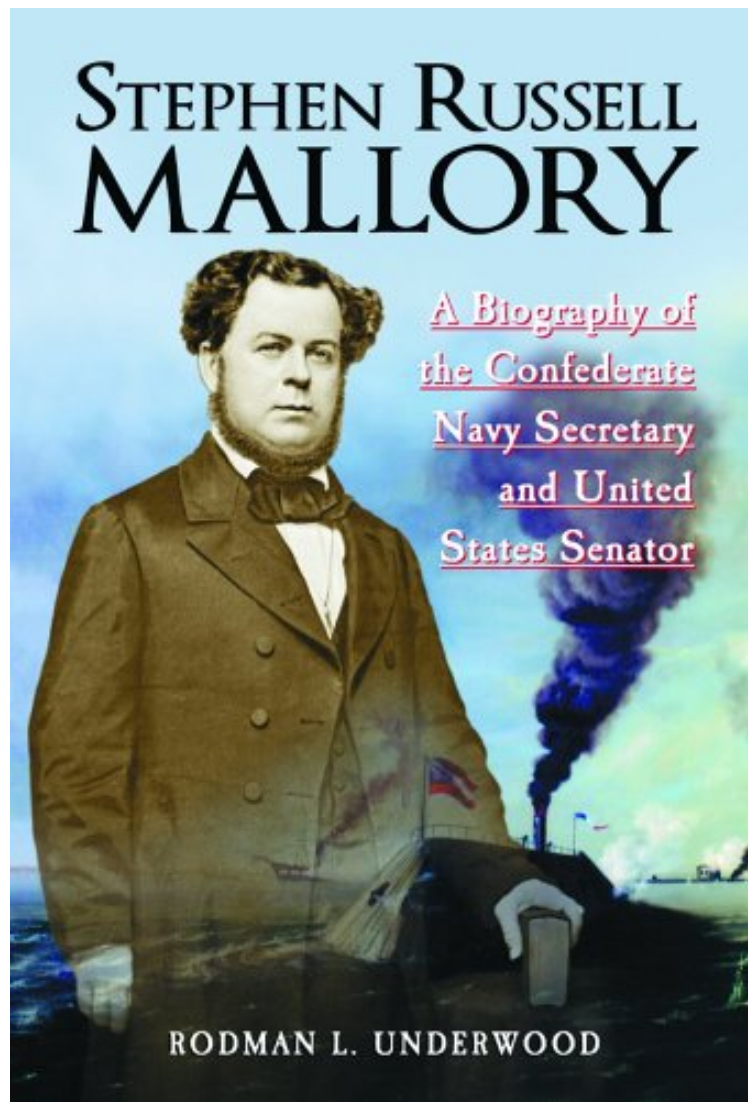


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Stephen Russell Mallory: A Biography of the Confederate Navy Secretary And United States

Rodman L. Underwood

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Rodman L. Underwood : Stephen Russell Mallory: A Biography of the Confederate Navy Secretary And United States before purchasing it in order to gage 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:

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the NavyBy A. A. NofiA 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

Just as Confederate naval action is commonly overshadowed by the dramatic land battles of the Civil War, the navy's originator, Stephen Mallory, is often passed over in favor of those who played a more publicized role in the government of the Confederacy. Mallory had served as one of Florida's U.S. senators for ten years when the state's secession forced him to resign his position. In the new Confederate government he became the naval secretary and found himself challenged to create a valid military force where none had existed. This biography of Stephen Russell Mallory chronicles his 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 served on and 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 takes an in-depth look at the challenges and obstacles that Mallory faced in creating a navy for the South. Special attention is given to Mallory's family relationships and his role as a devoted husband and father. Primary sources include Mallory's extensive autobiographical documents and surviving archival records.

About the AuthorRodman L. Underwood is also the author of *Waters of Discord: The Union Blockade of Texas During the Civil War* (2003). He lives in Port Orange, Florida.