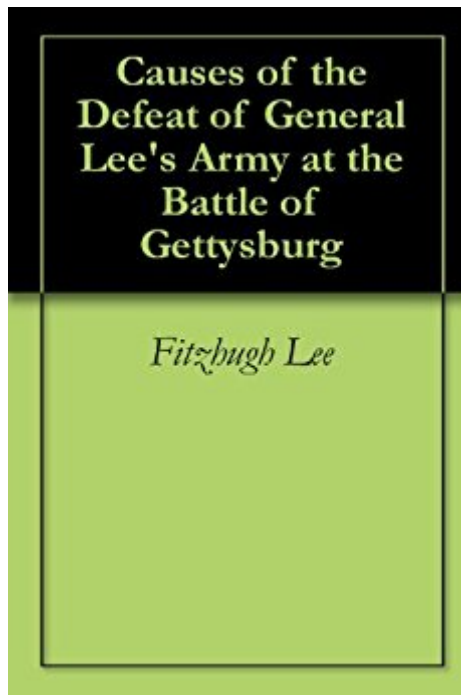


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# Causes Of The Defeat Of General Lee's Army At The Battle Of Gettysburg



## Synopsis

Several letters explaining why Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia lost the Battle of Gettysburg. The authors include Confederate General Jubal Early and Fitzhugh Lee, Armistead Lindsay Long and Walter H. Taylor from Lee's staff, and William Allan from General Ewell's staff. The letters were written in response to an inquiry from the editors of the Southern Historical Society Papers. From the Southern Historical Society Papers.

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## Customer Reviews

Fascinating short letters by Jubal Early, Fitzhugh Lee and other Confederate officers who were at Gettysburg about why they believe Lee lost the battle. Early's contention that the battle was not a turning point is disingenuous at best--if Lee had won, it certainly would have been THE turning point. And Early's criticism of Longstreet, while having some merit, also has political motivations that he doesn't disclose. The justifications for Lee's decision to invade the North are persuasive.

The sort book collects the thoughts of several of those who were in command during those three

days in July 1863, and attempts to determine what caused the South to lose. The various letters give differing views, and assign their theory of what caused the defeat to various actions and mistakes made during the days of battle. It is not the definitive answer in any way, but to those who study Gettysburg it is worth reading and having as a reference for further investigations.

It seems Not following orders seems to have played a huge part in the Confederate loss at Gettysburg, General Longstreet did not like Gen. Lee's plan from the onset, his delay in attacking at the time agreed on proved disastrous.

The battle was the first major battle that the Confederates did not leave the battle field with US weapons. Only in that sense was it a defeat. The union officers after the battle certainly did not think it was a victory. When Lincoln congratulated them on their "victory" they were dumbfounded.

Very interesting first hand observations that are on the mark. Most historians will agree that the absence of timely actions by Lee's subordinates caused the defeat at Gettysburg. This is eloquently and factually presented in this book.

I find some of the information slightly ambiguous . I can't put all the blame on Longstreet. As much as I admire Gen. Lee, he must take most of the blame. There wasn't any coordination between his three Corps commanders. Gen. Early was partially to blame for 2nd Corps not taking Cemetery Hill. I could go on and on but hindsight does not win battles. The point of the matter is The Army of the Potomac won this battle. No matter who you blame or point your finger at. It still remains, the Federals won.

So good to read first hand accounts and well researched and documented opinion of why Gettysburg turned out the way it did, coming down to not executing a battle plan in a committed , timely manner.

Some really terrific insights. I was especially impressed with the entry by Colonel Allen. If you are a Gettysburg fan you must read this twice.

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