

# **The Guns of the South: A Novel of the Civil War Study Guide**

**The Guns of the South: A Novel of the Civil War by Harry Turtledove**

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# Plot Summary

The Guns of the South by Harry Turtledove is a novel about the Civil War, but it is not the average Civil War novel. In this book, the events of the Civil War take a turn when a group of men from one hundred fifty years in the future appear and offer their services to the Confederacy. In addition to their services, they also offer to supply a fantastic new weapon and ammunition at an unbelievable low price. The new repeater carbine is an AK-47.

The novel opens with Lee at his headquarters near Orange Court House, Virginia. The South is ill-equipped and cannot match the Springfield repeater guns of the North. Their casualties are high and they are in danger of losing the war. Colonel Gorgas writes General Lee suggesting he view a demonstration of a new weapon. The man who does the demonstration is named Andries Rhodie and he has a strong accent that Lee and others cannot identify. The gun that Rhodie demonstrates greatly impresses Lee and the soldiers who agree to allow Rhodie to supply the Confederacy. The first shipment of guns and ammunition is to be shipped from Rivington, North Carolina and arrive the next day.

That night, Broodie eats with them. He introduces them to rations in silver foil packets that are mixed with water and to Folger Instant Coffee. He tells them that AWB is the emblem for the organization he represents but fails to say what it is or where the products come from.

The next day, the weapons arrive as Rhodie promised along with some of his men who begins to train the soldiers on the use and care of the AK-47s. The Confederate soldiers soon use the weapons in combat against the North and the tide of the Civil War changes as the Confederates win victory after victory. Eventually the Confederate troops enter Washington city and capture the White House and Abe Lincoln. An armistice is negotiated and the war ends, with the Confederacy being the victor.

Lee finally presses Rhodie for information about where his intelligence comes from. Rhodie always seems to know what Lee's plans are as well as those of the United States. Rhodie finally tells him that he and his men all from one hundred fifty years in the future and they have come to help the Confederacy win the war to make the world a better place in the future. The AWB men are racially motivated and their hatred of blacks is obvious.

After the war, when Lee becomes President of the Confederate States of America, the AWB men try to assassinate Lee at his inauguration. The Confederate authorities gain access to the AWB office and their collection of books about the Civil War. They learn that the AWB men are part of a small radical movement called the Afrikaner Resistance Movement from the future. The books reveal that future generations do not view the institution of slavery in the way the AWB people claim they did.



Turtledove writes an interesting book that holds the reader's interest and is easy to read.



# Chapters 1-2

## Chapters 1-2 Summary

The Guns of the South by Harry Turtledove is a novel about the Civil War, but it is not the average Civil War novel. In this book, the events of the Civil War take a turn when a group of men from one hundred fifty years in the future appear and offer their services to the Confederacy. In addition to their services, they also offer to supply a fantastic new weapon and ammunition at an unbelievable low price. The new repeater carbine is an AK-47.

General Robert E. Lee is explaining in a letter to President Davis why he cannot go to North Carolina for the attack of New Berne when he hears gunfire. A man named Andries Rhoodie has developed a new rifle as he is informed by Colonel Gorgas and Lee agrees to see Rhoodie. Rhoodie demonstrates the new gun for a group of men and they are very impressed.

Lee wants to know if Rhoodie can supply the repeater guns and ammunition and he says he can. The gun is called an AK-47. Lee is also interested in the rations that Rhoodie has but he doesn't know if his firm is ready to supply them. Among the rations is Folger's Instant Coffee.

A few days later Lee receives word that the train had stopped at Rivington and picked up the first shipments of guns and ammunition as well as a dozen men who would train the troops. Lee is more impressed with Rhoodie after the delivery of the troops, as he tells Charles Veneable.

When the train arrives at Orange Court House, Lee, Rhoodie, Veneable, and others go to meet it. Rhoodie's men are supervising the slaves who are unloading the cargo. They all wear identical spotted green uniforms. Veneable comments on the accent Rhoodie and his men have. Rhoodie just replies that they are country men. Lee and Veneable can't place the accent but feel the men are too open to be spies. They make arrangements to demonstrate the guns to General Stuart.

In Chapter Two, First Sergeant Nate Caudell is writing a letter for Private Alsie Hopkins. Benny Land, one of Rhoodie's men is at Company D to show them how to operate the AK-47. Lang has one of the men load and fire his musket. He could fire two shots about thirty seconds apart. Lang then fires the AK-47 with thirty rounds in the same amount of time. The men are impressed with the weapon.

Two dozen of the AK-47 are passed out. Caudell is impressed with the lightness of the gun. Lang explains how the gun functions and the men practice with the gun. He also shows them how to clean and care for the gun. The men will practice with the gun until the shipment for the regiments arrives the next day. The guns are distributed and the



men shown how to use them. Caudell has his men practice cleaning and assembling the gun.

Caudell talks to Mollie Bean about Rivington where the guns come from. Rhodie and his facilities weren't there when she was there a year ago.

## Chapters 1-2 Analysis

The Civil War is taking place. General Robert E. Lee is at his Virginia Headquarters and is asked to have Rhodie demonstrate a new gun called an AK-47. Since the South lags behind the North in the quality of weapons, Lee naturally orders the new gun for his men.

Rhodie is secretive about the guns and rations, like Folger Instant Coffee, that he shows the men. He says his company is AWB but doesn't explain much about the company or its products. He also does not explain how he knows about Lee's plans to attack New Berne. Lee is too desperate for the weapons to press for information. The men also cannot identify the accents of Rhodie and his men. They think they are European.



# Chapters 3-4

## Chapters 3-4 Summary

General Lee travels to Richmond via train. A carriage takes him to the President's Office to talk to President Davis and Secretary of War, James Seddon. The men discuss the new carbine and a suggestion by General Cleburne of the Army of Tennessee to use Negroes as soldiers. They discuss Rivington and the source of the guns. Their investigation has reveals no facilities manufacturing them and the guns seem to come from the People's Republic of China, Yugoslavia and the SSSR. Rivington seems to be a transshipment point and the men are reluctant to press Rhodie's men for details lest the supply of carbines stop. They don't like being dependant on a small group of men so they decide to send agents to Rivington.

After the meeting, Lee visits his wife. They next morning he meets with Colonel Gorgas at the Armory. They discuss the merits of the Ak-47 and whether or not they can manufacturer the gun and ammunition. Gorgas says their experts are working on the problems and that Rhodie charges fifty Confederate dollars for each rifle. Lee says that Rhodie must be losing money on every gun since they pay their bills in gold dollars.

Lee goes to the War Department when he finishes his meeting with Gorgas. He talks with his son Custis about the organization called America Will Break and that he wants Custis to investigate them.

In Chapter Four, Generals Lee, Ewell and others discuss the new weapon and the America Will Break group. The group supplies them with information about Federal troop movements. They meet with Rhodie and try to learn the sources of his information. Rhodie tells them that he and his men come from one hundred fifty years in the future. They have traveled back in time via a time machine Rhodie feels them that they are defeated by the North and forced to free their slaves. The South is totally ruined by the war. Lincoln will not run for re-election and Thaddeus Stevens will succeed him. Rhodie is from South Africa and against the problem blacks are causing. They want to change the course of the Civil War.

Lang discovers the black cook, George Ballentine, with an Ak-47 and complains about it. On Sunday, Caudill learns is that George has run away after the men took away his Ak-47. He is killed.

Rhodie continues to supply information of the North's troop movements and gives advice to General Lee. He supplies Lee with heart medication from the future.

## Chapters 3-4 Analysis

Lee and other Confederate leaders do not like being dependent on the small AWB group for the weapons and look into producing them. They don't have the technology to





do so. When Rhodie keeps supplying accurate intelligence reports about the North, Lee and others finally question him about his sources.

AWB, Rhodie, and his men are from one hundred fifty years in the future and have stolen a time machine. They are from South Africa and very prejudiced against blacks. Their goal is to contain blacks in the twenty-first century by changing the course of the Civil War. The intelligence that Rhodie supplies is nothing but the events of history. Lee and the others seem happy for any help that they can get.



# Chapters 5-6

## Chapters 5-6 Summary

Caudell and the army are preparing to move. His group will lead the march. They plan to meet the Yankees the next day and cheer General Lee when they see him. Caudell sends men for water since he and others have the packets of desiccated meals.

The next day they resume the march. They meet the Yanks at mid morning and capture prisoners. The Yankees have repeaters but not AK-47s and the prisoners ask questions about the guns. The Confederates push back the Northern troops. The troops capture a wagon full of Yankee ammunition which they can't use with the AK-47s. The fighting is hard but the Yanks cannot dislodge the Confederate troops.

Caudell and Mollie are separate from their unit but manage to find it. When cleaning his repeater, Colonel Fairibault arrives to tell them that they will engage the Northern troops again the next day and may be able to wipe out the Federal II Corps, in spite of the fact that they will face their big guns.

The next day, many Yanks surrender rather than be cut down by the AK-47s.

In Chapter Six, the men wave at Lee as they cross the Rapidan River. Lee wonders how long before the Yankees manufacture their own repeaters. If they did, the South would lose its advantage. Lee attributes the victory they just won to the Rivington men. Their success depends on a continued supply of ammunition.

Caudell's group fights a black regiment of Federal troops. He and a few others are sent to take out Yankee battery cannon. The Confederates again push back the Yankee troops.

That evening, Venable brings dispatches to Lee showing the success of the Confederate troops. Lee and Marshall feel that the tide of the war has changed. Lee and Rhodie have a disagreement about the treatment of black prisoners. If they continue to give equal treatment to black prisoners, America Will Break will stop their support of the Confederacy. Lee refuses and then worries about running out of ammunition.

Caudell and the men move into Maryland. By the time they reach Rockville the next day, the Yankees had abandoned the city.

## Chapters 5-6 Analysis

The Confederates begin to fight their battles with the AK-47 and they are very successful in every encounter. They quickly fight their way north and take Rockville, a Maryland city that is a suburb of Washington. Even with their cannons, the Northern

troops are no match for the South. Marshall and Lee feel that the course of the war has changed.

The intense dislike that the America Will Break men feel for blacks is evident when Rhodie protests black prisoners being treated equally as whites. He threatens to halt the supply of ammunition which would basically leave the South weaponless. Lee calls Rhodie's bluff and apparently succeeds.



# Chapters 7-8

## Chapters 7-8 Summary

Washington is surrounded by a series of forts with big guns. All of the trees are cut down so there is no place for cover. Lee feels that their chances of taking Washington have never been better. He tells Rhodie that he plans to attack that evening. Rhodie shows Lee a rifle grenade that can be shot from the AK-47. His men will use them ahead of Lee's forces.

The troops begin their advance. The Federals begin firing when they are about one third of the distance. Caudell hears the firing of some kind of mysterious shell and wonders what they are. Lang appears wearing a helmet which Caudell has never before seen. Lang shows him the rifle grenade and a flak jacket. The men make it through the trenches. By dawn, the troops are two miles from Washington City. General Kirkland says they can try to capture the White House.

The Confederates slowly advance on the White House. Abe Lincoln walks toward them. Lincoln defends his actions to the Southern soldier. Lee rides up as the men are debating whether or not to shoot Lincoln. Lee and Lincoln sit down to talk over coffee. They talk about the repeaters. Lee wants the Federal troops to withdraw from the Confederacy and then they will withdraw from Washington. The two nations will remain separate but peaceful. The status of other areas will be negotiated later, but Lee doesn't have the authority to negotiate a peace. The authority is with President Davis in Richmond. Lincoln accepts the terms and they write out the terms and then they go outside to announce the armistice to the men.

After leaving Lincoln, Lee rides to the British Embassy to tell Lord Lyons of the peace terms.

In Chapter Eight, Mollie and Caudell discuss the armistice. Grant and Lee also meet to discuss the peace. Lincoln did not appear with the southerners in Washington. He stayed inside. Lee and Grant handled the ceremony.

The Confederates leave the city the next day. Lee rides to his mansion at Arlington. His house is being used as a hospital. He visits the wounded Yankees. They want to know where the new repeaters came from and he tells them North Carolina.

Caudell marches to where they have a functioning railroad. The regiment can only ride the railroad in places where it isn't broken. They ride to Richmond where they are reviewed by President David. They listen to Davis speech. The next day, they receive railroad tickets home and two months pay.

## Chapters 7-8 Analysis

The men from Rivington and their AK-47s make a big difference in the outcome of the war. The Confederate troops take Washington and capture Abe Lincoln. Lincoln and Lee negotiate an armistice and the Civil War ends. The Confederate States are a separated nation recognized by the United States. The southern slaves are still slaves. The South has won the war thanks to America Break Away and their weapons from the future.



# Chapter 9

## Chapter 9 Summary

Lee rides to the Confederate White House to meet Davis. The northern boundary of the Confederacy must still be negotiated and Davis wants Lee to be one of the negotiators. The negotiation will begin in three days in Richmond. The Rivington men feel that the North will concede Kentucky and Missouri.

They discuss the Rivington men and what they can and can't now know from the future. Davis also discusses the possibility of Lee running for President since he can only serve one six year term. He wants Lee to remain in the public eye.

The train reaches Rivington where there is a half hour layover. Caudell gets off the train and walks with Millie. They see the AWB warehouses. They go to the bank to cash their pay warrants and receive gold dollars. He boards the train when it leaves after telling Mollie to write. Caudell goes on to Rocky Mount.

A train enters the station with returning Yankee prisoners of war. Caudell meets Henry Pleasants. They find they both fought in the battle of Bealeton and go for a drink. Henry misses his train. They spend the night at the tavern inn. The next morning, Caudell gives him money for the train.

Caudell decides to walk to Nashville and arrives home that evening.

Negotiations being in Richmond with Lee, Benjamin and Stephens representing the Confederate States of America and Stanton, Seward and Butler representing the United States. In their first meeting, the men decide what they disagree on. Benjamin and Lee meet with Davis to discuss the results. They discuss what they may or may not be able to win.

## Chapter 9 Analysis

The end of the war means that the soldiers return home. Mollie returns to Rivington and back to the life of a prostitute. Caudell returns to Nashville in Nash County. He and Mollie have decided to keep in touch.

The end of the war also means the negotiations between North and South must take place .the two teams are for a part on their demands at the first meeting, disagreeing on just about everything, but this is how negotiations take place.

The Confederate States of America still has problems with the rest of the world over the issue of slavery. European nations are slow to recognize the new country.



# Chapter 10

## Chapter 10 Summary

Lee returns to his house and tells his black servant Julia that he will free her and she can work for wages. Lee explains his reasons to his wife and daughters about how other countries feel about slavery.

Negotiations with the North continue. The Confederate States of American cannot get the Indian states or Maryland and West Virginia. Lee proposes that they allow Kentucky and Missouri to vote on which country they want to join.

After the meeting, while riding home, Lee finds a black man being chased by a blacksmith. The black man offers his services for less than the white blacksmith who is losing customers. Lee questions them both as a Rivington man walks up and chides Lee for siding with the black. The Rivington man reports the incident to the Richmond Sentinel.

Custis and his father discuss the newspaper article and the America Will Break men. They both agree that they are dangerous and Custis warns his father to be careful.

Lincoln rejects Lee's proposal for a vote in Kentucky and Missouri.

Nate Caudell receives letters from Mollie Bean and from Henry Pleasants. Pleasants has a good job with a railroad. Caudell is a boarder in the house of Barbara Bissett and her family. Mollie writes of visiting Benny Lang's house and how it has electricity. Caudell answers both letters and asks Mollie to find out about Lang's electricity and books.

Caudell buys a paper after teaching school. The United States elected Horatio Seymour as president. Lincoln lost the election.

## Chapter 10 Analysis

Even though slavery is legal in the Confederate States of American, Lee tells his servant, Julia, that he plans to give her her freedom and allows her to work for wages. Lee is following his own conscience. Slavery is beginning to bother him, especially since he is aware of how other countries view the practice.

The Rivington men are extremely prejudiced against blacks. When Lee sides with a free slave in a quarrel, the incident is reported to the newspaper. Custis warns his father about the Rivington men. They both know that they are dangerous and cause trouble for anyone who defends blacks.



# Chapter 11

## Chapter 11 Summary

At the peace negotiations, the men from the North are glum over Lincoln's defeat. Lincoln will allow elections and allow Kentucky and Missouri to decide their own fate and offer ninety million in specie for reparations. The southern representatives must consult with President Davis. They decide to accept the offer.

The next day, both sides decide what troops will withdraw from which states and how each country will have an election official in Kentucky and Missouri.

Mary is not happy about Lee being sent to Kentucky and Missouri. She wants him to stay home.

Lee travels to Louisville by train. Major Charles Marshall is with him. They check into a hotel. From Louisville, they went on to Nashville. There are few blacks. Along the way, he explains to people how they will decide which country they want. The question of slavery keeps coming up along with what happens to freed slaves.

General Grant is the representative of the United States. He and Lee meet at Galt House in Louisville. In the morning, a bullet is shot through the window of Lee's room. He is not hurt. He recognizes the sound of a Springfield so he knows it isn't the AWB men. The man they catch is black.

Lee receives a message about a captured shipment of AK-47s at Tompkinsville, Kentucky and rushes there. The captured men are Rivington men. Lee tells them that Grant will purchase the shipment. They refuse and are told to leave town.

Lincoln, now a former president, gives a speech in Louisville. He talks to Lee afterward and tells him that after giving speeches in both states, he plans to practice law in Springfield.

Missouri voted to remain in the United States. Kentucky voted to go with the confederate States.

## Chapter 11 Analysis

The elections take place in Missouri and Kentucky with Grant and Lee there as observers. There were several incidents. Lee is shot at by a black but not harmed. Two Rivington men and a load of AK-47s are captured in Kentucky. Aside from this, the elections take place. Missouri votes to remain with the United States and Kentucky votes to go with the confederate States. The people have made their decisions and both sides must abide by their decision.





# Chapter 12

## Chapter 12 Summary

Caudell learns that there is a slave auction that day in Nashville. Many of the slaves with bullet wounds are purchased by Rivington men. After the auction, Caudell and Liles, who owns the general stores, discuss the prices the slaves were sold for. Raeford Liles says the Rivington men bid the prices up.

That night as he is fishing, the mulatto slave Josephine appears. She brought the highest price at the auction and was purchased by a Rivington man. She asks Caudell to hide her as the hands approach. Caudell says nothing and she runs into the bushes.

Lee visits a gun powder mill. He is checking to see if they have made any progress in duplicating the AK-47 ammunition. He finds they haven't duplicated the powder but they do have a combination that works but it results in failing. The men explain the progress they have made and the problems they are having.

On the way back to the hotel, Lee purchases a book to read on the long train ride to Richmond.

In Nashville, Caudell arrives home from school one day to find Henry Pleasants waiting for him. He is no longer with the railroad and is thinking of buying a farm in Nash County.

Mollie writes of how one of the Rivington slaves named Josephine hung herself.

## Chapter 12 Analysis

Slavery is still presenting problems for the South. At a Nashville slave auction, Caudell watches as the Rivington men buy many of the slaves, including a mulatto named Josephine. He later learns from Mollie, that Josephine committed suicide.

The South is still trying to duplicate the ammunition for the AK-47. On the way back to Richmond, he stops at a powder mill to check on the progress. The Confederate States of America is not secure without the Rivington weapons. They know that they could not win another war without them and they are trying to be independent of the Rivington men.



# Chapter 13

## Chapter 13 Summary

A year and one half after the war, the Confederate Army people are still meeting with the Rivington men.

Lee meets General Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Calvary general has made his fortune selling slaves. When Lee brings Forrest to his house, he notices that Julia, who is now freed, acts strangely. Lee and Forrest discuss the Rivington men and then argue about slavery. Lee tells Forrest that he isn't welcome in his home. He knows he has made an enemy.

Caudell walks the five miles to visit Henry Pleasant at his farm. Henry wants Caudell to work for him but he prefers to teach school. He finds the freed slave Israel, who used to work at the general store, now works for Henry. He has a free labor farm.

Lee visits the Amory to see Josiah Gorgas. They have made a copy of the AK-47. Their copy duplicates the repeater action using the Rivington cartridges. But they still have a problem with the ammunition. They are slowly making progress.

Lee next meeting with Rhodie who tells him the AWB isn't pleased with him for his views on freeing the blacks. Rhodie says if Lee runs for president, they will stop supplying his nitroglycerine tablets. AWB has decided the proper course for the Confederate States of America and will not tolerate deviation. Rhodie talks about white superiority. When Rhodie leaves, Lee decides that he will run for president the following year.

Lee writes out his resignation from the Confederate Army then attends a meeting at the President's office. His views on slavery are discussed. Forrest also resigns his army position to challenge Lee for the presidency.

## Chapter 13 Analysis

Lee meets General Nathan Bedford Forrest. The two men clash over the issue of slavery and their discussion becomes known to the AWB people. Rhodie makes it clear to Lee that a Lee presidency would be a deviation from the course the AWB has plotted for the Confederate States of America based on white superiority. He threatens to cut off the supply of nitroglycerin pills if Lee runs for the presidency. He says if Lee doesn't run, AWB will help his wife who is crippled. Lee sticks to his principles. He will not be dictated to by AWB. He decides to run for the presidency.



# Chapter 14

## Chapter 14 Summary

Caudell and Liles discuss the headlines of Forrest running for President and the news that Lee favors freeing the slaves. He finds that Henry Pleasants is still considered a Yankee.

Lee and his wife have a discussion about war and slavery. Mary wants to know how he will gradually free the slaves. She wishes that their family could just live quietly. Custis arrives to tell Lee that Forrest has selected Texas Senator Wigfall as his running mate. He says his father should select a running mate.

When Forrest appears in Nashville, Pleasants and Caudell go to listen. There are for slaves in Nashville, so Forrest uses the approach that freed slaves will work for lower wage and take jobs from whites.

Lee explains his views on freeing the slaves to Albert Gallatin Brown, who says Lee's views are not as radical as other, proclaim they are. Brown agrees to be his running mate.

Caudell agrees to teach arithmetic to Israel on the porch of the Bissett house. After Israel leaves, Barbara tells Caudell she doesn't want any blacks at her house. If he comes there again, Caudell can find another place to live. After this, they meet at the school.

Both Lee and Forrest campaign in Nashville, Caudell notices that Forrest has body guards from AWB. When Forrest asks Caudell if he will vote for him, he says he served under Lee and will vote for him.

## Chapter 14 Analysis

Lee chooses Brown as a running mate. Brown says that Lee's views aren't as radical as proclaimed. Slavery and race are the big campaign issues. Forrest is backed and protected by the AWB men, who are trying to protect their program of white superiority. Lee knows he may be in a dangerous position but he already made his decisions based on his conscience.

# Chapter 15

## Chapter 15 Summary

Lee is surrounded by reporters as soon as he steps out of the hotel. He answers their questions then goes for his walk.

Brown and Lee closely follow the returns after the elections. They lead in some states and lag in other states. If they lose, Brown says he just resumes his job in the Senate. Lee says he will never recover from the rejection if he loses. It will be days before the results are known.

Caudell goes to buy a paper for the election results and finds all of the papers are gone. It has been more than a week since the elections. Lee is the Victor, Liles tells him.

Forrest visits Lee at Arlington. He offers his congratulations and offers to help in anyway that he can.

Caudell attends church and notices an attractive woman. It is Mollie. She has come to show him a book on the Civil War that she took from Benny Lang. The book has a 1960 Copyright. They read about how the South surrenders. There is no mention of the repeaters the South had. Mollie says that Lee has to see the book. Caudell tells her not to travel through Rivington when she goes to Richmond.

Mollie, dressed like a man, catches Lee coming out of church. She tells him she has a book from Rivington in 1960. He tells her to come to Pawhatan House with him. She doesn't know that he knows about the Rivington men. Lee wants to read the book.

Lee learns that Lincoln didn't intend any harsh punishment for the United States and he is angry that Rhodie lied to him. It is past midnight when Lee finishes the book. Bean is gone.

Lee meets with Rhodie and shows him the book. He says that Rhodie is out of step with his own time. Rhodie says that AWB will show them who they are.

## Chapter 15 Analysis

Mollie's surprise arrival in Nashville catches Caudell by surprise. Mollie has stolen a copy of the Picture History of the Civil War from Benny Lang's library. The book has a Copyright date of 1960 and says the South lost the war to the North. She is confused by the book and brings it to Caudell who reads better than she does. He is just as confused by the book but they decide that Lee needs to see the book.



Mollie dresses as a man and uses the name of Melvin Bean. She also does not wait for Lee to read the book as he wanted. She wisely disappears or the men from Rivington might have been looking for her.

Lee, who is not on good terms with the Rivington people, exacerbates the situation when he confronts Rhodie with the book.



# Chapter 16

## Chapter 16 Summary

The inauguration of the Confederate President is on March 4. First Brown is sworn in and then Lee. When he is giving his speech, his hat is blown off. When he reaches down to pick it up, a bullet whizzes by his head. A second bullet hits his jacket. The judge knocks Lee of the platform to pull him out of range.

As the shooting continues, Lee first thinks it is the Rivington group but then recognizes that the guns are not AK-47s. Since many of the men had been soldiers, they begin to shoot back at the assassins. By the time the shooting subsides, many people have been killed including Vice-President Brown and Mary Lee.

Lee orders a search of the AWB offices. One of the assassins is caught and it is Konrad de Buys, one of the Rivington men.

Lee returns to the Capital. The gun de Buys has is an Uzi. Du Buys is taken to jail. There is fighting around the AWB building and Lee authorizes the use of artillery. The battle continues until all of the AWB men are dead. They find a sealed chamber in the AWB offices.

After Mary's funeral, Lee is notified that they have entered the sealed chamber. Lee goes to the office and finds no one has entered the chamber. Lee follows a young lieutenant into the chamber. All of the furniture in the chamber is metal. Lee thinks of Rhodie who has not been found yet. They find a poster with the words Afrikaner Resistance Movement.

Lee opens the heavy door to the officers in the other room. The walls begin to rumble and light comes from thin tubes on the ceiling. They find many books on the Civil War. He brings in a translator to read some of the foreign language books with a printing date of 2004. Lee tells the men to never speak of what they have seen.

## Chapter 16 Analysis

At Lee's inauguration, there is an assassination attempt. Lee knows right away that it is the Rivington men. He should have expected it after his discussion with Rhodie, who said they didn't want him to be president because his views did not fit into their plans.

After the AWB men are killed, the authorities have access to their offices. It takes them several days to break into a sealed room. They step into an office from the twentieth century. From the books and literature, Lee learns about a place called South Africa and the Afrikaner Resistance Movement. The Rivington men are a small group of radicals.



# Chapter 17

## Chapter 17 Summary

In Nashville, the justice of the peace reads the notice proclaiming martial law and the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in areas threatened by rebellion. Caudell and Mollie are in the crowd. She has been with him since returning from Richmond. The Castalia Invincibles are called back into service. They are supposed to be military police.

Henry Pleasants volunteers to serve with them and is accepted. Mollie reports as Melvin. They are issued Ak-47s.

While on patrol, the group is fired on. They can't identify the guns by the sound.

In Richmond, guards are posed around the Capitol and the presidential residence. Lee invites a group of senators to view the AWB secret room. Before entering, he makes them promise to never reveal what they see. He explains how Rhodie's men traveled through time to help them win the war. Lee has marked passages in the books for the men to book at.

Lee tells them that the battle against the Rivington men is still going on. Caudell's group is still involved in the fighting. Pleasants, an engineer, says they can tunnel underground and blow up the guns. They decide to wait until night and then send Mollie and Pleasants to ask for permission from Captain Lewis who approves of the idea. General Forrest and says he wants the Rivington group knocked out. He offers Pleasants his former rank in the United States army under Forrest's command.

## Chapter 17 Analysis

The attempted assassination of President Lee sets off fighting with Rivington. The Castalia Invincibles are called back into action as military police. They find the hide out of the Rivington men and are pinned down by their weapons. They come up with a plan that is supported by General Forrest. Forrest has turned against the Rivington group for what they have done.

Lee learns more about the AWB group and allows various Senators to view the material in the room on the promise that they will never reveal what they see. Lee wants them to know what the Confederate States of America is up against and how they are being used by a small radical group. He vows to destroy them.



# Chapter 18

## Chapter 18 Summary

Lee is aware of General Forrest's involvement in fighting the Rivington group and that he is shifting the direction of the attack. He also knows that Forrest doesn't do things without a reason. Forrest also mentions that he added a Colonel Pleasants to his staff. The name is familiar to Lee from the Picture History of the Civil War book. He had masterminded the explosion of powder under Confederate trenches.

Lee sends an urgent message to Forrest telling him not to mention Pleasants name. Lee knows that if any messages are intercepted by AWB, they will know what Pleasants is doing.

Lee points out to the legislators that they have seen how the future centuries condemn slavery and how AWB tried to control them. Without the AWB, the South wouldn't have won the war. Lee wants them to vote to educate and free the slaves.

Pleasants and the men have worked on the tunnel for over six weeks and it is finally ready. They plan to set off the charges at sunrise and do. The huge blast resulted in a large crater but they are still pelted by AK-47 fire. A battle takes place between the two groups.

Caudell and Mollie find Benny Lang. Mollie keeps Caudell from killing him. Lang tells his men that he is injured and captured on a hand held radio. Caudell smashes the radio. They leave Lang and move on. They reach the slave huts and find the slaves are happy to see them and help. They reach the AWB compound.

The group reaches a barbed wire area. Forrest raises a white flag and Rhodie comes to talk to them for an hour. They refuse to surrender and Rhodie returns to his group. Mollie leads a group around the compound to the other side. There is no barbed wire there and as they enter the area, they watch where the people run to. They run to the shed by the train station. When a soldier fired into the shed, it exploded.

The group walks through the shed and finds a Rivington man standing on a small platform glowing with light. The man disappears as Caudell shoots up the time machine. The group leaves the burning shed. Rhodie and the other AWB men surrender. Rhodie is killed by a slave.

## Chapter 18 Analysis

The battle at Rivington continues with General Forrest fighting with the Castalia Invincibles group. When Mollie leads a group to the other side of the compound, they are able to enter the area. They watch where the AWB people run to, correctly assuming they will go to the time machine to escape to the future. When the time





machine is destroyed, there is no escape remaining. Rhodie and the others surrender. Even with their superior weapons, they could not last against the soldiers.

Lee begins to put his plan for freeing the slaves into motion by proposing legislation. They all learned from the AWB book that future generations condemned the South and its institution of slavery. Lee wants to change this.



# Chapter 19

## Chapter 19 Summary

At a party, Lee says he rather begin the process of freeing the slaves than have another war in the future. The Richmond Massacre and the books in the AWB room made passage of his proposed legislation possible.

Lee visits Lang at the Libby Prison. There are fifty one Rivington men held prisoner. Lee tells Lang about the passage of a bill regulating the labor of blacks. Lee proposes that the Rivington men, with their knowledge of the future, work with scholars and mechanics. Since it is better than hanging, Lang says he accepts the proposed and most of the other men probably will. They talk about the different products, like the computer, and Lang tries to explain that they don't have the technology to make the technology they need for products like computers. The men will be hanged if they try to meddle in politics.

Nate Caudell and Mollie decide to marry. They learn from Israel that Pleasants was offered his old railroad job and refused.

The Senate is now debating Lee's bill. All of the old arguments regarding slavery have surfaced again, which upsets Lee. The Rivington men are working in different places. Two have committed suicide.

Lee receives word that the Senate has passed his legislation. After December 31, 1872, no more blacks will be born into slavery. Lee is proud that these changes will occur in his lifetime.

## Chapter 19 Analysis

Lee is concerned with the situation in the South. He tries to make the best of the situation by using the Rivington mentioned their knowledge to improve the South. The men are trapped in the past with no way of returning to their own time. Since the alternative is hanging, most decide to cooperate.

Lee brings about the changes he wants to see implemented in the South as the Congress passes legislation that will result in the freeing of the slaves. He is proud that this will happen in his lifetime.



# Characters

## Andres Rhodie

Andres Rhodie is from Rivington, North Carolina. He is approximately forty-years of age when he first meets General Robert E. Lee. Rhodie is the inventor of a new kind of repeater gun that he demonstrates for General Lee and members of his staff. The new repeater fires approximately one bullet per second and uses bullets that aren't ordinary gun powder. The new weapons functions in such a way that the gas from the explosion expends and pushes the spent bullet out of the muzzle and allows a new round to enter the chamber. Rhodie tells Lee he can quickly supply one hundred thousand of the new repeater guns. He knows of Lee plans to attack at New Byrne but will not say how he knows of the plans. He tells Lee to have the train stop at Rivington and they will load the first shipment of guns and ammunition. Lee feels Rhodie that if he can deliver the rifles, they will begin to distribute them to the Confederate army. Rhodie also will supply the men needed to teach the soldiers how to use the new rifles. Rhode say the name of the new gun is AK-47. At dinner Rhodie treats them to nations such as Folger's Instant Coffee. Rhodie has a cup with the emblem of his corporation on it. The symbol stands for AWB. Rhodie and his men wear identical green uniforms. Rhodie's selling point is that the new repeater will give Lee's men an advantage over their opponents. The new gun bill results in less loss of life for Lee's men. The guns he supplies are from the future, from places like the People's Republic of China and Yugoslavia. He finally reveals that he is from South Africa and the year 2013. The AWB men use a time machine for travel. Rhodie is killed by a black slave.

## Robert E. Lee

Robert E. Lee is a general in the Confederate army. He is from the state of Virginia and is an engineer by training. He reports to President Davis who is the President of the Confederate States. Lee had been in the federal army until Virginia left the union. Then he went with his state. Lee has his headquarters near Orange Court House. He is married to Mary Custis Lee who is residing in Richmond during the war. They have three daughters and three sons and have been married for more than thirty two years. They are a slave owing family and spend their time knitting socks and other items for the war effort. His estate is in Arlington, Virginia which is right across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. Lee attends West Point and graduated in the class that was one year ahead of Davis, the President of the Confederate States of America. He is a career military man who had been offered the command of the United States forces in the war. Rhodie demonstrated the new gun to Lee and it was Lee who decided to outfit the Southern troops. He is curious about Rhodie, his men, and the source of manufacture of the guns but doesn't want to press them for information lest they cut off the supply of the guns and ammunition. Lee has his son Custis, an aide to President Davis, investigate the America Will break organization. Le finally presses Rhodie for information on how he can supply such reliable intelligence on the troop movements



and plans of the North, and learns that Rhodie is from one hundred and fifty years in the future and from South Africa. They are using a time machine to change the course of the civil War because of problems caused by blacks. Lee becomes President of the Confederate States of America.

## **Nate Caudell**

Nate Caudell is a First Sergeant in the confederate Army. He is one of five sergeants with D Company with the 47th North Carolina. He was a teacher before the war and is one of the first men to use the new AK-47. His unit is known as the Castalia Invincibles. Caudell is from Nash County in North Carolina as are the rest of the Castalia Invincibles. He is one of the first groups to test the new AK-47 and trains his men in the use and case for the new gun. Caudell is having an affair with Mollie Bean, a woman who is a private with the 47th. He asks her about Rivington, where the new guns are being supplied from and she says there was no such facility there when she was in Rivington a year ago. Caudell is impressed with the new gun and as a former teacher, does a thorough job training his men with the gun. He has an easy time learning to disassemble and reassemble the AK-47 because he used to do puzzles as a child. After the war, he returns to teaching and marries Mollie after the capture of the AWB men.

## **Bennie Lang**

Bennie Lang is one of Rhodie's men. He helps teach the 47th North Carolina regiment how to use the AK-47. He is a South African from the future and does not want the new weapon in the hands of blacks. He is trapped in the past at the end and accepts Lee's offer to help the Confederate States with products and technology.

## **Mollie Bean**

Mollie Bean is from Rivington and serves as a Confederate soldier in Caudell's unit. She is a tart and has an occasional affair with Caudell during the war. She remains in touch with Caudell and marries him after helping capture the AWB men.

## **Jefferson Davis**

Jefferson Davis is the President of the Confederate States of America. He is a graduate of West Point and is the one that accepts the terms of the armistice with Lincoln. He suggests that Lee run for president when his term expires.



## **Henry Pleasant**

Henry Pleasant was a Union soldier. He meets Caudell at a railroad station and they become friends. When he loses his job with the railroad, he moves to Nash County and buys a farm. He is a widower. He helps the Castalia Invincibles capture the AWB men.

## **Nathan Bedford Forrest**

Nathan Bedford Forrest is a general in the Confederate Calvary. He has made his future in the slave trading business and loses to Lee in the presidential election. After the assassination attempt on Lee, Forrest fights with the Castalia Invincibles to defeat the AWB men.

## **Ulysses Grant**

Ulysses Grant is a general for the United States. He is involved in the surrender to the Confederacy and is part of the United States commission to negotiate the settlement between the two countries.

## **Charles Venable**

Charles Venable is an aide to General Robert E. Lee. As such he travels with Lee keeping him informed of Confederate progress.



## **Objects/Places**

### **Orange Court House**

Orange Court House is the site of Lee's headquarters and is located west of thirty-miles west of Fredericksburg.

### **Nash County**

Nash County is located in central North Carolina near the present town of Rocky Mount.

### **Rivington**

Rivington is the town in Nash County where Rhodie supplies the repeaters from.

### **Richmond**

Richmond is a city in south central Virginia that is the capital of the Confederate States.

### **Washington**

Washington is located between Virginia and Maryland and is the capital of the United States.

### **Louisville**

Louisville is in the state of Kentucky, one of the two states that will vote on whether to join the United States or the Confederate States.

### **Nashville**

Nashville is the town in Nash County where Caudell lives.

### **Rockville**

Rockville is a Maryland city that is a suburb of Washington D.C.

## **Pleasant's Farm**

Pleasant's Farm is located about five miles from Nashville and is run as a free labor farm.

## **The Shed**

The Shed is located across from the Rivington railroad station and is where the time machine is located.

# Themes

## Prejudice

Prejudice and racism are dominant themes of the book. Prejudice and racism were not the reason for the institution of slavery in the South. The reasons were basically economic. The plantation economy of the South was based on the use of slave labor not on the promise that whites were superior to blacks. This, however, is the view of the America Will Break men. They come from a South Africa that is one hundred fifty years in the future and plagued with racial problems. They are a small radical group that has stolen a time machine and returns to the time of the Civil War to influence the outcome. They want to control the agenda of the Confederate States of America to insure that the institution of slavery is preserved. When they learn that General Robert E. Lee favors the gradual education and freeing of slaves, they threaten to cutoff his supply of nitroglycerine tablets if he runs for the office. When he is elected President of the Confederate States, they try to assassinate him during his inauguration speech. The Rivington men attend slave auctions and bid up the price for slaves and treat them very cruelly. At the end, when the soldiers enter the Rivington compound, the slaves are happy to see them and offer their assistance. Due to the harsh treatment they received from the AWB owners, the mullato slave Josephine kills herself. A slave in the AWB compound kills the captive Rhodie with broken glass because of the treatment he received. The AWB men are motivated by racial hatred.

## Relationship - Caudell and Mollie

Another theme of the book is the relationship between Nate Caudell and Mollie Bean. Nate Caudell is a school teacher from Nash County serving with the Castalia Invincibles during the war. Mollie Bean is a whore from Rivington, also located in Nash County. When the war begins, she disguises herself as a man and uses the name of Melvin Bean to enlist as a soldier. She is in the same unit as Nate Caudell. They have an on and off sexual relationship during the war. After the war, each returns to their respective home towns and resume their lives. They stay in touch by writing. Mollie often entertains Bennie Lang of AWB and is often at his house. She writes to Caudell about the electricity and other things in his home. One day she appears in Nashville with a book entitled the Picture History of the Civil War. The book has a copyright date of 1960 and shows the North as the victor. She brings the book to Caudell because she is confused and doesn't read well. They decide she should take the book to Lee which she does and then, after the Richmond Massacre, she and Caudell are called back to duty to serve as Military Police. During the battle against the AWB men, Caudell becomes more and more protective of her as he falls in love with her. He tells her not to worry about her past. She will have a new start in life. They finally marry and make their home in Nashville.





## Acting on Principles

Acting on principles is a third theme of the book. While this applies to numerous characters, it is particularly evident in the character of Robert E. Lee. Lee is from Arlington, Virginia and has the choice of leading the forces of the United States or the Confederacy. He became a general in the Confederate Army. He did not hate the black slaves or feel that blacks were inferior. After the end of the war, he gives Julia, his servant, her freedom and she works for wages. He favors a gradual education and freedom for blacks and this brings him into conflict with Rhodie and the AWB men when he runs for the Presidency. Rhodie has been supplying him with nitroglycerine pills for his heart condition and says they will stop supplying the pill if he runs for president. He says it doesn't matter Rhodie then says they can supply medical care to help his crippled wife, but he does not yield. Lee refuses to compromise his views of the issue of blacks and the institution of slavery even if it costs him his life, which it almost does. He is more concerned with doing the right thing and how the South will be viewed in the future than he is with his own personal gain. Because of this, he refuses to compromise his principles. His conscience tells him that it is right to educate and free the slaves and this is the legislation that he fights for and sees enacted in his lifetime.

# Style

## Point of View

The *Guns of the South* is written in the third-person point of view with the author, Harry Turtledove, functioning as the narrator. This perspective allows the author to provide the reader with necessary details and information that the reader needs to make the story complete. This is a good perspective for this kind of novel where there is a lot of action occurring in different places. The use of the first person would have resulted in the information of the reader being limited to the knowledge of and the information available to the storyteller. The reader would not know of information or events that take place away from the storyteller until the storyteller learned of it. If the narrator was in Richmond, the reader would not know what was happening in Nashville, Rivington or elsewhere which would severely limit the information and story for the reader. Turtledove chose the correct perspective for the novel with the third-person point of view. The reader is able to view situations from the perspective of different characters instead of just once.

## Setting

The setting of the novel takes place in different locations both during and after the war. The novel begins at Lee's Headquarters near Orange Court House in Virginia. The Lee mansion is in Arlington, a suburb of Washington, which is the capital of the North. Richmond, Virginia is the capital of the Confederate States. There are scenes in both of these cities since Lee's family is living in Richmond. The AWB people have an office in Richmond where their books are found. There are also scenes at the capital, the prison and various hotels. These are also scenes at various battle sites as the two sides engage each other in battle. Nash County, North Carolina is the home of the Castalia Invincibles. Caudell is from Nashville and there are scenes at the school, general store, Widow Bisset's house, and other places as the characters move around. Pleasant's farm and other places as the character is move around. Rivington is also located in Nashville. This is the home of the America Will Break people and also Mollie Bean. The shed is located across from the Rivington train station and is where the time machine is located. There are also scenes in Louisville and St. Louis and the Grant and Lee serve as election observers.

## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is relatively straight forward and easy to understand. There are no complicated terms or terms with hidden meanings. For the most part, the novel is written in everyday easy to understand English. There is no Southern drawl or use of an accent. The author refers to the accent and brogue of the America Will Break people, but doesn't write in that manner. In some places where there is dialogue with slaves or



freed slaves, the author writes in terms of vernacular and pronunciation and this will slow the reader down in a bit. These are only places where the reader will have to slowly read the words to ascertain the meaning. The only foreign language terms are those referring to the Afrikaner name of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement. Aside from these places, the novel is quick and easy to read. with plenty of dialogue between the characters so the reader gets to know the characters.

## Structure

The structure of *The Guns of the South* is rather simple and aids to the ease of reading the novel. The book is divided into nineteen chapters each of which is designated by a Roman Numerical. The story is chronological with very few flashbacks. The chapters are untitled and vary in length from twenty-five to thirty-three pages.

There is no Introduction nor Table of contents and none is really needed. There are two pages of maps at the front of the book that the reader will find very useful and refer to at different points when reading the novel. There is an Acknowledgements section at the back of the book in which the author mentions the people who were welcome to him in writing the novel. There is also a Historical Notes section which the reader will find interesting. It explains which areas and characters in the novel are fact and fiction. There are also two charts. The first shows the results of the United States Presidential Election of 1864 and the second shows the results of the Confederate Presidential Election of 1867.

The book provides the information that the reader needs to follow the action of the novel.

## Quotes

"If one Southern man could deliver the fire of five or ten Unionists, the odds against which Confederate armies had to fight in every engagement might all at once be set at naught" (Chapter 1, pg. 10.)

"My friends and I - everyone who belongs to America Will break - come from a hundred and fifty years in your future.' He folded his arms across his broad chest and waited to see what Lee would make of that" (Chapter 3, pg. 81.)

"They kept returning Manassas, in the Seven Days' Campaign. They kept returning to the fray, and, like the mythical Hydra, seemed stronger every time they were cast to the ground. They were as determined in their insistence that the South return to the Union as the Confederate States were in their desire to depart from it" (Chapter 6, pg. 141-142.)

"He was convinced, however, that the Army of Northern Virginia would never have a better chance to take Washington. And if the Federal capital fell into Southern hands, how could Britain and France and the rest of the world continue to deny the Confederate States of America were as true and genuine a nation as the United States? The stakes made the risk worthwhile" (Chapter 7, pg. 169.)

"So did I,' Lee admitted. 'I am glad to learn otherwise. But did they not tell you, sir, that while they came from the future, it was a future wherein the federals overcame us, a future they traveled back here to prevent?'" (Chapter 9, pg. 230.)

"That may be so. Yet when virtually all the world abhors one's practice, one has to wonder at the propriety of those practices. And the bravery the Northern colored troops displayed made me wonder at the justice of continuing to hold their races in bondage. But the final straw for me is the struggle the former Yankee Negro regiments of Louisiana and the other states of the Mississippi valley continue to wage against General Forrest" (Chapter 10, pg. 259.)

"How can we honorably impose further conditions upon them now? Let us have peace, sir; let us accept the composition they offer; let the voters of the two states at issue choose under which flag they would sooner live" (Chapter 11, pg. 287.)

"Rivington had to be the boomingest town in the state, the place where everything happened first, even ahead of Wilmington and Raleigh" (Chapter 12, pg. 325.)

"Lee's mouth tightened, ever so slightly; he wished soldiers would stay away from Rivington men, especially since the war was more than a year and a half over. He had contemplated a general order to that effect, but set the notion aside as being unjust and without foundation in fact: the Rivington men troubled him, but on balance had done his country far more good than harm" (Chapter 13, pg. 345.)



"So I do,' Lee said, 'As I see it, as a beginning we need to encourage emancipation in every way possible and to prepare freedmen to learn useful trades" (Chapter 14, pg. 387.)

"For a moment, he was confused and jolted when he read of the war's ending with the South's surrender. Then he understood, and said quietly, 'So this is how it would have been, had the Rivington men not come back to us'" (Chapter 15, pg. 430.)

"Below, the three bent spikes in their circle stood a pair of unfamiliar words: Afrikaner Weerstandsewering, and below them, in smaller letters, Afrikaner Resistance Movement. Lee cocked his head. He wondered what an Afrikaner was - not an African, certainly, not by the way the Rivington men treated Negroes - and whether the name betokened resistance against Afrikaners, whatever they were, or by them" (Chapter 16, pg. 460.)

"Lee finished, 'And so you see, gentlemen, they helped us gain four freedom, not out of consideration for our virtues, but so we might serve as pawns in their game'" (Chapter 17, pg. 484.)

"He made that clear from the outset: 'All of you, by now, have seen the works the AWB brought back to our time. You have seen how the works the AWB brought back to our time. You have seen how with virtual unanimity the twentieth and twenty first centuries, condemn the institution of slavery with the same sort of loathing we might apply to savage tribes who devour their fellow men'" (Chapter 18, pg. 501.)

"I am pleased that Negroes will begin to be free born during my term in office, and even more pleased that they shall begin to enjoy their full liberty before the commencement of the twentieth century" (Chapter 19, pg. 553.)

## Topics for Discussion

What is the new weapon that is demonstrated for General Lee? How is it received?

What is the purpose of America Will Break? How is the news of the organization and the purpose received by General Lee?

How is the outcome of the Civil War affected by the AK-47s? How does the end occur?

Why does the Confederate States of America want to produce their own AK-47s? What problems do they encounter?

What is the Second American Revolution? Why is it called that?

What is the Richmond Massacre? What changes does it bring about in the Confederate States of America?

What hopes does Lee have for the Confederate States of America and the institution of slavery? How does he achieve these goals?