

# Gustavus Vasa Fox: The Naval Strategist Who Helped Win the American Civil War

Gustavus Vasa Fox was born in Saugus, Massachusetts, on June 13, 1821. He was the son of a Unitarian minister, and he was named after the Swedish king Gustavus Vasa. Fox attended Harvard University, where he studied mathematics and engineering. After graduating from Harvard, Fox joined the United States Navy. He served on a number of ships, including the USS Constitution and the USS Vincennes. In 1849, Fox was appointed to the Naval Academy, where he taught mathematics and navigation.



## Gustavus Vasa Fox of the Union Navy: A Biography

by Brian D. Laslie

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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In 1851, Fox was sent to the Mediterranean Sea to help negotiate a treaty with the Ottoman Empire. He was successful in his mission, and he was promoted to the rank of commander. In 1856, Fox was appointed to the Board of Commissioners of the Navy. He served on the board for four

years, and he played a key role in the development of the Navy's steam-powered fleet.

When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, Fox was appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He was responsible for the procurement of ships, supplies, and personnel for the Union Navy. Fox also played a key role in the development of the Union Navy's strategy. He advocated for a blockade of the Confederate coast, and he helped to plan the capture of New Orleans and other Confederate strongholds.

Fox's contributions to the Union victory were significant. He was a brilliant strategist, and he was instrumental in the development of the Navy's steam-powered fleet. Fox also played a key role in the procurement of ships, supplies, and personnel for the Union Navy. Without his contributions, the Union would likely have lost the war.

After the war, Fox continued to serve in the Navy. He was promoted to the rank of rear admiral in 1866, and he retired from the Navy in 1872. Fox died in Washington, D.C., on August 29, 1883.

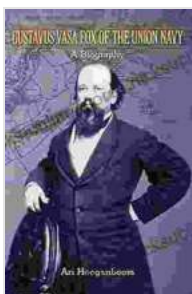
## **Fox's Legacy**

Gustavus Vasa Fox is considered to be one of the most important naval strategists in American history. His contributions to the Union victory in the Civil War were significant, and his legacy continues to inspire naval officers today. Fox's portrait hangs in the United States Naval Academy Museum, and a statue of him stands in front of the Navy Department building in Washington, D.C.

Fox's legacy is also evident in the many ships that have been named after him. The USS Fox (DD-234) was a destroyer that served in the Navy from 1920 to 1945. The USS Fox (CG-33) was a guided-missile cruiser that served in the Navy from 1963 to 1994. The USS Fox (T-AGOS-23) is an oceanographic survey ship that is currently in service with the Navy.

Gustavus Vasa Fox was a brilliant naval strategist who played a key role in the Union victory in the Civil War. His legacy continues to inspire naval officers today.

Image of Gustavus Vasa Fox



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