

# Total War Concept Developed

By MERTON T. AKERS  
United Press International  
In the late summer of 1863 President Lincoln was thinking about how to reconstruct the rebellious states of Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, now that they had been occupied. He had to decide soon or Congress would seize the initiative.

He wanted the opinions of "cool and discreet men," he said through Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, Union army commander.

Halleck passed along the word to several generals, one of them William Tecumseh Sherman, camped at the moment on the Big Black River east of Vicksburg, Miss.

"Write me your views fully," Halleck told Sherman in a letter from Washington dated Aug. 29, 1863 and headed "private."

Sherman did . . . in many words—2,700 of them. Closely reasoned . . . highly realistic . . . many paragraphs bordering on poetry.

"Uncle Billy" had meditated at many a campfire since 1861. Then he had been called "crazy" by newspapers because he said the Civil War would be a long one and that hundreds of thousands of soldiers must be recruited and thousands of millions spent before the South could be defeated.

Not only that, but the war must be carried to the South—to city, hamlet and farm—with gun and torch until the will to fight was extinguished and the gray armies crushed.

That was "total war" in the modern sense.

And Billy Sherman was the first leader in the war to realize that and to put thoughts

into words—and ultimately into action.

Sherman knew more about the South and its people than most. So he started his answer "private and confidential"—to Halleck by pointing out that all states, north and south, had a stake in the Mississippi River—and in keeping it open to navigation.

"The inhabitants of the country," he wrote, "on the Monongahela, the Illinois, the Minnesota, and Yellowstone and Osage are as directly concerned in the security of the Lower Mississippi as those who dwell on its very banks in Louisiana. . . ."

"I would deem it unwise at this time, or for years to come, to revive the state governments of Louisiana, etc. . . . They chose war . . . we accepted the issue, and now they begin to realize that war is a two-edged sword. . . . I know them well. . . ."

For the President's eye he divided Southerners into four classes. "First. The large planters, owning lands, slaves and all kinds of personal property. These are, on the whole, the ruling class. They are educated, wealthy, and easily approached. . . . In some districts they are bitter as gall. . . . In others they are conservative. I know we can manage this class, but only by action. Argument is exhausted, and words have lost their usual meaning. . . . it is better to allow the planters, with individual exceptions, gradually to recover their plantations. . . ."

"Second. The smaller farmers, mechanics, merchants and laborers. This class will probably number three-fourths of the whole; have in fact, no

real interest in the establishment of a Southern Confederacy, and have been led or driven into war on the false theory that they were to be benefitted somehow—they knew not how. . . . These are the real tiers oclat of the South and hardly worthy of a thought. . . . They will follow blindly the lead of the planters. . . . The Southern politicians, who understand this class, use them as the French do their masses—seemingly consult their prejudices while they make the orders and enforce them. We should do the same.

"Third. The Union men of the South. . . . I have little respect for this class. . . . They give us no assistance or information. . . . I account them as nothing in this great game of war. . . ."

"Fourth. The young bloods of the South; sons of planters, lawyers about town, good billiard players and sportsmen who never did work and never will. War suits them, and the rascals are brave, fine riders, bold to rashness and dangerous subjects in every sense. They care not a sou for niggers, land or anything. They hate Yankees per se, and don't bother their brains about the past, present, or future. As long as they have good horses, plenty of forage, and an open country, they are happy. This is a larger class than most men suppose. . . . These men must be killed or employed by us before we can hope for peace. . . ."

Sherman came to the conclusion that "a civil government now . . . would be simply ridiculous" for such a people.

Interests of the United States "demand the continuance of the simple military rule, till after all the organized armies of the South are dispersed, conquered, and subjugated. . . . We cannot . . . attempt to reconstruct parts of the South as we conquer it,



# THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

till all idea of the establishment of a Southern Confederacy is abandoned. . . ."

Sherman wrote on: "Another great and important natural truth is still in contest, and can only be solved by war. Numerical majorities by vote have been our great arbiter. Heretofore all men have cheerfully submitted to it in questions left open; but numerical majorities are not necessarily physical majorities. The South, although numerically inferior, contend that they can whip the Northern superiority of numbers, and therefore by natural law they contend they are not bound to submit. . . . War alone can decide it. . . ."

"Can we whip the South? I would banish all minor questions, assert the broad doctrine that as a nation the

United States has the right, and also the physical power, to penetrate to every part of our national domain, and that we will do it—that we will do it in our own time and in our own way; that it makes no difference whether it be one year, or two, or ten, or twenty. . . . that we will not cease till the end is attained. . . ."

"I would not coax them, or even meet them halfway, but make them so sick of war that generations will pass

away before they again would appeal to it. . . ."

"The only government needed or deserved by the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi, now exists in Grant's army. . . ."

"The people of this country have forfeited all right to a voice in the councils of the nation. . . ."

There was more, much more in Sherman's argument for "total war."

"Excuse so long a letter," he wrote at the end.

He forwarded the letter, dated Sept. 17, 1863, via the headquarters of his superior, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, to General Halleck.

Halleck reported back that Lincoln had read it and wanted to publish it if Sherman approved.

"At the time, I preferred not to be drawn into any newspaper controversy," Sherman replied, perhaps remembering the news stories that had said he was "crazy."

Lincoln never published the letter but Sherman did in his memoirs 12 years later.

### STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN  
Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Monday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

<b>ARIES</b> MAY 21-22 16-30-24-30 54-72-80-98	<b>TAURUS</b> MAY 21 37-39-42-57 64-77-84-86	<b>GEMINI</b> MAY 22 48-56-60-63 65-68-74	<b>CANCER</b> JUNE 21 15-18-25 5-7-20-25 28-41-45	<b>LEO</b> JULY 24 21-22 4-11-14-17 36-43-81-87	<b>VIRGO</b> AUG 24 10-12-15-28 46-49-89-95	<b>LIBRA</b> SEPT 23 2-13-40-61 67-72-83-88	<b>SCORPIO</b> OCT 24 7-6-19-22 24-29-32	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b> NOV 23 10-22 33-44-47-58 59-70-76	<b>CAPRICORN</b> DEC 22 18-21-23-26 31-38-79-83	<b>AQUARIUS</b> JAN 21 18-19 49-52-53-55 71-73-75	<b>PISCES</b> FEB 20 1-8-9-27 46-51-62
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PAGES 1 to 8 SECTION B  
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<b>Bleach</b>	OREGON FOOD . . .	<b>Gallon 39¢</b>
<b>PORK &amp; BEANS</b>	VAN CAMPS	No. 2 Tins <b>3 FOR 49¢</b>
<b>BUTTER</b>	CREAMERY SWEET	LB. <b>59¢</b>
<b>COFFEE</b>	ALL BRANDS	LB. <b>49¢</b> 2-LBS. <b>97¢</b>
<b>PAPER PLATES</b>	PURITY — 100 Count	PKG. <b>77¢</b>
<b>MELLORINE</b>	ARDEN—All Flavors	1/2 GALLON <b>49¢</b>
<b>ORANGE JUICE</b>	MCP—Frozen	12-OZ. TINS <b>2 FOR 99¢</b>

<b>GROUND BEEF</b> Oregon Food's Famous Quality <b>39¢ lb</b>	<b>BONELESS BEEF STEW</b> Tiny Bite Size Pieces of Tender Lean Meat <b>69¢ lb</b>
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