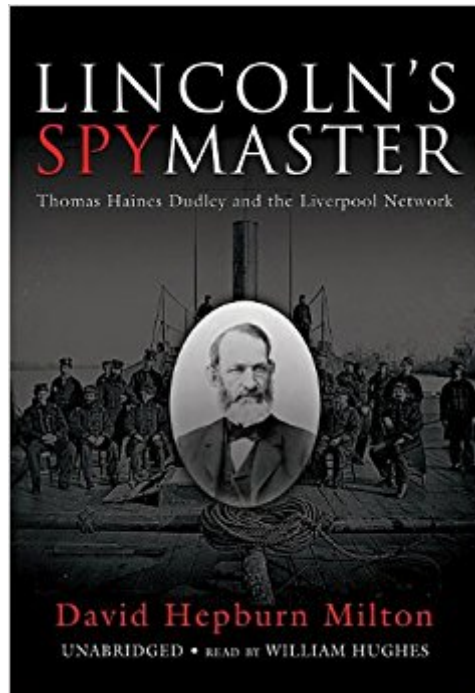


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# Lincoln's Spymaster: Thomas Haines Dudley And The Liverpool Network



## Synopsis

The Civil War conjures images of blood-soaked battlefields in the United States, but few are aware of the equally important diplomatic and intelligence contest that raged between the North and South in Europe. While the Confederacy sought Great Britain as a strategic ally, the Union utilized diplomacy and espionage to avert both the construction of a Confederate navy and the threat of war with England. At the forefront of the international fray was Thomas Haines Dudley, the American consul in Liverpool and "the father of modern American intelligence." As the Confederates determined to utilize British shipyards, Dudley established a network of agents throughout England to report on enemy activities and, ultimately, to negate foreign intervention in the American Civil War.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[This is] a convincing and splendidly succinct account of Dudley's considerable and even vital contribution to the Union's triumph." —Brian Jenkins, author of *Britain and the War for the Union*, Volumes 1 and 2. (Brian Jenkins) "An engrossing, well-written account of Thomas Haines Dudley's efforts as Union consul in Liverpool to block the Confederacy's attempt to build a navy in British shipyards. Had Dudley failed, the Confederacy might have won diplomatic recognition and changed the outcome of the war.

Milton's finely crafted work is a story of intrigue and deception that adds another vital element to the international dimensions of the American Civil War." —Howard Jones, author of *Union in Peril: The Crisis over British Intervention in the Civil War* and *New Birth of*

Freedom: The Union and Slavery in the Diplomacy of the Civil War. (Howard Jones) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

David Hepburn Milton is a professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Oregon, and author of *The Politics of US Labor: From the Great Depression to the New Deal*. He and his wife, Nancy Dall Milton, coauthored *The Wind Will Not Subside: Years in Revolutionary China 1964-1969*, cited in the New York Times Best Books of the Year list, 1976. He also co-edited the Random House China Reader: *People's China*. William Hughes is a professor of political science at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon. He received his doctorate in American politics from the University of California, Davis. He has done voice-over work for radio and film and is also an accomplished jazz guitarist.

The book is mistitled because Mr. Dudley (U.S. Consul in Liverpool, England) was not responsible for Union intelligence operations. Mr. Dudley's use of intelligence about Confederate activities in Great Britain to support his diplomatic efforts on behalf of the United States did not make him a "spymaster." And, the book itself does not present enough information to justify the bold claim that Mr. Dudley "may well be seen as the father of modern American intelligence operations on the international front" (Introduction at p. xiii). Anyone interested in intelligence operations during the Civil War can find more comprehensive books on the subject than this one: for example, Donald E. Markle, *Spies and Spymasters of the Civil War: Revised and Expanded Edition* (Hippocrene Books, 2004); William G. Beymer, *Scouts and Spies of the Civil War* (University of Nebraska Press, 2003); Edwin C. Fishel, *The Secret War for the Union: The Untold Story of Military Intelligence in the Civil War* (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1996). Despite its flaw in claiming more significance for Mr. Dudley's use of intelligence than is warranted by the contents of the book itself, this book is still worth looking at for anyone interested in Confederate efforts to obtain warships built by British shipyards, or the difficulties in U.S.-British foreign relations during the Civil War. But, the interested reader should not rely on this book as a definitive or only source for either of those two subjects. Another book worth looking at on the subject of Confederate efforts to get warships built by British shipyards is James T. DeKay, *The Rebel Raiders: The Astonishing History of the Confederacy's Secret Navy* (American Civil War Series) (Ballantine Books, 2002).

This is a quick read but a must for Civil War buffs interested in what the feel was in England for the support of the Confederacy, and how the Union employed spies to diminish that outcome and to

monitor the movement of British built ships bought by the Confederacy.

Just curious if the author would investigate any role Liverpool Mormons might have had in the war between the US Army, Stephen Douglas, and the Democratic Party, vs the Mormons and Indians of Utah, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, and New York. I stumbled into this as I investigated the USM Lady Elgin Shipwreckat [...]

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