

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910163214103321
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Titolo	Comparison of Initiative During the 1864 Virginia Overland Campaign
Pubbl/distr/stampa	TBD : , : Pickle Partners Publishing, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	9781782896319 1782896317
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (129 p.)
Disciplina	973.73
Soggetti	Strategy Virginia
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Title page -- TABLE OF CONTENTS -- ABSTRACT -- CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION -- CHAPTER TWO - THE WAR IN 1864 -- CHAPTER THREE - GRANT AND LEE'S MEANS -- CHAPTER FOUR - INTENTIONS -- CHAPTER FIVE - THE WILDERNESS -- CHAPTER SIX - SPOTTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE -- CHAPTER SEVEN - BATTLE OF THE NORTH ANNA -- CHAPTER EIGHT - BATTLE OF COLD HARBOR -- CHAPTER NINE - BATTLE OF PETERSBURG -- CHAPTER TEN - AFTERMATH -- REQUEST FROM THE PUBLISHER -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- BOOKS -- GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS -- PERIODICALS AND ARTICLES -- OTHER SOURCES -- MAPS
Sommario/riassunto	This study is an analysis of the competing initiative displayed between Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee during Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign in Virginia. It begins with Lincoln's appointing Grant as Lieutenant General and General in Chief of all Union armies on March 9, 1864, and concludes with the failure of Grant's June 18 assault at Petersburg, Virginia. Grant and Lee's campaign intentions are analyzed, their means are compared, and their armies' actions are described and analyzed to determine that Lee displayed greater initiative than Grant. Lee demonstrated superior initiative during the campaign because he forced Grant to deviate from his plans and attack formidable defensive positions, and because he held the final initiative.

Each of Grant's flanking movements was an attempt to gain the initiative, followed by the destruction of Lee's army. Each time Grant moved, Lee seized the initiative and barred Grant's progress. Grant came closest to achieving his desired objective when he crossed the James River and attacked Petersburg. The attack failed because Grant's senior commanders failed to sustain the Federal initiative.
