



# Civil War Ironclads: The Dawn of Naval Armor

*Robert MacBride*

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The monster battleships Kirishima and Washington battled thunderously in the Solomon Islands during World War II. At Jutland and Dogger Bank in World War I, long lines of battleships, battle cruisers, and cruisers exchanged salvos, sinking and being sunk. In Korea, U.S. cruisers and battleships provided continuous bombardment of the Communist lines. In fact, since 1861, armored warships have been slamming out shells in every naval war on record. But it all started in 1861. And it started off Norfolk and at New Orleans and on the Mississippi, in the Carolina Sounds and at Mobile Bay. It started, in other words, in America. Here, skillfully told, is the story of our first armored navies. North and South, Confederate and Union, the rams and the monitors, the tin-clads and the "torpedo" boats. All of these ships changed the naval history of the world. Here is Ericsson, the brilliant, cantankerous designer of the Monitor, and acid Admiral DuPont, who couldn't take Charleston. Meet Alban C. Stimers, proclaimed the world's greatest engineer (by himself) and the gallant Confederate Buchanan, who would fight any odds. And many more. Plus, of course, the ships. The artist-author has illustrated his work with superb line drawings, plans and breakdowns, which illustrate every word of the text. Detailed maps illustrate the various ironclad battles. Here are the immortals, Monitor and Virginia (nee Merrimac), the gallant Tennessee, the Eads gunboats, the weird Keokuk - every major type of ironclad design from 1861 to 1865. This is an American book, for sailors, for would-be sailors, for historians, and for engineers. It is a fragment of history in imperishable pictures and prose.

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