

About the Author: Theodore P. Savas earned a bachelor's in American history from the University of Northern Iowa and a juris doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law. He practiced in Silicon Valley for many years and taught college as an adjunct for two decades. He co-founded Savas Woodbury Publishers (later Savas Publishing) in the early 1990s and began Savas Beatie with the late Russel H. Beatie in 2004. Ted is the author, co-author, or editor of many books in a variety of languages, including *A Guide to the Battles of the American Revolution*, *Hunt and Kill: U-505 and the U-Boat War in the Atlantic*, *Silent Hunters: German U-boat Commanders of World War II* (2003), and *Brady's Civil War Journal: Photographing the War 1861–65*. He has also ghostwritten dozens of titles and published articles in a variety of journals, magazines, and newspapers. His hobbies include scuba diving and playing bass in the hard rock band Arminius in Northern California. He lives in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

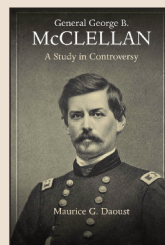
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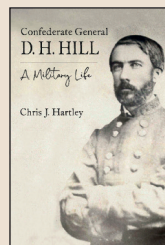


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"Theodore P. Savas makes the persuasive case that without Col. George Washington Rains and the Augusta Powder Works the Civil War would have ended quickly. The story of that enterprise is interwoven with the life of the remarkable and charismatic man behind it, along with a large supporting cast of military officers, administrators, engineers, and scientists. *The Indispensable Man* is nothing less than a complete history of the strategy of the Civil War told through the prism of Confederate powder-making. Deeply researched and vividly written, Savas's richly detailed narrative is magisterial in scope and introduces readers to a Civil War they've never known."

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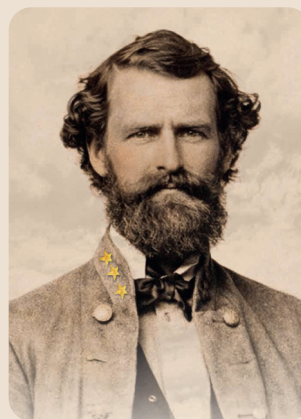
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The Indispensable Man

George Washington Rains, the Confederate
Powder Works, and the Civil War You Never Knew

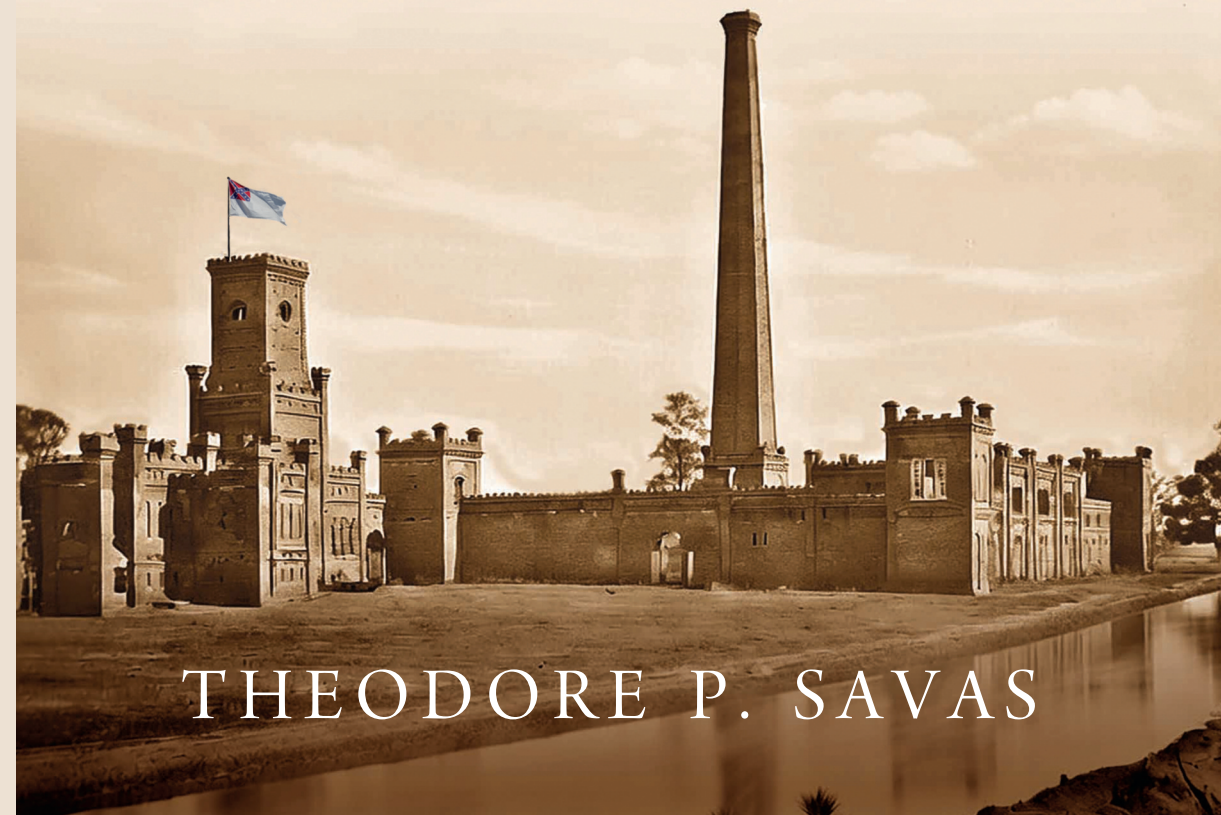


THEODORE
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The Indispensable Man

George Washington Rains,
the Confederate Powder Works,
and the Civil War You Never Knew



THEODORE P. SAVAS

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GEORGE WASHINGTON RAINS was a West Point graduate, engineer, combat staff officer, inventor, entrepreneur, and college professor whose visionary genius impacted the course of the Civil War. Rains lived five distinct lives, but it was his fourth, as a Confederate officer working in the shadows alongside generals, politicians, and business leaders, that changed history. *The Indispensable Man* is his life's story.

In the summer of 1861, Rains left his wealthy Northern family to accept an extraordinary assignment with the new Confederacy. In a private meeting with President Jefferson Davis—recorded here for the first time—he learned a shocking truth: Confederate gunpowder reserves were “scarcely sufficient for one month of active operations, and not a pound was being made throughout its limits.” Davis tapped Rains to create from scratch a massive powder works “of sufficient magnitude to supply the armies in the field and the artillery of the forts and defenses.” The survival of the new nation hinged on his success. Making military-grade powder at scale was one of the most exacting challenges of the era. Working with remarkable independence and technical mastery, he conceived, built, and managed the Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, Georgia—an industrial achievement unrivaled in the nineteenth century. In doing so, he helped shape Confederate strategy.

Rains's simultaneous and overlooked efforts in the Western Theater in 1861—heretofore unknown to historians and students alike—supplied Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston's command with powder and ordnance, for as Rains wrote, “he had not sufficient ammunition at that time for an extended skirmish.” These immense but unheralded accomplishments worked in tandem with Davis's strategy to hold the Union at bay by hiding the South's fatal weakness until it could fight a prolonged war. Embedded within this story lies a deeper historical question that reshapes our understanding of the war's first year: how much did the Lincoln administration know about the Confederacy's crippling vulnerability, and why did it fail to act on what it knew?

Author Theodore P. Savas spent nearly four decades examining primary sources—most presented here for the first time—to craft a deeply researched and vividly written study of an astonishing man and his oversized impact on the Civil War, while at the same time challenging long-held assumptions about the conduct of the war itself.

The Indispensable Man blends biography, strategy, logistics, and narrative suspense to restore one of the conflict's true unsung heroes to his rightful place in American history. Once you close the final page, you will see the Civil War in a wholly new light—and agree that George Washington Rains was, indeed, an indispensable man.