

In recounting the history of naval warfare in the nineteenth century the subject naturally divides itself into three divisions: First, Fleet actions at sea; Second, Single ship actions; Third, Engagements with batteries and passage of forts. The limits of this work do not admit of mentioning all the actions which have taken place under these heads, Great Britain alone having been engaged in more than one thousand naval engagements large and small during this century, and in the case of single ship actions, only those which have seemed to the author of pre-eminent importance have been selected for treatment. Between the actions of Copenhagen and Santiago, that is between 1801 and 1898, there were fought nineteen fleet engagements of more or less importance. Thirteen of these were fought in the first ten years of that period or during the Napoleonic wars and the remaining six since 1811. Notwithstanding however the comparative absence of naval conflicts during the greater part of the nineteenth century the influence of Sea Power has had a determining influence upon many of the land conflicts during that time, and the side which possessed the most powerful "fleet in being" has been, as a rule, successful. So will it always be.

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