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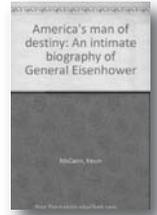


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America's man of destiny: an intimate biography of General Eisenhower

by Kevin McCann

William Heinemann: Melbourne; 1952; 201 pp.; Ursula Davidson Library call number 501.2/19296.



America's Man of Destiny is a short biography of Eisenhower prior to his campaign and election to the United States presidency.

When America joined World War II in 1941, "Eisenhower's greatest ambition was to command a single American Division". This book succinctly explains how he developed beyond his ambition to become the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Eisenhower grew up in Kansas in a rather strict pacifist family from which he gradually moved on, especially after gaining an appointment to West Point, the United States military academy. This background, however, ensured that men like my father from America's heartland trusted him to lead them wisely as they served in World War II.

Eisenhower's early career was similar to that of most of his peers. By March 1941, he held the temporary rank of colonel only one grade higher than the rank he held during World War I. Rather than play politics, he attended to the job at hand. When he was assigned to the War Plans Department, he did send a well-worded letter stating that he did not want to be considered *unfit* (in italics!) for command!

He was eventually posted to be chief-of-staff, Third Army, in Texas, to prepare war games which were highly successful. But instead of a command, he was promoted temporarily to brigadier general and was ordered to Washington DC. General George Marshall outlined the current situation in the Pacific and asked Eisenhower what he should do. Eisenhower asked for and was given a few hours to provide a written answer. In March 1942, he was promoted to major general (temporary). By February 1943, Ike was head of the War Planning Department and had written the "Directive for the Commanding General, European Theatre of Operations". When he asked General Marshall to read it in detail, General Marshall said "I certainly do want to read it. You may be the man who executes it. If that's the case, when can you leave?"

The book covers Eisenhower's subsequent 'crusade' in Europe; and his later terms as United States chief-of-staff, president of Columbia University, and commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. It concludes with his decision to enter the 1952 United States presidential campaign. In all, there emerges well-written and succinct portrait of the man, the soldier and his achievements.

Priscilla Leece

A biography of General Winfield Scott the 19th century US military hero who served 15 Presidents. Written by John S.D. Eisenhower, son of Ike, and a military man himself, the book drags at places where battles are minutely analyzed. But, overall, it is a great read. Scott had presidential political aspirations, but possessed inept political skills. His service to his country was through his military acumen. For many of those years, he was America's ranking general officer. Mr. Eisenhower's biography paints a picture that neither flatters nor condemns the man and officer. It is a well written and balanced look at a key figure in American military history. Like a see review. If Dwight Eisenhower qualifies as one of the most influential Americans during the 20th century, then a woman from Denver deserves plenty of attention. Her birth name was Mamie Geneva Doud. She came from a Denver meatpacking family run by her father, John S. Doud, and he used his wealth to spoil her. After Mamie and Dwight married in 1916, however, she could no longer live as a wealthy, spoiled debutante. That duty meant moving all over the world as Dwight gradually rose to the rank of general. A lot of those postings meant daily hardships for military spouses. Mamie stuck it out and, as the saying goes, modified for political correctness, behind every powerful man or woman is an influential significant other. General Dwight D. Eisenhower had a distinguished military career in World Wars I and II before being elected president of the United States in 1952. Dwight David Eisenhower was the third son of David Jacob and Ida Stover Eisenhower. Moving to Abilene, Kansas in 1892, Eisenhower spent his childhood in the town and later attended Abilene High School. Graduating in 1909, he worked locally for two years to aid in paying his older brother's college tuition.