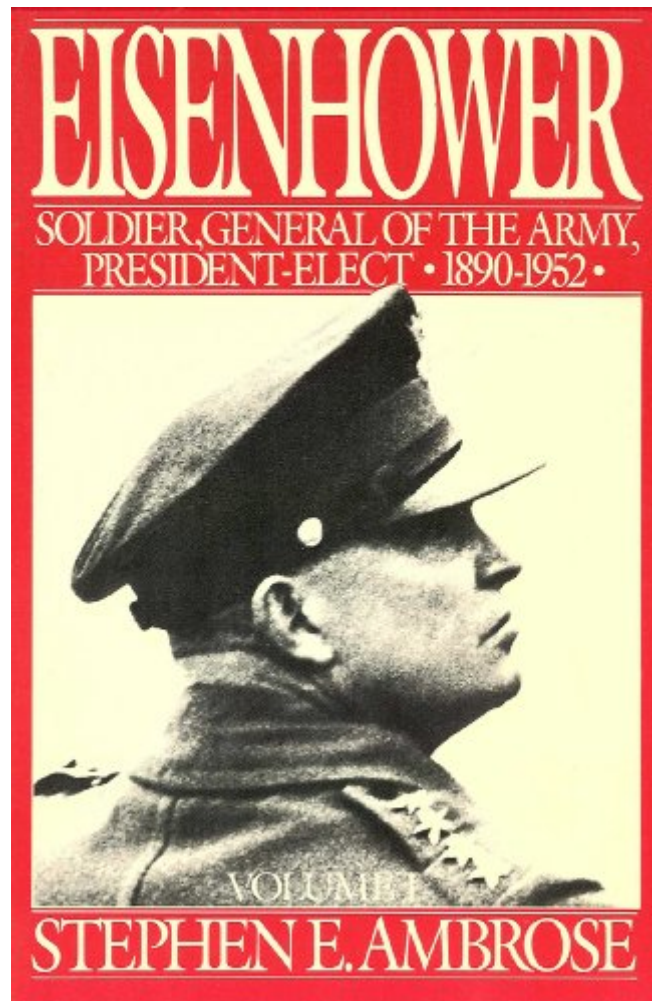


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Eisenhower Volume I: Soldier, General Of The Army, President-Elect, 1890-1952



Synopsis

Stephen E. Ambrose draws upon extensive sources, an unprecedented degree of scholarship, and numerous interviews with Dwight D. Eisenhower himself to offer the fullest, richest, and most objective rendering yet of the soldier who became president. At various times in his life, Eisenhower was a soldier at wartime, the Chief of Staff, patron to the North American Treaty Organization, president of Columbia University, and the Supreme Commander of the United States. However, he was also a father, son, husband, and friend. This deeply personal biography concerns itself less with the life and times of Eisenhower and more on the man himself, his achievements and triumphs, failures and concerns, as well as his relationships with those closest to him. A charismatic leader with a high degree of intelligence, integrity, tremendous energy and a commitment to basic principles that drew soldiers, civilians, and foreigners alike to him, Eisenhower was also ambitious, sensitive to criticism, and avid sportsman who was terribly loyal to his friends and family. Ultimately, Ambrose presents a masterful portrait of Eisenhower that finely delves into his personal life during his presidency, the onset of the Cold war, and as the leader of a rapidly evolving nation struggling with issues as diverse as civil rights, atomic weapons, and a new global role. Ambrose shows what an extraordinary person Eisenhower was and the extent to which many who live in freedom today owe to him. This superb interpretation of Eisenhower's life confirms Stephen Ambrose's position as one of the nation's finest historians.

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Customer Reviews

He was a wartime General, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, patron to the North American Treaty Organization. Ike was also a son, husband and father. But he was versatile; after initial resistance, he ran for, and was elected, President. People liked him; civilians and soldiers alike would follow him. 65 years later, Ambrose reviews the issues of the 40s and early 50s, the many characters on the scene, and how they practiced politics. Of course Ike was the man who harnessed the fractious Army commanders, initiated D-Day, and set the mold for post-war reconciliation. At Rhein-Main air base in West Germany, speaking at a press conference: '...when he had last come to Germany "I bore in my heart a very definite antagonism toward Germany and certainly a hatred for all that the Nazis stood for, and I fought as hard as I knew how to destroy it." But, he added, "for my part, by-gones are by-gones," and he hoped that "some day the great German people are lined up with the rest of the free world, because I believe in the essential freedom-loving quality of the German people." When a German reporter pointed out that many Frenchmen wanted a permanently neutralized Germany, Eisenhower replied that "in this day and time to conceive of actual neutrality... is an impossibility." (p. 503) Ike is frequently associated with the term 'military-industrial complex'. Just prior to Korea, President Truman was trying to balance the budget by cutting defense. Ike observed: "Of course the results [of an inadequate defense policy] will not show up until we get into serious trouble," he predicted in June 1949. "We are repeating our own history of decades, we just don't believe we ever will get into a real jam." (p.

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