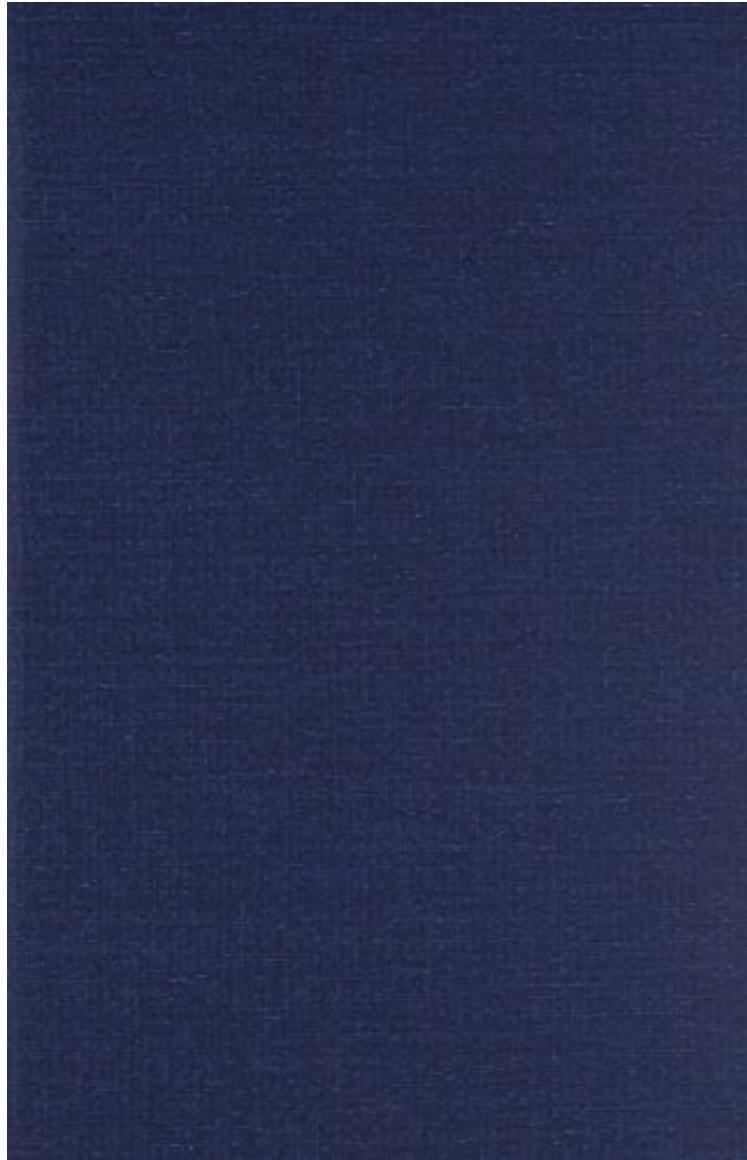


[Download pdf] Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant, Volume Two, History, Biography

Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant, Volume Two, History, Biography

Ulysses S. Grant

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Ulysses S. Grant : Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant, Volume Two, History, Biography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant, Volume Two, History, Biography:

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Clear-eyed memoirs of a military man - eBook edition comments too

By Joseph Somsel Grant's memoirs show the power of clear-eyed realism. He was a great general because he refused the temptations of self-delusion and called it out when he saw it in others. His writing has a clarity about it no doubt developed from years of writing as if the lives of thousands on men depended on getting his message across clearly and unambiguously. One surprise was how loosely the other, supposedly subordinate generals did or did not follow Grant's orders. I expected more discipline in our army - poor communications to distant theaters probably made tighter control impossible. True, the book sometimes bogs down in campaign detail of little interest to today's reader but that is the raw stuff of his success. Before delving deeply into Civil War history, I recommend a book on the military technology of the day - a book like "The Civil War Military Machine" by Drury and Gibbons. One needs to understand issues like a charging group of men can cover 200 yards in 2 minutes while mounted cavalry can do it in 30 seconds. Why is that important? The range of their rifles was about 200 yards and a steady soldier could get off 2 rounds a minute or four shots into the attacking column. A locomotive of the time could pull 15 cars at about 25 mph. A wagon train pulled by horses or mules had a maximum range of 100 miles hauling its own feed and could travel in a day what a locomotive could cover in an hour. All these facts and more shaped how the war was fought. Grant's political development and the events after Lincoln's death were of particular interest. He signed on to the Know Nothing Party as a young officer but only attended one meeting before dropping it. The treatment by Secretary of War Stanton of Grant and Sherman was a great injustice suggesting a political kneecapping by Stanton of the victorious and popular heroes. One wonders if Obama took a page from Stanton's book with Petraeus and McChrystal et al? Grant's opinion of Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's VP and 17th president couldn't get much lower. It helps to illuminate the Radical Republicans' treatment of Johnson, a view I hadn't read before. As to this eBook edition, there were the usual misplaced or redundant text blocks, causing a bit of confusion. Worst, the maps were absolutely useless on my Kindle Fire. I also recommend Sherman's memoirs and would have liked to have seen more post-bellum chapters from Grant on his political career. Perhaps his tolerance of the disobedience of the subordinate generals played a role in his overly trusting attitude to his cabinet and political appointees.

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Great Read

By CHUCK I read this book using my Google Earth to look at the areas they were fighting in. It is a fascinating read giving a good insight to the character of the man who comes across as a brilliant tactician fighting not only the rebels but Washington as well. He demonstrates care for his men as well as understanding for the failings of some of the Generals underneath him. My only criticism is that the maps on Kindle are too small to do any good.

Chuck C8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. U.S. Grant wasn't just another pretty face

By Tom from Santa Monica Great book. Actually I think it is a combination of four volumes. I am still not finished after two years of off and on reading. Reading Grant's thoughts and hearing his account of conversations with Lincoln, Stanton and Robert E. Lee is fantastic. You read how he was a reluctant soldier and West Point student. His father got him an appointment and the Congressman that appointed him actually changed his name from Hiarm Ulysses to Ulysses S. Grant. His thoughts on the Mexican War in which he was a participant. His views on slavery and appraisals of his generals. How he depended on Sherman and Sheridan to finally defeat the Army of North Virginia. The story of how Grant came to write this biography after being bankrupt and then diagnosed with cancer when he is encouraged by his friend to put down in writing his recollections and thoughts. That friend was Mark Twain

The memoir has been highly regarded by the public, military historians, and literary critics. Grant portrayed himself in the persona of the honorable Western hero, whose strength lies in his honesty and straightforwardness. He candidly depicted his battles against both the Confederates and internal army foes. Twain called the Memoirs a "literary masterpiece." Given over a century of favorable literary analysis, reviewer Mark Perry states that the Memoirs are "the most significant work" of American non-fiction. There must be many errors of omission in this work, because the subject is too large to be treated of in two volumes in such way as to do justice to all the officers and men engaged. There were thousands of instances, during the rebellion, of individual, company, regimental and brigade deeds of heroism which deserve special mention and are not here alluded to. The troops engaged in them will have to look to the detailed reports of their individual commanders for the full history of those deeds. Mark Twain wrote: I had been comparing the memoirs with Caesar's Commentaries... I was able to say in all sincerity, that the same high merits distinguished both books: clarity of statement, directness, simplicity, unpretentiousness, manifest truthfulness, fairness and justice toward friend and foe alike, soldierly candor and frankness, and soldierly avoidance of flowery speech. I placed the two books side by side upon the same high level, and I still think that they belonged there.