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The Great Captains: The Art of War in the Campaigns of Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick the Great and Napoleon

Theodore Ayrault Dodge

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Theodore Ayrault Dodge : The Great Captains: The Art of War in the Campaigns of Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick the Great and Napoleon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Captains: The Art of War in the Campaigns of Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick the Great and Napoleon:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, But Not Quite HistoryBy George BurnsThe author was a dedicated military historian with combat experience in the Civil War. He chose six great generals from history to discuss: Alexander the Great, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick the Great and Napoleon. Alexander and Napoleon probably appear on every list of this kind, while the others are debatable. The ancients present the problem of too little evidence and the author too readily accepts improbable numbers and speeches. He is naive in assessing character. The "open-hearted" Alexander seems at best a clever barbarian and Dodge's attempt to portray Frederick as a noble, peace loving monarch is almost laughable. Frederick was an international bandit with repulsive personal habits--"a white snuff-besprinkled vest"--and responsible for untold suffering. Mr. Dodge is much better on strictly military manners, carefully separating strategy from tactics and recognizing the influence of luck both good

and bad. This is a book well worth the attention of anyone interested in military history. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good overview of several

By Stratiotes Doxha Theon
Written in the late 19th century, this is a collection of campaign studies of Alexander the great, Hannibal, Ceasar, Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick the Great, and Napoleon. It includes several maps that are helpful but they lack the detail and clarity that one would prefer. The maps, being part of a collection of lectures, were most likely maps in the author's notes which he would use on the chalk board to describe the battles. They appear to be rough sketches one might find in that context. Still, they are better than no maps at all and they do provide some context for the lecture content. The brevity of the book as a whole and the division of the book into standalone lectures make it a fair reference volume. But, you will certainly want more than these lectures for any one of "the great captains." It is an enjoyable set of lectures and worth the price you are likely to find this book now.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good book comprising a series of lectures Dodge gave on ...

By Bookworm64
Good book comprising a series of lectures Dodge gave on the Great Captains of history. It's a good primer on them, but don't look for in-depth psychological views or the like. This is all from a military standpoint from a military man.