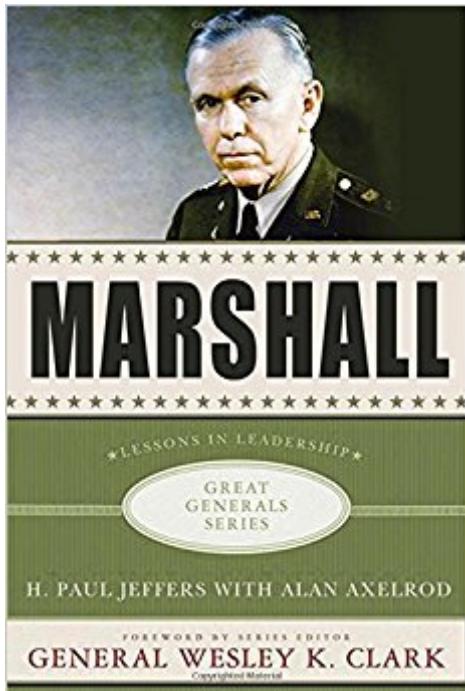


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Marshall: Lessons In Leadership (Great Generals)



Synopsis

General George C. Marshall was a skillful and compassionate leader with a unique legacy. He never fired a shot during WWII and led no troops into battleâ •his brilliance was purely strategic and diplomatic, and incredibly effective. He was responsible for the building, supplying, and, in part, the deployment of over eight million soldiers. In 1947, as Secretary of State, he created the Marshall Plan, a sweeping economic recovery effort that pulled the war-shattered European nations out of ruin, and gave impetus to NATO and the European Common Market. It was for the Marshall Plan that he won the Nobel Peace Prizeâ •the only time in history a military commander has ever been awarded this honor. Marshall's skilled combination of military strategy and politics, emphasis on planning as well as execution, and his expertise in nation-building holds lessons for military and civilian leaders today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This surely must rate as one of the better installments in the "Great Generals Series." There is a generous amount of detail in its 190 closely-printed pages, and all phases of Marshall's extraordinary and wide-ranging career are covered in due proportion. George C. Marshall is one of those rare historical figures - especially in the fields of statecraft and military science - to whom seems to attach a remarkably insignificant degree of criticism and controversy, and even less venom & spite. In particular, his leadership in WWII and during the post-war European crisis appear

virtually beyond reproach, perhaps to all but a perennially disgruntled fringe. Only the "loss of China" still sounds an ominous note, but the complexities of that situation are understandably beyond the scope of this book, and any indictment of Marshall on account of China's "loss" to the communists would require far more information than we are given here. But it is hard to imagine the ChiComs going down in defeat before anything less than a massive American intervention, on a scale comparable to, if not exceeding, the planned invasion of Japan - or else a massive nuclear campaign, neither scenario very likely in the immediate aftermath of WWII as the nation and the world concerned itself with picking up the pieces and attempting to put things back together. Lacking the proverbial "smoking gun", I propose that it would be disingenuous, simplistic, and unjust to blame Marshall for "losing" China. To his credit, the author does not proffer any such indictment.

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