



Ike: An American Hero

By Michael Korda

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Ike is acclaimed author Michael Korda's sweeping and enthralling biography of Dwight David Eisenhower, arguably America's greatest general and one of her best presidents—a remarkable man in an extraordinary time, the hero who won the war and thereafter kept the peace.

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Ike: An American Hero By Michael Korda Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #857882 in Books
- Published on: 2008-05-06
- Released on: 2008-05-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.48" w x 6.00" l, 1.80 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 800 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Characterizing Dwight Eisenhower as an American with a big grin and long-limbed, loose American way of walking, this smitten biography demonstrates his heroism by dwelling on his World War II record as commander of Allied armies in Europe. Korda (*Ulysses S. Grant*) defends the people's general against criticisms leveled by subordinates and historians (Eisenhower's presidency flits by in an admiring 64 pages), but for all his fulsome comparisons of Eisenhower to Napoleon and Grant, the author's case is weak. Korda's approving gloss on Ike's broad front approach—directing all the Allied armies to engage the enemy at every point... until superior numbers inevitably ground the Germans down because he did not think a single, clever stroke would do it—makes Eisenhower sound like a terrible strategist. At best, Ike comes off as a competent diplomat-in-arms, enabling egomaniacs like Churchill, De Gaulle, Montgomery and Patton to cooperate, and soothing wife Mamie's anxieties over his glamorous secretary. Unfortunately, Eisenhower's self-effacing affability in this role means his story is usually upstaged by the colorful prima donnas around him. A more critical analysis might have made for a more interesting biography. Photos. (Aug. 21)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Citing David McCullough's biographies of Truman and MacArthur, Michael Korda claims that "a reputation can be revised by a single great book," and he seeks to do just that in *Ike*. Korda treads no new ground; instead, he gathers his information from previously published sources. In place of originality, reviewers commended his engaging, accessible style. Some were annoyed by Korda's lack of objectivity and the short shrift he gives to Eisenhower's presidential years (fewer than 100 pages), but they generally agreed that *Ike* is a stirring portrait of a truly inspiring man. "Academics may dismiss *Ike: An American Hero* as popular history, but most others will read with pleasure a great American story, well told" (*Wall Street Journal*).

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From [Booklist](#)

Eisenhower's life has been so thoroughly researched (see the definitive biographies by Stephen Ambrose and Carlo d'Este) that new volumes of Ikenography must rely on the way they are told to set the bar of interest. Korda easily clears it. Synthesizing the private with the public and historical man from war memoirs and secondary sources, Korda ventures opinion and speculation more freely than might a professional historian. However, Korda's suppositions, such as his lengthy musings about the degree of intimacy between Eisenhower and his wartime chauffeur, Kay Summersby, plus his apt expressions of Eisenhower's salient character traits (such as a volcanic temper concealed by outward geniality) are undeniably engaging. Frequently lamenting a lack of remembrance about Eisenhower's leadership in World War II, Korda's portrait is best appreciated by readers drawn to, but with a spotty background in, WWII. Half the book and all the maps (reprinted from Eisenhower's *Crusade in Europe*, 1948) recount Ike's North Africa campaign, his command of D-Day, and his decisions in the advance across France and Germany, with Korda en route and defending Ike against criticisms leveled at him in the postwar battle of the books. With a sure touch on Ike's Kansas boyhood, marriage to Mamie, and prewar army mentors, Korda, former book publishing executive and present wide-ranging author, successfully reintroduces the Eisenhower personality that was so popular privately, militarily, and politically. Taylor, Gilbert

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fernando Rowe:

Reading can be called head hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled *Ike: An American Hero* your head will drift away through every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a guide then become one application form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The *Ike: An American Hero* giving you another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful facts for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Bonnie Boyd:

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