



Audacity Personified: The Generalship of Robert E. Lee

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Despite the literary outpouring on the life of Robert E. Lee, the southern chieftain remains an enigma. The existing scholarship is so voluminous, complex, and contradictory that it is difficult to penetrate the inner Lee and appreciate him as a general. Peter S. Carmichael has assembled a formidable array of Civil War historians who rigorously return to Lee's own words and actions in interpreting the war in Virginia. This is the first collective volume to scrutinize specific aspects of the general's military career.

Carmichael's opening contribution confronts Lee's supposed drive for a victory of annihilation and takes issue with claims that he was too aggressive. William J. Miller's novel analysis of Lee's leadership during the pivotal Seven Days battles reconstructs his strategic thinking and corrects old assumptions. Gordon C. Rhea overturns the common notion that Lee anticipated his adversaries with uncanny precision in the Overland campaign of 1864. Robert E. L. Krick takes aim at the oft-repeated criticism that Lee was not attuned to the demands of modern warfare because he failed to surround himself with enough subordinates to ensure the smooth operation of the army; in fact, Krick argues, Lee continually fine-tuned the performance of his support staff, striving to eliminate deficiencies. Finally, Max R. Williams's examination of the relationship between Lee and North Carolina governor Zebulon B. Vance, and Mark L. Bradley's portrait of Lee's relationships with Jefferson Davis and Joseph E. Johnston, offer contrasting views of the soldier as both politically assertive and reticent, respectively.

Falling easily into neither the pro- nor anti-Lee camp, *Audacity Personified* challenges long-standing beliefs accepted since Douglas Southhall Freeman's influential biography of Lee was published seventy years ago. These diverse scholarly visions of the great Confederate general move beyond cliché, illuminating Lee's career with fresh interpretations.

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Review

"Carefully researched and thoughtfully analyzed." -- Virginia Magazine of History and Biography

"A stimulating read [that] challenges old interpretations and offers new ones." -- Journal of Southern History

"Thoughtful and informative. Anyone who desires another look at Robert E. Lee will want to read [this book]." -- North Carolina Historical Review

About the Author

Peter S. Carmichael is the author of Lee's Young Artillerist: William R. J. Pegram and an assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

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David Butler:

Why? Because this Audacity Personified: The Generalship of Robert E. Lee is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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