

American Caesar, Douglas MacArthur, 1880-1964 Study Guide

**American Caesar, Douglas MacArthur, 1880-1964 by
William Manchester**

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Contents

American Caesar, Douglas MacArthur, 1880-1964 Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	4
Preamble, Reveille, pgs. 3-11.....	5
Prologue, First Call, pgs. 13-38.....	6
Chapter 1, Ruffles and Flourishes,, pgs. 39-79.....	7
Chapter II Charge, pgs. 85-115.....	8
Chapter III, Call to Quarters, pgs. 116-160.....	9
Chapter IV, To the Colors, pgs. 161-205.....	10
Chapter V, Retreat, pgs. 205-276.....	11
Chapter VI, The Green War, pgs. 277-328.....	12
Chapter VI, The Green War, pgs. 328-373.....	13
Chapter VII, At High Port, pgs. 374-418.....	14
Chapter VII, At High Port, pgs. 418-458.....	15
Chapter VII, Last Post, pgs. 459-544.....	16
Chapter IX, Sunset Gun, pgs. 454-628.....	17
Chapter X, Recall, pgs. 624-677.....	18
Chapter XI, Taps, pgs. 678-710.....	19
Characters.....	20
Objects/Places.....	23
Themes.....	25
Style.....	27
Quotes.....	29
Topics for Discussion.....	31

Plot Summary

American Caesar by William Manchester is the biography of General Douglas MacArthur. MacArthur served in World War I and was in command of the Pacific in World War II. He was one of the most decorated men in United States history and was either loved or hated by the people. Few people were neutral on the subject of MacArthur. Most people considered him to be a military genius. His record was not spotless. There was the attack at Pearl Harbor and the lapses of the following hours that allowed the airfleet in the Philippines to be destroyed. However, he still was instrumental in masterminding the United States victory in the Pacific.

MacArthur came from a military family. His father served in the Union Army in the Civil War and then in the United States Army. Douglas and his brother, Arthur, grew up at various posts on the Western frontier. The military was a way of life for both of them. Arthur attended the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and became a naval officer. He died of appendicitis on December, 1922. Douglas attends the United States Military Academy at West Point and went on to become one of the most brilliant commanders in United States history.

Douglas first went to the Philippines after his graduation from West Point. He was a member of the Corps of Engineers and was there when his parents were there. It was the beginning of his relationship with the people of the Philippines who came to revere and trust him. Manchester tells of MacArthur's career from beginning to end. Serving in France in World War I, MacArthur was known for his unconventional behavior. He refused to wear a steel helmet or wear a gas mask and suffered injuries as a result. This is the kind of behavior he continued to exhibit in World War II and Korea. Instead of spending his time at the command headquarters during invasions, he would join his men.

MacArthur helped establish democratic governments in both the Philippines and Japan. When the Korean conflict began, MacArthur was in command. He was involved in a policy dispute with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and this led to his recall from Korea and the end of his military career. Manchester does his usual thorough job in American Caesar. The book is lengthy and very detailed, but very interesting reading. This reader will find the times spent reading the book to be worthwhile.

Preamble, Reveille, pgs. 3-11

Preamble, Reveille, pgs. 3-11 Summary and Analysis

MacArthur is described as one of the best soldiers the United States has ever had. He received twenty-two medals during the course of his career and is described as being extraordinarily brave and served in three great wars. He was known as Dugout Doug to his men.

MacArthur considered himself an Episcopalian even though he did not attend church and viewed himself as equal to the Pope as a defender of Christianity. He yearned for acceptance by the public but did not receive it because of his acceptance of the press. He believed in social justice and tried to act according to his beliefs. He was twice married and kept a Eurasian mistress in between his marriage. At the time he was fifty-four years old and afraid that his mother would learn about his mistress.

People either liked or disliked MacArthur. It was rare to find someone who didn't have an opinion of him. Some people compared him to Alexander the Great. Many people considered him to be a man hard to get close to. He basically demanded to be revered. MacArthur's own heroes were Washington and Lincoln and in many ways, he was as misunderstood as they were. The general was well versed in history and law and very sensitive to criticism. He wanted to be liked. When MacArthur died at the age of eighty-four, he was a legend.

Prologue, First Call, pgs. 13-38

Prologue, First Call, pgs. 13-38 Summary and Analysis

Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, near Chattanooga, was the site of a Civil War battle in November 1863. A teenager from Wisconsin was serving with the 24th Wisconsin and won the Medal of Honor for his actions. The young man, son of a judge, fought thirteen battles over a fourteen month period during Sherman's march to Atlanta. Even though Major MacArthur was wounded several times, he continued to fight. At the age of nineteen he became a full colonel and was nicknamed the boy Colonel. The MacArthur clan is of Scottish heritage. The family came to America in 1825. Arthur, Sr. grew up in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, became a lawyer and moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he was elected city attorney. His son, Arthur, Jr. had been born a year before the move. Arthur Sr. became a judge. He died on August 24, 1896.

Unlike his father, Arthur Jr. did not like studying law. He chose a career in the regular army and achieved the rank of captain in 1866. He served on the Western front and met Mary Pinky Hardy in New Orleans. Their son Douglas was born on January 26, 1880 at Fort Dodge. The family moved around quite a bit due to Arthur's assignments. Arthur became a major in 1889 and the family moved to Washington D.C., where they remained for four years.

The oldest son, Arthur III, received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. Arthur became a brigadier general in 1898 and was sent to the Philippines where he became the military governor in 1900. He established a more liberal form of government. They were still fighting the guerrillas. President McKinley felt that United States military uniforms were somehow antagonizing the Filipinos and had William Howard Taft named as head of the United States Philippine Commission.

Taft found MacArthur difficult to work with. The two struggled for power and after a year, MacArthur was relieved of his command. He departed from the Philippines on July 4, 1901. Arthur held a series of posts over the next eight years. The Congress promotes him to lieutenant general but he was out of favor with the Roosevelt administration since Taft was the secretary of war. When Taft became President, Arthur resigned his commission. He died September 5, 1912 during a reunion of Missionary Ridge survivors.

Chapter 1, Ruffles and Flourishes,, pgs. 39-79

Chapter 1, Ruffles and Flourishes,, pgs. 39-79 Summary and Analysis

As a child, Douglas's family moved around a lot. He remembers life in the West. He and his brother were schooled by their mother and there were always plenty of books to read. When he was eight his father was transferred to Leavenworth, where Douglas attended school. He was bored with school until he attended the West Texas Military Academy where he became an outstanding student.

MacArthur entered then United States Military Academy at West Point, New York on June 13, 1899. The first three weeks at West Point were the hardest because of hazing. He had to testify at a Congressional investigation when one of the plebes died from an act of hazing. He himself suffered convulsions. His first year roommate was Arthur P.S. Hyde. During his four years, he was on the baseball and football team. He graduated at the top of his class.

MacArthur was a second lieutenant when he finished at West Point and was assigned to the Corps of Engineers. He spent two months in San Francisco with his parents and then his group, the 3rd Engineer Battalion was sent to the Philippines. Douglas supervised the construction of a dock. He became a first lieutenant in March 1904 and in July 1905 became the chief engineer for the Division of the Pacific. Douglas became his father's aide-de-camp four months later to accompany both parents on a tour of the Orient. Two years later Douglas became aide-de-camp to Theodore Roosevelt and attended an elite engineering school. Both his parents wanted him in Milwaukee so with them and he kept drawing assignments there, where he didn't want to be. His performance was lower than usual and he received a reprimand. As a result, his enraged mother tried to find him a civilian job without informing him.

MacArthur was given command of a company at Leavenworth. They became the highest rated company and he received an excellent efficiency report. After four years at Leavenworth, he became a captain and was sent to various places for three to six months at a time. He was assigned to Leavenworth after his father's death and took Pinky with. After three months, he was transferred to Washington and again Pinky moved with him.

In Spring 1914, MacArthur was sent to Mexico to gather information in preparation for possible war, for which he received a commendation. He was promoted to major on December 1915 and then became involved in preparation for entry into the World War I. In the days before American entry into the war he worked in public relations. MacArthur was promoted to colonel and said he wanted to be in the infantry, not the Engineering Corps.

Chapter II Charge, pgs. 85-115

Chapter II Charge, pgs. 85-115 Summary and Analysis

The war in France consisted of trench warfare. In 1914, the French were losing the war and in retreat. Douglas MacArthur sailed for Europe in October 1917. His 42nd group was positioned at Nancy and destined to be used as replacements, which MacArthur protested. At this point he was very popular with the men who served with and under him. They were a part of what was known as the Rainbow under the command of General John J. Pershing.

The Rainbow fought against the German spring offensive. MacArthur refused to carry a gas mask and as a result was injured in March. Pershing thought he obtained better performance from his officers by making unexpected visits and criticizing them. He did this to MacArthur.

Back in the States, Pinky was trying to get Douglas promoted. She was contacting various people in the military. Douglas did not know about this. He did eventually receive the star that made him a brigadier general. MacArthur joined the troops in the trenches for the first big battle near Reims instead of remaining at headquarters as he should have. In August he was made the permanent commander of the 84th brigade. He won his fifth Silver Star at Essey. He even slipped behind enemy lines to do his own surveillance. MacArthur made recommendations based on what he saw, but no one agreed with him until after the war.

MacArthur won the strategic battle of Cote-de-Chatillon. In breaking through the Hindenburg Line, the Rainbow Division lost four thousand men. At one point, MacArthur was accidentally taken prisoner by another American division. He was quickly released. He was the youngest division commander in the war at the age of thirty eight.

On December 1, 1918, he led the 84th brigade into Germany. He stayed at a castle near Sinzig, south of Bonn. In March, 1919, the division began to leave for the United States. MacArthur departed on April 14 due to his mother's poor health. He arrived on April 25.

Chapter III, Call to Quarters, pgs. 116-160

Chapter III, Call to Quarters, pgs. 116-160 Summary and Analysis

After World War I, Pershing decided that the program at West Point needed to be revamped and appointed Douglas MacArthur as superintendent in June 1919. If Douglas accepted, he would be confirmed as brigadier general; if he refused, he would be a major. He accepted the offer and Pinky moved with him.

MacArthur restructured the program and routine at West Point. The plebes now had spending money and weekend passes. Hazing was strictly forbidden and quickly diminished. He encouraged sports and expanded the curriculum to include more traditional academic subjects. He met with the opposition of the board on the introduction of more academic subjects.

On January 15, 1912, MacArthur's engagement to Henriette Louise Cromwell Brooks. Pinky wasn't happy about the situation. They were married on February 14, 1922 at a Palm Beach villa. When they returned to West Point, Pinky moved out. MacArthur would soon be moving to the Philippines. In the Philippines he was known as General Mac Arthur the Younger. It had been eighteen years since he had last been there. Louis quickly became bored with life in Philippines. They quickly returned to the United States when Pinky was ill. MacArthur was transferred to Atlanta in January, 1925 when he received his second star. Afterward he was transferred to Baltimore where they lived at one of Louise's estate. Louise and her family wanted him to resign from the army. Within two years, Louise moved to New York. When Douglas was given command of the Philippines, he went alone. They were divorced on June 18, 1929.

MacArthur expected the Philippines to be attacked by the Japanese some day. MacArthur became Chief of Staff in 1930 and moved to Washington, bring his Eurasian mistress with him, a fact he hid from the Pinky. He made two European trips as Chief of Staff. These were the depression years and there were cuts in military budgets and problems with protesters. Working in the New Deal administration he worked on the Civilian Conservation Corps.

MacArthur's term as Chief of Staff was ending in 1934 when President Roosevelt said he would remain in the position until a replacement could be found.

Chapter IV, To the Colors, pgs. 161-205

Chapter IV, To the Colors, pgs. 161-205 Summary and Analysis

The Philippines was made a commonwealth with independence coming in 1946. The Japanese had already conquered Manchuria. MacArthur wanted the job as high commissioner of the Philippines but wasn't named to the position but was named on Quezon's military adviser. Pinky decided to grow him to the Philippines even though she was eighty-four years old.

Dwight D. Eisenhower would be his chief aide. The Quezon administration in the Philippines was trying to strengthen their defenses. MacArthur did not agree that the archipelago was indefensible. The plans they had were known as the Orange plans. The Filipino first lady gave him a gold baton which made him a field marshal on August 24, 1936.

While on a trip to the United States with Quezon, MacArthur married Jean Marie Faircloth on April 30, 1937. They sailed for Manila and would not return to the United States for fourteen years. Their son was born on February 21, 1938 and named Arthur MacArthur IV. Manuel and Aurora Quezon were the godparents. Douglas was a devoted father. Problems with the defense plans led to MacArthur's resignation from the Army's active list on December 31, 1937. There were disagreement, over his militarization of the Philippines and he was told that he would be returning to duty in the United States.

The Philippines tried to secure arms from the United States. They found the United States wasn't well stocked. The Philippines was not at the top of the United States priority list. When the Nazis took over Warsaw, Eisenhower asked for and received permission to return to the United States to help prepare for the war. The Japanese advance continued through Asia. Germany, Japan and Italy signed the Tripartite Pact on September 27. The Orange Plans were based on the assumption of a bilateral conflict, into global war. On October 10, the War Department recommended the withdrawal of all United States troops in certain parts of the Pacific including the Philippines. Since MacArthur had been retired for three years, he was more or less considered an outsider. MacArthur returned to active duty in 1941, and was in charge of the troops in the Pacific. He was made lieutenant general and received ten million dollars for the defense of the Philippines as the United States began to prepare for war. Tanks and weapons began to arrive in the Philippines. Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 6.

Chapter V, Retreat, pgs. 205-276

Chapter V, Retreat, pgs. 205-276 Summary and Analysis

It was after three in the morning when the attack on Pearl Harbor became known. There is some confusion as to what happened in the hours after the attack. MacArthur and others felt that the Japanese wouldn't attack the Philippines and for more than eight hours there was no order to attack the Japanese. The Japanese attacked other installations in Asia as the day went on, including Clark in the Philippines. The attack continued during the week. Most of the United States air fleet was destroyed. The United States Naval fleet departed from the Philippines. Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. By Christmas, the Japanese were on the ground in the Philippines.

MacArthur blew up many of the bridges to prevent the Japanese from advancing to Manila. He also told the Quezon family to be prepared to evacuate, if necessary. The MacArthur's celebrated Christmas early, knowing they would have to evacuate. They departed for Corregidor on Christmas Eve, as the city was being bombed. They were to remain there for three months.

The Japanese bombed Corregidor a few days later. Eventually they all had to live in the tunnel. Little Arthur's fourth birthday was celebrated on the island. In January, the United States promised aid to the Pacific. They had lost the Philippines. Eventually, plans were made for MacArthur and his family to leave Corregidor for Australia. During their journey by sea, they encountered the Japanese and narrowly escaped. They arrived at Mindano and walked out the plans for the evacuation of the others and went on to Adelaide station and then Melbourne.

Chapter VI, The Green War, pgs. 277-328

Chapter VI, The Green War, pgs. 277-328 Summary and Analysis

Maps of the Pacific were a problem because there weren't many. MacArthur now had the authority to lead the United States battle against the Japanese although it took five weeks for the Joint Chiefs of Staff to work out the agreement. He was named Commander in Chief of the Southwest Pacific Area on April 18. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz was named commander of the Pacific Ocean Areas. MacArthur was determined to re-capture the Philippines and he assured Quezon that he would do that.

The American lost Bataan on April 8. During early 1942, the base was being established for an offensive against the Japanese. On May 6, the Japanese captured Corregidor. The next day the Death March began in which seven to ten thousand American and Filipino prisoners died. By June 9, all of the troops in the Philippines had surrendered. The Japanese had not expected the successes they had. Their biggest loss so far had been a destroyer. They were well equipped with petroleum and raw materials and believed that the war was almost over. They still had plans for Australia, among other things.

The American code-breakers were successful in breaking Japanese code and this allowed the Allies to successfully thwart the Japanese in the Pacific. After the Japanese defeat at Midway, the Japanese plans for further invasions were delayed. By September, MacArthur had the Japanese in retreat. He moved his advance base to Moresby in November. Eisenhower landed in North Africa a few days later. MacArthur broke through the Japanese blockade in March 1942. MacArthur became popular in the newspapers and with the public.

Jean and Arthur were with Douglas in Australia. The MacArthurs didn't go out much. She was his friend and confidant and they spent as much time as possible together.

Chapter VI, The Green War, pgs. 328-373

Chapter VI, The Green War, pgs. 328-373 Summary and Analysis

After the fall of Guadalcanal, MacArthur was placed in charge of all Allied forces in the Southwest and South Pacific. In April 1943 there were plans for the invasion of New Georgia and then to Bougainville. The Allied forces were trapped on some of the islands where MacArthur's forces didn't go. He did not engage in island-hopping. MacArthur moved his base to Hollandia in New Guinea on August 30, 1944. Jean entertained Eleanor Roosevelt on the island, since Douglas was away at Port Moresby. Jean was embarrassed by someone's comment about MacArthur running on the Republican ticket, but most of it consisted of right wing extremists. He was viewed as a threat by many intellectuals.

MacArthur was finally advised to finish out the war and said he had no interest in politics. On July 21, 1944, MacArthur flew to Honolulu to meet Roosevelt. Nimitz was also in attendance. They discussed the plans for the Pacific. MacArthur received the go ahead to take the Philippines. The Joint Chiefs of Staff favored an attack on Formosa. In the meantime, MacArthur continued his timetable for Morotai, the Taluds, Mindanao and Leyete. On September 13, MacArthur radioed Nimitz to cancel all but the attack on Leyete, but it was too late and many lives were lost at the Palaus.

Chapter VII, At High Port, pgs. 374-418

Chapter VII, At High Port, pgs. 374-418 Summary and Analysis

The everyday life of the Filipinos was not affected much by the war even after three years of war. The Japanese were among them but their customs and lives were unchanged. The only exceptions were the guerrillas and the collaborators. There were atrocities by the Japanese that MacArthur found out about. He vowed to free the archipelago and word of this reached the people. There was a strong resistance movement in the rural areas. MacArthur represented hope to them.

The collaborators including the wealthy. They didn't want their lifestyle to change and basically consented to the puppet government. Some felt these people should face the consequences of their collaborations: other felt they had no choice. The Japanese were determined not to let MacArthur's establish as base in the Philippines. MacArthur's forces were gathering at Manus and Hollandia where the Japanese tried attacking them and lost. Yamshita was the opposing Japanese commander.

MacArthur addressed the Filipino people in a radio broadcast on October 19, the night before they invaded Leyete. MacArthur watched the invasion from a ship and then went on shore with the troops. He celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas on the island, celebrating his promotion to five star general. Jean and Arthur wouldn't join him until Manila was taken. Nimitz supported the Mindoro invasion. On Christmas Day, the Japanese surrendered Leyete.

The fight for Luzon would be the climax of the war in the Pacific. Thousands of ships and landing craft would be involved, many of which had come from Normandy. The invasion began on January 10.

There were plenty of Japanese atrocities against the Filipinos as the Japanese were slowly pushed out of Manila. The battle went on for over a month.

Chapter VII, At High Port, pgs. 418-458

Chapter VII, At High Port, pgs. 418-458 Summary and Analysis

MacArthur returned to the Rock on March 2. MacArthur now had to deal with the issue of the collaborators. Osemona, who was slated to be President, left the problem to MacArthur who basically blocked their prosecution. Jean returned with seven year old Arthur at the end of February. They had been separated from MacArthur for four months and Jean was happy to be back in the city. Since the schools had been demolished, they an English private teacher, Mrs. Phyllis Gibbons, to tutor Arthur. The United States command did not have plans to liberate the Philippines beyond Luzon but they did not stop MacArthur. The entire archipelago was liberated by July 5. MacArthur made a few trips to visit the troops but, aside from that, preferred to spend the time with her family.

At this time the Japanese people were still convinced that they were winning the war. Okinawa was invaded on April 1, 1945 but the Japanese were convinced that their homeland could not be invaded even though the Okinawa victory meant that invasion was imminent. Hirohito still believed in a negotiated peace but the July Potsdam declaration called for the unconditional surrender of the Japanese. There was no shortage of Allied manpower or supplies since Germany had surrendered on May 7. MacArthur knew the campaign would result in massive casualties but felt the Allies would be victorious. The dropping of the atomic bombs considerably shortened the war by bringing on a Japanese surrender.

After the surrender, MacArthur addressed citizens of the United States via radio telling them that the world was at peace.

Chapter VII, Last Post, pgs. 459-544

Chapter VII, Last Post, pgs. 459-544 Summary and Analysis

MacArthur entered Tokyo six days after the surrender. The Japanese had suffered the worst defeat in history in terms of casualties. At this time, MacArthur was second in popularity only to Eisenhower with the United States public. MacArthur began to establish democracy in Japan. He had authority over the function of Hiroshito. He could also outlaw political parties and dissolve the Diet. He was seen in public quite a bit and was popular with the Japanese people. He established his head quarters in an insurance building which became known as Dai Ichi. Douglas liked to receive visitors and always made them feel welcome.

MacArthur had received almost every possible military decoration. He surprised some people by his lack of political ambitions, but he stayed on in Japan to help establish the post war government. The Japanese never ceased being ruled by their own leaders. A new constitution was written, part of it by MacArthur himself. In spite of protests from the United Nations, he quickly gave the Japanese people their freedom.

The MacArthurs finally decided to move into the nearly demolished embassy. Jean took the time to refurbish it. Douglas was a devoted father and his son worshiped him. On August 15, 1948, MacArthur flew to Seoul. The South Korean President was being formally inaugurated. On January 1, 1949, it was announced that the Soviet Union had moved its forces out of North Korea and expected the United States to remove their from South Korea.

The United States was determined to contain the communist threat when there was a build up of troops and equipment in North Korea in the 1950s, it was felt that a communist invasion of South Korea was imminent. The fighting began on July 24, 1950.

Chapter IX, Sunset Gun, pgs. 454-628

Chapter IX, Sunset Gun, pgs. 454-628 Summary and Analysis

The North Korean invasion of South Korea was interpreted as an all out offensive. The United Nations Security Council condemned the aggression and the United States vowed to enter the war. MacArthur was placed in charge and ordered to evacuate two thousand Americans. Truman worried about retaliation in other places from the Communists. MacArthur was told to supply and support the South Koreans. He traveled to the Korean front on the fourth day of the war. Four reporters went with. It was the first of seventeen trips he would make. After a report to Washington, MacArthur was given the authority to use American troops to attack North Korean targets.

The South Koreans and Americas were in retreat until July MacArthur was committed to freedom for all people in the Pacific and he made this clear. This also applied to Formosa, who the United States also pledged to defend even though they were determined to prevent Chiang Kai Shek from starting a conflict with the Chinese. MacArthur won the battle at Inchon and Min Gun. He knew there would be problems if the Chinese entered the war on North Korea's side. After capturing Seoul, MacArthur wanted to establish the same kind of democratic reforms as he had in the Philippines but was warned by Washington about reinstating Rhee.

The South Koreans sustained heavy losses a Yalu at the end of October. Chinese troops were identified in the battle. MacArthur was told to delay any bombing of targets within five miles of the Manchurian border until he had time to evaluate the situation. He did not agree with this order and felt in endangered American lives in the long run. They were worried about retaliation from Russia if United States airplanes invaded Chinese airspace.

MacArthur and the Joint Chiefs of Staff continued to disagree about policy in Korea. MacArthur wanted the United States position strengthened, the Joint Chiefs Staffs wanted to continue the current policy. At the end of the war, the line between the two countries remained at the 38th Parallel.

Chapter X, Recall, pgs. 624-677

Chapter X, Recall, pgs. 624-677 Summary and Analysis

Critics of MacArthur claimed that he choose which orders he would and wouldn't obey. MacArthur disagreed with this. He was given more latitude than other commanders and had a wide base of support in Congress. In March, MacArthur told the press that the Korean situation would end in a stalemate if he didn't receive more troops. He couldn't conduct a new offensive and then said that he didn't think that China had the industry capacity to conduct a war. The present United Nations policy would lead to China's collapse. MacArthur let it be known that he would meet with the opposing commander in chief to end the war within the United States constraints. This was an attempt to intimidate Peking.

In spite of this, MacArthur issued what was basically a quit-or-else statement. Government official led by Acheson met and began to talk about removing MacArthur. By the beginning of April, MacArthur's statements to the press led Bradley to conclude that MacArthur had to be removed. The situation was discussed in Congress. Once the decision was made to dismiss MacArthur. They had to decide how to deliver them. Keira Huff at the embassy if learned of MacArthur's impending dismissal and phoned Jean and Douglas and told them. The orders came in the form of a cable from Bradley that were delivered to MacArthur at this Tokyo home. He was dismissed after fifty-two years in the Army and when the public found out, there was a great deal of dissension some sided with Truman and some with MacArthur. There was even talk of impeaching Truman.

The MacArthurs departed on April 16, 1951. The route to the airport was lined with one quarter million Japanese. They flew to Hawaii and then on to the mainland. There was a parade in San Francisco for MacArthur who was back in the United States after being gone for fourteen years. They reached Washington on April 19, and took part in another parade. The Korean armistice was signed on July 7, 1952.

Chapter XI, Taps, pgs. 678-710

Chapter XI, Taps, pgs. 678-710 Summary and Analysis

MacArthur drove around the country in 1952 having received many invitations from governors and mayors. There were numerous parades and the MacArthurs received gifts where ever they went. Douglas gave speeches. MacArthur campaigned against the administration. There was talk of MacArthur being considered as a possible presidential candidate and was chosen to given the keynote address at the Republican convention. MacArthur thought he was a better choice than Eisenhower, but Eisenhower received the nomination and went on to win the election. MacArthur remained popular with the public.

Jean and Douglas hoped that Arthur would attend West Point someday, but he never did. He eventually attended and graduated from Columbia in 1961. He remained in Manhattan after his father's death living under an assumed name.

MacArthur wrote his memoirs later on in his life. He celebrated his eighty fourth birthday on January 26, 1964 and his health was failing. He died on April 5, 1964, and his body is entombed in Norfolk's courthouse.

Characters

Douglas MacArthur

Douglas MacArthur was born on January 26, 1880 to Arthur Jr. and Pinky. He was their third child and was born at Fort Dodge which is now part of Little Rock, Arkansas. As the son of a Army officer, the family moved around a lot, but he attended preparatory school in Texas. Before that, he was home schooled by his mother until he was eight and when the family transferred to Leavenworth where there was a school.

After graduation from the West Texas Military Academy as valedictorian, he tried to gain admission to West Point and finally did in 1849. After four years, he was first in his class and was assigned to the Corps of Engineers which went to the Philippines. He became a first lieutenant in 1904 and was appointed chief engineer for the Division of the Pacific in 1905. Thus began his rise through the ranks of the Army. He was a colonel by the time the United States entered World War and severed in France where he was promoted to brigadier general. He was appointed head of West Point and restructured the program. He also served as Chief of Staff for four years before being sent to the Philippines in the 1930s. He married Louise in 1922 and they were divorced in 1929. His second wife was Jean Faircloth and she presented him with a son February 21, 1938 in Manila. His family remained with him at all times, except for a four month period during World War II. When he disagreed too much with government policy in Korea, he was dismissed and he and his family moved back to the United States. He died on April 5, 1964.

Arthur MacArthur, Jr.

Arthur MacArthur, Jr. was from Wisconsin and the son of a judge. He is the father of the famous General Douglas MacArthur. He was born in 1847 to Arthur, Sr. and Sarah and grew up in the Milwaukee area. He was derived admission to West Point but felt he was entitled to be commissioned because his father was a judge. Arthur served in the 24 Wisconsin for the Union Army during the Civil War. He achieved the rank of full colonel at the age of nineteen.

After the war, he tried studying law, then went back into the regular army. He became a captain in July 1866, a rank he held for twenty three years, fighting the Indians on the Western front. He married Mary Pinky Hardy in New Orleans in May 1875 and had three children. Arthur III and Douglas were the only two who survived. Arthur became a brigadier general in 1898 and was sent to the Philippines and in 1900 became the military governor of the Philippines. When when together and Arthur was relieved of his duties. He served in a variety of minor positions for the next eight years and was made lieutenant general by the Congress. When Taft became President, Arthur resigned his commission. He died on September 5, 1912, while addressing a reunion of Missionary Ridge survivors.

Henriette Louise Cromwell Brooks

Louis Cromwell Brooks was the first wife of Douglas MacArthur. She was the product of the best finishing schools and made her debut in Washington, D.C. She was divorced from Baltimore socialite Walter Brooks and had two children. Louis married Douglas on February 14, 1922. She traveled to the Philippines with him and was bored with life there. When he was transferred back to the United States, and eventually assigned in the Washington area, they lived at her Baltimore area estate. Two years later Louise moved to New York. They were divorced on June 18, 1929.

Isabel Rosario Cooper

Isabel was Douglas's Eurasian mistress. She had been with him in the Philippines for five months and then came to the United States with him. He had a Seventeenth Street apartment for her. Douglas tried ending their relationship on September 1, 1934 when he sent her passage to Manila, but she didn't leave. She eventually talked to columnist Drew Pearson. After a fifteen dollar payment from MacArthur, she moved to the Midwest where she purchased a beauty salon. Then she moved to Los Angeles. She committed suicide on June 29, 1960.

Mary Pinky Hardy

Mary Pinky Hardy was from New Orleans when she met Arthur, Jr., at a Mardi Gras ball and married him in May 1875. She had three children, two of whom survived. The third of which was Douglas MacArthur. After the death of her husband, she moved with Douglas on his various assignments. She functioned as Douglas's friend and confidant. She was eighty four years old when she accompanied Douglas to the Philippines. She died soon after their arrival.

Arthur Macarthur IV

Arthur MacArthur IV is the son of Douglas and second wife Jean. He was born in the Philippines on February 21, 1938. Aurora and Manual Quezon were his godparents. When his father was recalled from Korea, the family returned to the United States. It was the first time Arthur had ever been in the United States. Arthur attended and graduated from Columbia in 1961. After the death of his father he lived under an assumed name.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Dwight D. Eisenhower was a career army man. He served as MacArthur's aid in the Philippines in the 1930s. He was married to Mamie. They remained in the Philippines

until 1939 when the Nazis invaded Warsaw. Eisenhower was in command of the European theater of operations in World War II and became President in 1952.

Arthur Macarthur III

Arthur MacArthur III was the older brother of Douglas. He grew up moving from post to post with his family. He attend the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and became a career naval officer. He died of appendicitis in December, 1922.

General John J. Pershing

John J. Pershing was a career military officer who was MacArthur's superior in World War II. After the war, he appointed MacArthur to head West Point. Pershing became Chief of Staff in 1921.

Jean Marie Faircloth

Jean Marie Faircloth became the second wife of Douglas MacArthur on April 30, 1937. They had a son named Arthur MacArthur IV.

Objects/Places

Missionary Ridge

Missionary Ridge is located in Tennessee near Chattanooga.

Fort Dodge

Fort Dodge was an army fort located in what is now Little Rock, Arkansas, where Douglas MacArthur was born.

West Point

West Point, New York is the location of the United States Military Academy.

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. is the capital of the United States

France

France is the country in Europe where MacArthur served in World War I.

Rainbow Hill

Rainbow Hill was the Baltimore, Maryland area estate and by Louise MacArthur.

The Philippines

The Philippines is an archipelago of islands in the Pacific.

Corregidor

Corregidor is an island approximately thirty miles from Manila. It was known as the Rock.

Australia

Australia is a continent in the Pacific where MacArthur had his headquarters during World War II.

South Pacific Islands

The islands in the South Pacific, like Fiji, Guam, Samoa, etc. were the scene of battles in World War II.

Japan

Japan is an Asian country where MacArthur served.

Korea

Korea, divided into North and South Korea, lies between Manchuria and the Sea of Japan. The North and South are divided by the 38th Parallel.

Themes

Ego

One of the relevant themes of the book is ego, basically MacArthur's ego. Ego, obviously, determines personality and this determines how an individual reacts with other people. MacArthur's personality demanded obedience and basically, reverence. He very rarely acknowledged mistakes no matter how serious they were, and his mistakes were frequently overlooked by others, such as the lapses after Pearl Harbor that led to the destruction of the air fleet at the Philippines.

MacArthur, like everyone else, had a flawed personality, and his flaw was ego. He rarely used the pronoun "I" when referring to himself and referred to himself as the general or MacArthur. It is almost as if he was in awe of himself. Because of MacArthur's personality, people either loved him or hated him. There was no middle ground. To many people he appeared arrogant and outrageous and this made him hard for them to accept. He would wear a scarf hand knitted by his mother and carry a riding crop even on the battlefield and that made him look ridiculous to some. To others, he was a genius and other people worshiped him for this quality. Douglas MacArthur was his own person, whatever the circumstances and for this he is admired.

Relationships

Relationships is another recurring theme of this book like all people, Douglas had different kinds of relationships with different people. He was always close to his mother, who in many ways dominated him. When he attended West Point, she went with and lived in the nearby town. About the only time she was separated from him was during his marriage to Louise, of whom she didn't approve. Their relationship resumed after his divorce.

MacArthur moved his Eurasian mistress to Washington when he was transferred and lived in fear that his mother would find out. He felt that his mistress was supposed to serve him in the way he wanted and saw little need for her to have clothing suitable for outside use, until she protested for much, MacArthur ended the relationship when she began talking to a new reporter.

Relationships are also relevant in MacArthur's dealings with other people. MacArthur had the kind of personality that made people either love or hate him. Many people described him as a man that was hard to get close to. In many ways he was aloof and had a personality that inspired awe and reverence. He had to be respected for his accomplishments. He was one of the most decorated men in United States history yet refused to wear his medals.

Conviction and Principle

Conviction and principle are another relevant theme of the book and these are terms that apply to MacArthur. MacArthur lived his life based on what he delivered and did things and took positions based on the strength of his convictions. This was evident from things ranging from his battlefield dress to his stance on policy in Korea that led to his dismissal. He did not want a stalemate in Korea, and felt that increasing the American presence would lead to a quicker victory and save American lives in the long run. MacArthur was a firm believer in freedom and democracy and this was evident in his treatment of the Philippines and Japan. MacArthur was responsible for the establishment of democratic forms of government in both countries. He saw that both had democratic constitutions and even wrote part of the Japanese constitution. People in both of these countries trusted and admired him for this.

During World War II, the United States objective in the Philippines to liberate Luzon. The official plans did not call for the liberation of the entire archipelago and MacArthur did not have specific anyway and no one stopped him. He always acted based on something his father told him as a child that a good soldier has to know when to disobey in order to achieve greater glory.

Style

Perspective

American Caesar by William Manchester is written in the third person point of view with the narrator being Manchester. The use of this method allows the author to provide the historical and background information that the reader needs to describe since so much of the book deals with World Wars I and II and events in the Philippines and Japan. Most readers need their memories refreshed of events that occurred during this period, especially those that occurred in other countries.

MacArthur is obviously the main character in the book since the book is his biography. There are many other characters in the book that are mentioned and the reader does not come to know them or their personalities, like Jean and Arthur, but this does not really affect the flow of the book. There is enough dialogue between characters so the reader can see how they interact.

William Manchester is a famous author and well qualified to write a book of this nature. After the war he served as a foreign correspondent before becoming the writer in residence at Wesleyan University in 1955. He has written a total of twelve books of various types and has received numerous literary rewards. The reader doesn't have to have a particular interest in the military or either world war to appreciate the book.

Tone

The tone of the book is objective. The author presents the facts as they occur without his own personal opinions interfering. Instead of discussing his own opinions of MacArthurs, he presents the opinions of others that he uncovered while doing his extensive research for the book. Manchester presents the character of MacArthur as others saw him and leaves the reader to draw his/her own conclusions, and this is an approach the reader has to appreciate. Manchester does not insult the intelligence of his readers or try to force his own views on the reader. This makes the reading of the book much more enjoyable for the reader.

There is a great deal of history covered in the book which begins in the Civil War periods and ends with the funeral procession for MacArthur. The book contains a great amount of detail about events that occurred during the wars and in the Philippines, and Japan and Korea. These are historical facts that are presented objectively. As far as the perception of presenting the different points of view, so the reader can see the different sides of the situation and draw his/her own conclusions.

Structure

American Caesar is a well structured book designed in a way that provides the reader with the necessary information. The body of the book is divided into a Preamble, Prologue and eleven chapters. The Preamble and Prologue basically sets the stage for the rest of the book by describing MacArthur and the kind of man he was and telling of his ancestor's background. The eleven chapters are basically chronological with the time periods given in

years.

There are illustrations throughout the book consisting of photos and maps. The photos are good because they allow the reader to associate names and faces, which always makes a book more real for the reader. The maps are extremely helpful and placed so the reader can follow MacArthur's movements during his various assignments. The inside covers of the books contain a Chronology of events during MacArthur's life and career and are easy for the reader to refer to.

There is a very well structured Index at the back of the book which makes it easy for the reader to look up information. There is also an extensive Notes and Bibliography section showing the depth of Manchester's research and making it easy for the reader who wants to check sources.

Quotes

He was a great thundering paradox of a man, noble and ignoble, inspiring and outrageous, arrogant and shy, the best of men and the worst of men, the most protean, most ridiculous, and most sublime. No more baffling, exasperating soldier ever wore a uniform. (Preamble, pg. 4)

The keystone of all his achievements, Arthur concluded after the war, had been those forty minutes when he had climbed the strategic heights overlooking Chattanooga - in defiance of orders. The moral, he would later tell his adoring son Douglas, was that there are times when a truly remarkable soldier must resort to unorthodox behavior, disobeying his superiors to gain the greater glory. (Prologue, pg. 16)

Introducing habeas corpus in Japan after World War II, he told his staff that he had been inspired by Arthur's example in the Philippines, and at the age of seventy he told a friend in Tokyo. 'Whenever I perform a mission and think I have done it well, I feel I can stand up squarely to my dad and say, "Governor, how about it?"' (Chapter I, pg. 44)

There were, he came to believe, people in the army out to get him - deskbound men who envied and resented a fighting officer. This was the beginning of his paranoia, which was to bring so much anguish to him and to others in the years ahead. (Chapter II, pg. 84)

Ganoe believes that he possessed ' a gifted leadership, a leadership that kept you at a respectful distance, yet at the same time took you in as an esteemed member of his team, and very quickly had you working harder than you have ever worked before in your life, just because of the loyalty, admiration and respect in which you held him. Obedience is something a leader can command, but loyalty is something, an indefinable something, that he is obliged to win. MacArthur knew instinctively how to win." (Chapter III, pg. 119)

The upshot of all this was that Craig informed MacArthur that 'upon completion by you of two years of advance on foreign service you are to be brought home for duty in the United States' The General's resignation followed. (Chapter IV, pg. 180)

The key to the riddle is the General himself, and we shall never solve it, because, although those who were around him would recall afterward that he looked, gray, ill, and exhausted, we know little about his actions and nothing of his thoughts that terrible morning. He was the commanding officer, and therefore, he was answerable for what happened. (Chapter V, 206)

MacArthur liked to say, "I'm a soldier and will hold the horse if ordered," but that was nonsense. He was America's most gifted commander of troops, he knew it, and he expected to be treated accordingly (Chapter VI, pg. 282)

The defect was his old conviction that the Japanese weren't his only foes, that he must also contend with unscrupulous rivals in Washington, London, and especially, the U.S. Navy. (Chapter VII, pg. 339)

Their devotion in large part reflected their faith in the General. Sooner or later, they believed, he would recapture the archipelago and restore, or at least pay for, every last carabao stolen by the invader. (Chapter VII, pg. 375)

Samuel Eliot Morison writes: 'It is still somewhat of a mystery how and whence...MacArthur derived his authority to use United States Forces to liberate one Philippine island after another. He had no specific directive for anything subsequent to Luzon..the J.C.S. simply permitted MacArthur to do as he pleased, up to a point.' (Chapter VII, pg. 429)

As a military man he had won virtually every decoration from the Medal of Honor down, victories which outshone those of any other commander in U.S. history, and political omnipotence matching Caesar's and Napoleon's. (Chapter VII, pg. 483)

His indomitable determination to resist Communist domination arouses my sincere admiration. His determination parallels the common interest and purpose of Americans, that all people in the Pacific shall be free - not slave. (Chapter IX, pg. 563)

During the controversy between the President and the General much was said about 'the military mind.' There is such a thing, but MacArthur did not possess it. (Chapter X, pg. 629)

"Being number one is the loneliest job in the world, and I wouldn't wish it on any one of mine. Apparently being MacArthur was too much; after his father's death Arthur moved to the other side of Manhattan and took an assumed name. His identity thus concealed, he lived for his music, a fugitive from his father's relentless love. (Chapter VI, pg. 702)

Topics for Discussion

MacArthur preferred being a field soldier, but he accepted the position as superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Why did he take the position? What would have happened if he refused?

Why did MacArthur resign from active duty in the 1930s? Why did he return to active duty?

How was MacArthur described by most people? Did the perception of MacArthur change over time?

MacArthur remained in Japan after the end of World War II. What were his accomplishments there?

What was MacArthur's goal in the Philippines? Did he have authority for what he did?

Did MacArthur have an interest in politics? If so, what?

What happened in Korea that resulted in MacArthur's recall?