

Eisenhower: Soldier and President Study Guide

**Eisenhower: Soldier and President by Stephen
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Plot Summary

Eisenhower Solider and President takes the reader not only through but also inside the life of Dwight Eisenhower from his early childhood in Abilene, Kansas, to his military beginnings at West Point, his time as Supreme Commander and President of the United States of America until his death at the age of seventy-three in 1969.

Eisenhower grew up the middle of six boys to David and Ida Eisenhower. As a young child growing up in Abilene, Kansas Eisenhower is taught that with hard work and determination there is nothing one cannot accomplish.

Early in his life Eisenhower feels a sense of duty to his country as he attends West Point Military Academy. Here he meets many friends that will remain with him throughout his life, such as Omar Bradley. Bradley will later serve under Eisenhower during World War II. It is at West Point that begins to show his ability for leadership when he is asked to coach the junior varsity football team after a leg injury ends his time playing the sport.

After leaving West Point, Eisenhower meets and marries the love of his life, Mamie Doud. They begin their family with the birth of their first son, Doud Dwight. They called him Icky. Soon their happy family is tested when Icky dies of scarlet fever when he is only four years old. Eisenhower turns to the military to help him get over the loss of his only son, and enrolls in the C&GS School. After graduating at the top of his class, Eisenhower returns to Washington, where he begins working for Douglas MacArthur. He remains with MacArthur until just before the beginning of World War II.

During the war, Eisenhower is the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces. His calm, decisive manner leads the Allies to such victories as the Liberation of France, D-Day, and the Battle of the Bulge. After the war ends, Eisenhower is made Truman's Chief of Staff.

When Eisenhower returns to the United States after World War II, everyone is calling for him to run for president of the United States. Eisenhower, having no intentions of being president at this time, takes a job with Columbia University as their president. While at Columbia, President Truman asks Eisenhower to be Supreme Commander of NATO, which he gladly accepts. His job at Columbia was not as fulfilling as Eisenhower had hoped. Finally, in 1951, Eisenhower decides to run for the office and wins. In his eight years as president, Eisenhower is able to keep the country out of another war, balance the budget, and start the Interstate Highway Program, among many other things.

When Eisenhower finally retires from public service in 1960 he is recalled to service, so to speak, for advice by world leaders and sitting presidents alike until his death at the age of seventy-three in 1969.



Chapter 1-3

Chapter 1-3 Summary and Analysis

Chapter One. This biography follows Eisenhower from his early days at West Point through his time as Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in World War II, his presidency and finally his death at the age of seventy-three.

Dwight Eisenhower is born on October 14, 1890. His parents are David and Ida Eisenhower. David works at a creamery and Ida is a stay at home mother, like most mothers in this time. The family lives in Abilene, Kansas when Eisenhower is young. Eisenhower has five brothers, and David and Ida raise their boys to be tough, self-sufficient, God fearing men.

Eisenhower attends West Point Military Academy after graduating high school. He is very interested in military history and sports, anything that allows his competitive spirit to show. Both of these interests serve him well later in his military life. His knowledge of military history allows him to understand how better to command his troops, and his sports background help him motivate his troops. All of these traits Eisenhower is fine-tuning throughout his lifetime.

Upon graduation from West Point, Eisenhower is stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. While at Fort Sam, Eisenhower meets the love of his life and soon marries her, Mamie Doud. Eisenhower and Mamie live in Texas for several months before he is sent to Georgia. Eisenhower is sent to several other locations over the next few months, none of which is where he wants to be, the front lines. Eisenhower wants nothing more than to see combat, so he is elated when he is set to leave for France on November 18th only to be disappointed when on November 11th the Germans sign an Armistice ending the First World War. Eisenhower is convinced he will never see another war in his lifetime and he has missed his chance to be involved in something so meaningful. What good is a soldier without a war to fight?

Chapter Two. Eisenhower has been introduced to an important person who will play a vital role in his life for years to come; a man Eisenhower will call a friend for the remainder of his life, Fox Conner. Conner and Eisenhower are both stationed in the Panama Canal Zone during the end of 1921. Conner is certain the United States is on the verge of the next World War and he encourages Eisenhower to prepare himself for this event. Conner is instrumental in getting Eisenhower enrolled in a school that prepares officers for this very possibility, Command and General Staff School. C&GS School not only trains men in the problem solving aspect of war, but also lets the teachers know who can take the strain of leadership during an actual war. When Eisenhower finishes C&GS School first in his class, he is assigned to Douglas MacArthur.



Eisenhower and MacArthur will spend the next ten years working together. Eisenhower and MacArthur go to Manila and are working with the Philippine Commonwealth and their leader, Manuel Quezon. While in the Philippines, the relationship between MacArthur and Eisenhower begins to change. The once very close friends begin to become distant. In December of 1939, Eisenhower, believing that the United States was about to join the war, decides to return to the States.

Once back in the States, Eisenhower once again sets out to do whatever it takes to make sure that during this war he is able to see combat. He is given command of the 1st Battalion of the 15th and the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Division in 1940. Eisenhower believes that the only way to be successful in battle is for all his men to understand why they are fighting. This is the regiment he is with when Pearl Harbor is bombed on December 7th 1941. Just days later, George Marshall calls Eisenhower to come to Washington for a meeting that Eisenhower believes is only to discuss the state of the defense in the Philippines.

Chapter Three. Once Eisenhower arrives in Washington, he realizes what he thought would be a short trip to discuss the state of defense in the Philippines turns into him getting charge of the Philippines and Far East Sections of the War Plans Division (WPD)

Despite all of Eisenhower's efforts to save the Philippines, the rift between MacArthur and Eisenhower deepens after the "debacle on the island."

During the following year, Eisenhower finally receives a promotion to Colonel and is sent to London. While in London, Eisenhower becomes very valuable in a public relations role for the U.S. The British press loves Eisenhower; his everyman persona and good looks go a long way in boosting public opinion of Americans in London.

Although this is not a role Eisenhower intended to take on, it was very a very easy one for him. Eisenhower loves America and he believes that the best possible thing for America in this war is for her Allies to actually like the people they are helping. Not only does he take on this role in the press, but also with his command of the Allied troops. Eisenhower is Supreme Commander, commanding both American and British forces. Eisenhower makes sure he does not give his American troops any special treatment. As is the case when a fight breaks out between an American soldier and a British soldier, when Eisenhower finds out that the American soldier started the fight by calling the British soldier a name, Eisenhower sends the American to another troop. Even later, when the British soldier tries to tell Eisenhower that he may have misunderstood the meaning behind the name calling, Eisenhower refuses to return the American. Eisenhower wants troops in his command to respect each other as well as get along; during this time of war he sees no need for any in fighting of his troops.

In early November of 1942, Eisenhower arrives at Gibraltar. He is very excited to be in command of such a great "symbol of the British Empire." Eisenhower is ready to put into practice all he has been learning during all these years of school. Eisenhower decides at Gibraltar that it is necessary for victory to always maintain a positive attitude for his



troops. How can he convince men to go into battle for you if you yourself are not positive you are going to win? This is an attitude Eisenhower continues for the rest of his life.



Chapter 4-6

Chapter 4-6 Summary and Analysis

In chapter four, Eisenhower is learning what it means to lead his troops in actual battle, not in simulated cases like in the days at the C&GS. He has always been one to do things in a very orderly, systematic fashion, and he is learning quickly, and at great cost that this is not always the best course of action during an actual war.

During the battle at Kasserine, Eisenhower makes decisions based on insufficient information, and he hesitates to pull Fredendall. These decisions almost cost the Allies the battle, and allow Rommel to get away. Had Eisenhower been more willing to take greater risks during this battle, the outcome would have drastically changed for the Allies.

All the work Eisenhower put into the British American relations earlier was damaged when he makes a deal with Admiral Jean Darlan for control of North Africa, and then later when he once again tries to make a deal with another double dealing leader for Rome. However, through all these trials, Eisenhower realizes his mistakes and finds out which of his subordinates could stand up to the strain of battle, and ultimately becomes a better leader. It is also during this time that Eisenhower is given the promotion to full general.

Chapter Five. Eisenhower is now preparing for the liberation of France. He is determined that this battle must be successful, and for this to happen everything must go perfectly to plan. After several delays, some due to weather, the Allied forces invade Normandy on June 6, 1944. For the most part the battles are successful, although Montgomery's troops do not advance as far as they had planned. It is not until Eisenhower finally assumes full command of all land battles that the Allied forces are completely successful in their mission.

During this period, Eisenhower has many struggles with Montgomery and Brooks, the British commanders. Montgomery wants the British to be the one to lead the Allied forces to victory, while Patton wants the solo claim to fame. Eisenhower has the tricky role of keeping both sides happy while still maintaining the objective; to liberate France. Eisenhower has still not taken a firm leadership role with the British commanders. Montgomery and Brooks still do not think that Eisenhower is the right man for the job, and they try at every turn to sway Eisenhower to running the attacks their way. Patton does the same thing, only he uses his close friendship with Eisenhower as leverage. Both sides think they are making Eisenhower do things their way, but the reality of the situation is Eisenhower knows what has to be done and feeds the ego of each side to accomplish this end. Eisenhower knows the value of each man, and that the liberation of France is more important than being right.



While dealing with the British leaders, Eisenhower may seem to be too lenient with some of their failures to follow his orders. In Eisenhower's defense, he knows that he needs to have the British play a significant role in these battles in order to maintain a good alliance with Britain. Montgomery, especially, is too timid to take the risks that Eisenhower is asking to make. Eisenhower tries to motivate Montgomery on several occasions, but to no avail. Eisenhower keeps Montgomery because he feels America would be the one to suffer from the removal of the British Commander. The mission needs a joint effort to be completely successful. However if Montgomery continues to be a problem, Eisenhower will not allow the United States to suffer because of the Montgomery.

Chapter six deals with more of the same in fighting between Montgomery and American commanders, especially during the Battle of the Bulge, when time is very much of the essence. Montgomery can see only his way of doing anything. Eisenhower is becoming more confident and decisive about his decisions, and finally tells Montgomery that things will be done the way he has told him to do them or Eisenhower will replace Montgomery. This seems to motivate Montgomery to follow orders, but time that Montgomery wasted arguing almost costs the Allied forces the Battle of the Bulge. Eisenhower is content with the final results, but knows the outcome could have been far more successful had it taken days earlier as planned.



Chapter 7-9

Chapter 7-9 Summary and Analysis

Chapter seven deals with the Battle of the Bulge and the final surrender of the German forces. Just as in chapters five and six, Eisenhower is still battling with Montgomery over leadership. Montgomery does not believe in Eisenhower's ability to command the Allied forces. Through these last three chapters, Eisenhower's tolerance of Montgomery's insubordination has cost the Allies dearly.

Eisenhower also put too much trust in the Russian's when he allows them to take Berlin. Eisenhower is widely criticized for this act, but as a whole Eisenhower's command of the Allied forces is successful.

Chapter Eight. With the war over, Eisenhower's popularity is at an all-time high, which is a huge surprise to him. He is asked to do numerous speaking engagements. Talk soon turns to Eisenhower for president. It seems everyone in American, including President Truman, is looking for Eisenhower to run in the 1948 election. The only plan Eisenhower has is to finish his duty to the Army and then retire with Mamie.

The three years Eisenhower has been away from Mamie were difficult for both of them. There were a lot of rumors about a romance between Eisenhower and his driver/secretary, Kay. Eisenhower always maintains Mamie is the love of his life and the only woman he wanted to grow old with, but the rumors hurt Mamie deeply. Eisenhower helps Kay find a job, but the two do not have much contact after the war is over.

Eisenhower is made Chief of Staff to President Truman, and Eisenhower tries to maintain a friendly relationship between the US and Russia. In 1948 Eisenhower realizes this is hopeless as the Russians are obviously "to communize the world".

Eisenhower retires from the Army and accepts a job as the President of Columbia College. During the couple of months between the end of his Chief of Staff job and the Columbia job, Eisenhower writes his memoirs, *Crusade in Europe*.

In chapter nine, Eisenhower is dealing with life, for the first time, which has nothing to do with the military. During World War II he was used to making important decisions, now he is working at Columbia and is not accustomed to the slow pace of college bureaucracy as opposed to the fast paced life of war time he was used to. So when President Truman asks him to head up NATO, Eisenhower is thrilled to be back in action, so to speak.

During the past several years, Eisenhower has been bombarded with request to run for president, and time and again he has refused. The 1952 election is coming up and it soon becomes clear to Eisenhower that not only do the American people need him to run, but his country needs him to run, and win. In early spring of 1952, Eisenhower

finally agrees to run for the office of President of the United States. He has finally realized it is his duty to his country to run for this office.

Throughout all the talk about Eisenhower running for president, he has always said he would run only if it became clear to him that it was his duty to his country to do so. Never did Eisenhower think this would really happen. He could not imagine that he would ever feel it was his duty to run and he had no desire to be president. As the election approaches, Eisenhower realizes there are no Republicans that are ready to handle the responsibilities facing the country at this time. After Eisenhower talks to Taft about the importance of NATO, Eisenhower feels he is the only one who has the understanding of the importance of such things as NATO and maintaining a peaceful relationship with the Soviet Union.



Chapter 10-12

Chapter 10-12 Summary and Analysis

In chapter ten, now that Eisenhower has finally made the decision to run for president, he is preparing to win. Eisenhower picks Richard Nixon as his vice president. The Eisenhower/Nixon ticket has many obstacles to overcome during the campaign, one of which Nixon is accused of taking campaign contributions. Many of Eisenhower's Republican supporters want Eisenhower to take Nixon off the ticket. However, in normal Eisenhower fashion, he is patient and fair almost to a fault, and allows Nixon to explain himself not just to Eisenhower but to the American public. After Nixon's speech, Eisenhower decides to keep him on the ticket.

On November 1, 1952 Eisenhower is elected the President of the United States.

In chapter eleven, Eisenhower has assembled his cabinet of "eight millionaires and one plumber", and now is busy making plans for the inaugural ceremony. President Truman makes arrangements for Eisenhower's son, John, to come back from Korea for the swearing-in ceremony. Truman does not think that Eisenhower will be able to handle the demands of the presidency, even though everything Eisenhower has been doing for the past ten years seems to have been training for the job he is now undertaking.

Since Eisenhower's return from World War II, President Truman has been one of the people calling for Eisenhower to run for the presidency. Truman was under the impression that Eisenhower was a Democrat. Truman even offered to run as Eisenhower's vice president at one point. However, since finding out that Eisenhower was a Republican, after the campaign the relationship between the two men became somewhat strained. It seems funny that Truman is now doubting Eisenhower's readiness for the office he has been pushing Eisenhower into since the end of World War II.

In chapter twelve, Eisenhower loves his new role as president. The challenges as well as being "at the center of the world" are well suited to him. One of his main challenges, however, is Joe McCarthy. McCarthy is determined to get rid of all Communists and Eisenhower does not agree with McCarthy's methods. Eisenhower feels the best way to handle McCarthy is to ignore him and give him a little press as possible while not alienating McCarthy's supporters. At one point McCarthy is burning books he believes are written by Communists. Eisenhower is effective in not supporting the book burnings while still being in support of stopping Communist propaganda. Eisenhower has a way of talking to the press that leaves them unsure of exactly where he stands. This is exactly what Eisenhower is trying to do; this allows both sides to think Eisenhower is on his side. This is the same tactic Eisenhower used on Montgomery and Patton during World War II.

During this time, Eisenhower is also trying to balance the budget. In doing so, he cuts spending to the defense. While this angers most of the military and the Republicans, Eisenhower is convinced the only way to have a secure nation is to have a financially secure nation. He spends a lot of his time defending this position, even to some on his own side. Somehow people still seem to doubt the man they so fiercely sought for this very position. It was only a few years earlier that everyone had said he was "the only man" for the presidency. The same man who played such a huge roll in World War II is now being doubted for loyalty to the military and question about their spending budget.



Chapter 13-15

Chapter 13-15 Summary and Analysis

Chapter thirteen shows that when Eisenhower agreed to run for president in 1951, he promised the Americans as soon as elected he would visit Korea to see if peace could be achieved. Six months after being in office, Eisenhower has made good on this promise; the United States signs an armistice with Korea. The Republicans would have preferred a victory in Korea, but Eisenhower felt that peace was in fact a victory. The lost lives of the American troops in the five weeks before the end of the war were more than Eisenhower wanted to see, so the peace in Korea was counted as one of his proudest achievements as president, even years later.

Eisenhower found a way around "Congress, the parties, and the public" when it came to the Iranian Prime Minister, Mossadegh. With the help of the CIA, Eisenhower was able to successfully oust Mossadegh and return the Shah to power. This operation was a success and it gave the "American oil giants 40 percent of Iranian oil".

When it came to the arms race, the story is quite different. Eisenhower knows that no one will win if the US and the Soviet Union starts using atomic weapons. The power of these weapons is more powerful than the common person could ever comprehend. Eisenhower is doing everything in his power to make sure that both sides use the technology for the good of mankind, not to scare the other side. Eisenhower comes up with the idea for Atoms for Peace. When he presents this idea to the Soviets and the Americans, it looks as though it may work. The Soviets, however, will not take the chance that the US could still have more atomic weapons than they would have and do not accept the offer. Eisenhower is very disappointed that his idea is never even given the chance to work. He believes wholehearted in the Atoms for Peace.

Chapter fourteen shows how, since chapter twelve, the reader has seen Eisenhower's struggle with McCarthy grow. In this chapter, Eisenhower is still dealing with McCarthy and his fight to remove any trace of Communism from the government offices. McCarthy is in the middle of the Army hearings, and this made Eisenhower take a closer look one of the government's scientist, Oppenheimer, who is involved in developing the H Bomb. Eisenhower is investigating claims that Oppenheimer is a Soviet spy, but he's doing so secretly, as to catch McCarthy's attention. In the end, Eisenhower comes to the conclusion that Oppenheimer is a Communist, and did hold up the H Bomb development, but he does not find any evidence to prove Oppenheimer is a Soviet spy. Eisenhower has Oppenheimer removed from the H Bomb project without raising suspicion from McCarthy. Eisenhower is not opposed to ridding the government offices of Communists, just McCarthy's tactics. Eisenhower refuses to allow any of his personnel to testify at the Army/McCarthy hearings, and by the time the hearings come to an end, McCarthy has lost all credibility



France is still strong, militarily speaking, following WWII, and they are trying to get the US to help them in their fight in Vietnam. Eisenhower has continually refused, saying that France needs to call the rearmament of Germany through NATO. France simply wants the US to use the H bomb and take care of the situation for them. Eisenhower's concern is that this will almost certainly draw Russia and their atomic weapons into a war with the US, not to mention the US just signed the armistice with Korea.

Eisenhower tries to boost moral in the French military and offers to help pay for the war, but again refuses to send American troops or the H bomb. Finally, when all else has failed to motivate the French forces, Eisenhower tells them if they " don't get behind EDC- the Americans would help the Germans rearm themselves, outside an all-European army, but inside NATO as a full partner" (p. 370). This is just what Eisenhower has to do, because France will not budge.

The Supreme Court passes a bill to desegregate the public schools. Eisenhower does not publicly endorse this ruling, but he does say that he stands behind any ruling the Court makes. His main fear with this ruling is that the white southerners will pull their children from the public schools, and their money. This would leave the public schools in shambles, not only hurting the black children but the poor white children as well. However, if Eisenhower had really gotten behind the ruling and supported it more publicly, he could have possibly made the desegregation process much smoother. His silence led many to believe that he secretly agreed with the segregation laws.



Chapter 16-18

Chapter 16-18 Summary and Analysis

In chapter sixteen, the Geneva Summit takes place in July 1955. Eisenhower has decided that the only way to stop the arms race between the U.S. and the Soviets is to have open air skies for both countries in which to operate reconnaissance missions. Quickly after the summit begins, Eisenhower knows the Soviets are not going to accept this offer. The summit ends and nothing has been settled, except both sides acknowledge that if atomic weapons are used between the two countries, both would be destroyed.

In September of 1955, Eisenhower suffers a heart attack. The rest is well needed by Eisenhower, who takes the next three months to fully recover. During this time, Eisenhower takes time to think about running for re-election in 1956. Eisenhower would like to retire, but he is worried that there is not anyone that could take his place that would work toward peace. Most, if not all, the people who would run for president, Eisenhower feels, would too easily use atomic weapons. Once again Eisenhower feels it's his duty to America to run for re-election. Now he has to decide if he is going to keep Nixon on as his vice president. Eisenhower tries to convince Nixon into taking himself off the ticket, but so far Nixon has not done so.

Eisenhower still has not taken a firm stand on race relations. The schools are trying to integrate, and the southern states and some in Congress are trying to get the Supreme Court ruling overturned. The country needs Eisenhower to lend his voice on this issue, however he refuses to get involved. His backing on this issue could have made a real change in race relations.

In chapter seventeen, the months leading up to the election are some of the tensest of the past couple of years. Nixon has decided to remain on the ticket, even though Eisenhower has offered him his pick of Cabinet jobs if he steps down. Instead of being able to concentrate on the election, Eisenhower faces the challenge of what to do about the situation the British and the French have started at the Suez Canal. The British and French have teamed up behind the U.S.'s back, expecting Eisenhower to bail them out when the attack is already in motion. Eisenhower instead holds up the U.N. agreement and tells the British and French that if they do not agree to a cease fire, the U.S. will support Egypt. Finally, the day of the election, the British agree to the cease fire and to turn the Canal over to the NATO forces. The alliance has survived and so does President Eisenhower, who wins in a landslide victory over Stevenson.

In chapter eighteen, Eisenhower's ambiguous statements toward the civil rights issues are reaching a point where he has to take a stand one way or another. All along he has tried to stay in the middle of this issue. He has vowed to uphold the Supreme Court ruling while still being understanding of the rich, white Southern's point of view. In September of 1957, the governor of Arkansas, Fabus, calls in the Arkansas National



Guard to keep the black students from entering Central High School. Eisenhower is now forced to answer the question he has been putting off, whether or not he would send troops in to enforce the Supreme Court's ruling. The situation in Little Rock becomes so uncontrollable that Eisenhower does send the troops in to force Central High School and the governor to allow the students safe entrance to the school. The situation slowly calms down, and by June of 1958, the troops have left and Central High is integrated. The only thing Eisenhower had always feared was that if forced to integrate, the Southerners would close the schools, which they did at Central High in September of 1958. The school was re-opened in the fall of 1959, segregated.

Ever since the Supreme Court ruling on segregation, Eisenhower has been reluctant to get involved if at all possible on this issue. He has said as little as he could get away with, while still saying that he would support the Supreme Court ruling. The problem is that when Eisenhower does speak on this issue, it always seems that he is sympathetic to the people fighting the ruling. It seems that if Eisenhower could have realized how this issue affected not just the blacks and the whites, but the country as a whole, maybe he would have been more motivated to speak up, with a loud firm voice of support of the ruling. So many of the people fighting the ruling were huge supporters of Eisenhower; maybe he would have been the person to make the most head way on this issue. If he had taken a stand from the very beginning, he could have made the whole process much smoother, and maybe there would have never been the incident at Central High School. It seems strange that a man who always seemed to do the right thing no matter the consequence could not see what the right thing was in this very important issue. He always tried to do the best thing for America, but could not see the importance of his own voice of support on this issue; that would have been what was best for America.

In late 1957, the Soviets send the first man-made satellite into orbit, called the Sputnik. This causes alarm to the American population for two reasons; the first is people are worried that this could mean that the Soviets could now attack us from these satellites, and second reason is that they do not like it that the Soviets did it first. Eisenhower tried to calm everyone's fears. He tells them that this satellite has no accuracy and that the U.S. is really not that far behind them in sending their own own satellite. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and most others in the government use the Sputnik as an excuse to ask Eisenhower for increased spending so the US cannot only catch up to the Soviets, but pass them. Eisenhower does not give to everyone's fears, and in the process saves the nation billions of unnecessary dollars.

Throughout his presidency, Eisenhower is fighting to balance the budget and keep it balanced. He feels this is important to America's security. He is never able to convince others in government of this fact. People are so scared of the Soviets and of a possible nuclear war. All that seems to make them feel safe is for the United States to have more, bigger, better weapons than the Soviets. Eisenhower tries to explain that in the event of a nuclear war, more is not going to be any better. People are not dealing with anything that has ever seen used before, and these new weapons would destroy both countries. There would be no winner, enough is enough. Any more would just be overkill, and in the process would waste money that would be better used elsewhere.

Eisenhower is able to calm there fears for the moment, but as soon as the next Soviet crisis surfaces, they are back to asking for more.



Chapter 19-21

Chapter 19-21 Summary and Analysis

In chapter nineteen, during the winter of 1957-58, Eisenhower is recovering from a minor stroke he suffered in November 1957. The only lasting effects from the stroke are only noticeable to Eisenhower, such as the occasional reversal of syllables in long words.

Throughout 1958, Eisenhower is dealing with the Russians and the arms race. The Soviets have finally agreed to talks on supervision of nuclear weapons testing. At this point, the U.S. does not trust the Soviets motives. Khrushchev has just been named Russian dictator. Eisenhower already knew this was the case. By the time Eisenhower was ready to agree to the test ban, the American scientists have discovered that America needs more inspection sites. The Russians refuse to discuss this and the talks stop.

During this same time, Eisenhower is dealing with the budget. The military still wants more money to make more atomic weapons. Eisenhower fights them on this issue because he thinks a balanced budget is more important and he believes they already have enough weapons. During these debates, Eisenhower decides to begin a program that is designed to deal with space activities except those associated to national defense. This organization is called NASA.

Eisenhower ends 1960 with not only a balanced budget, but with a billion dollars surplus.

During chapter twenty, Eisenhower is trying to make sure he does all he can in the next two years to maintain the peace he has worked so hard for between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. He feels certain that no matter who wins in the next election, peace will not be the new president's main focus.

In November of 1958, Eisenhower is thinking about signing a treaty with East Germany. Khrushchev says he does not want Eisenhower to do this, and then gives Eisenhower a deadline. Khrushchev says if Eisenhower does not agree to pull his troops out of Berlin by the deadline, then Khrushchev is going to sign a treaty with East Germany and the Americans will have to shot their way through West Germany because they will have no treaty with East Germany. Eisenhower is sure that Khrushchev is bluffing, and does not withdraw the troops. Khrushchev wants a summit to discuss Berlin, but Eisenhower does not.

As the deadline approaches, everyone in the United States is worried about a war with the Soviet Union. Many who want Eisenhower to increase the defense spending, use this situation to pressure Eisenhower to do just that, and make more weapons. Eisenhower tries to calm their fears by explaining that this is just what the Soviets want,



for the U.S. to spend itself into bankruptcy. Then the U.S. would be easier to defeat. Eisenhower also tells them that he does not consider this to be a crisis; he thinks this is just a ploy to keep the U.S. off balanced. Eisenhower stands his ground on keeping the troops in Berlin, as well as maintaining a balanced budget.

Throughout this deadline period, Eisenhower hints to Khrushchev that he would be willing to attend a summit, not only to talk about the Berlin situation but to discuss test bans.

Eisenhower meets with Khrushchev on two occasions in the U.S. to try to soften the Soviet leader. Eisenhower gives Khrushchev a tour of Washington, hoping that Khrushchev will see all the freedoms Americans have and want the same for his country. Khrushchev is not impressed during his stay, and still thinks things are better in the Soviet Union. Khrushchev says in a press conference that he wants "total abolition of all weapons, nuclear and conventional, over the next four years" (p. 493), or he is prepared to resume testing. The only good thing to come out the talks with Khrushchev is he agrees to remove a deadline from the Berlin question.

In chapter twenty-one, Eisenhower has been using U-2 planes to gather photos of the Soviets for years now. These photos have been, in part, what Eisenhower has based his defense spending on. America wants to keep up with the Soviets in the arms race and these photos show the Soviets have slowed their production of weapons. Their leader, Khrushchev, has told Dulles just the opposite; however the photos show a decrease. Eisenhower has felt confident in America's arms supply and held fast to cutting defense spending. Eisenhower's main focus the last several months in office has been to come to an agree on test bans. Khrushchev has agreed to a summit in Paris and it seems that for the first time an agreement is possible. The day before the summit, Eisenhower authorizes a U-2 flight over the Soviet Union. The plane is shot down by the Soviets, and Khrushchev announces that the Americans have been spying on the Soviets, and claims without Eisenhower's authority. Eisenhower has been keeping the U-2 flights under top-secret since 1956. Eisenhower still wants to keep them a secret and he tries to cover up the failed mission by saying what was shot down was a weather plane. Eisenhower believes the pilot to be dead and the plane destroyed, leaving Khrushchev with no proof of it being a spy plane. Khrushchev then produces not only the pilot but also the wrecked aircraft. Khrushchev uses this incident to end the summit talks. Eisenhower and de Gaulle try to explain that the U-2 was doing nothing more than the Russians satellites are doing, but Khrushchev does not return to the summit talks.

The 1960 election campaign is underway and Nixon has won the Republican nomination. Nixon has picked Cabot Lodge as his running mate. Eisenhower is not convinced that Nixon is ready for the presidency, but given his other choices Nixon is the best they have. Kennedy and Johnson get the Democratic nomination. Throughout the campaign, Eisenhower never manages to give Nixon the backing he needs to win. Once again, Eisenhower's ambiguous answers to questions concerning Nixon's readiness for the presidency leave everyone wondering if Eisenhower is endorsing Nixon or not. This tactic has been useful to Eisenhower in the past, but in this regard, a

firm backing of Nixon could have meant a win for him in 1960. Instead, Kennedy and Johnson just barely beat Nixon in the election.



Chapter 22-23

Chapter 22-23 Summary and Analysis

In chapter twenty-two, the Eisenhower's leave the White House and move to their Gettysburgs farm. Eisenhower has to re-learn basic daily things, such as dialing a phone and typing. Since 1941, Eisenhower has always had people to do these things for him. Eisenhower is happy to finally be a free citizen, even if it means he has to do everything for himself.

The remainder of this chapter re-caps all the things Eisenhower accomplished in his eight years as president, as well as the areas he fell short in, or simply failed all together.

In chapter twenty-three, during the first months of Eisenhower's retirement he does all the things he has been dreaming he would do, such as fishing and hunting. He and Mamie took trips and he just relaxed. On a few occasions, President Kennedy calls on Eisenhower for advice concerning the Vietnam situation, most of which Kennedy does not take. Then when Kennedy is killed, Johnson relies on Eisenhower's advice for most of the Vietnam War issues. Eisenhower is happy to advise the new president. Eisenhower tells Johnson he should move fast and do what ever it takes to end the Vietnam War as quickly as possible. Johnson does not take this advice and lets the war drag on for far too long.

Johnson announces that he will not be running for re-election, and Nixon quickly jumps into the race. This time Eisenhower gives Nixon his full support. During the campaign, Eisenhower suffers another heart attack, but he gives the preconvention endorsement from his hospital room at Walter Reed Memorial Hospital. While still in the hospital, Eisenhower suffers two more heart attacks before he dies on March 28, 1969, surrounded by his wife and son and only grandson.

After his second heart attack, Eisenhower, knowing his time is short, prepares for the end of his life. He has his son, Icky's body moved to the plot that he and Mamie have picked out to be their final resting place.

While in the hospital recovering from the heart attack, Eisenhower is still in command, even from his hospital bed where he gives his endorsement of Richard Nixon at the beginning of the Republican National Convention. Eisenhower spends the remainder of his life in the hospital, having suffered two more heart attacks while there. The day that Eisenhower passes away, he is still every bit the commander he has always been, as he orders his son John and grandson David to lift him to a sitting position so he can say what he has to say to his family before he dies.

Dwight David Eisenhower was a serviceman in every sense of the word. He served his country in both World Wars and continued his service to this country as President for



eight years. He sacrificed most of his personal life for his country, and his family sacrificed his absence for most of their important moments in life, but they all did it because they knew he was making a difference in every man, woman, and child who lived or would ever live in this great country. He was a man who loved his country, and in return, her countrymen loved Dwight Eisenhower.



Characters

Dwight Eisenhower

Dwight Eisenhower is the only main character in this biography. He was born to David and Ida Eisenhower. He grew up in Abilene, Kansas, with five brothers. Eisenhower is the third child.

When he was a freshman in high school, he hurt his leg. The injury did not appear at first to be serious, but later he got an infection in the leg and soon the doctors wanted to amputate the leg. The doctors feared he would die if the leg was not removed. Eisenhower refuses to allow the doctors to remove his leg, and his parents respect his decision. Eisenhower asks one of his brothers to make sure that the doctors do not try to take the leg, no matter what happens. Luckily, Eisenhower makes a complete recovery and keeps his leg.

Eisenhower goes to West Point Military Academy after graduating from high school. Here he gains his sense of duty to his country. After graduating from West Point, Eisenhower is stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where he meets and marries the love of his life, Mary Geneva Doud, but they call her Mamie. Eisenhower and Mamie's first son, Icky dies of scarlet fever when he is only four years old. They later have another son who they name John.

Eisenhower is very close friends with Douglas MacArthur until the just after the beginning of World War II. The two have a falling out over the loss of the Philippine Island, and are never as close as they once were. While serving his country during World War II, Eisenhower misses his son John's graduation from West Point. It was the same day as the Normandy invasion. After the Germans surrendered to the Allies, Eisenhower is made Chief of Staff to Truman.

After his return to the United States after the war, Eisenhower is hounded by almost everyone in America to run for the presidency. He is able to put them off for awhile. During the first four years he is back in the States, Eisenhower is the President of Columbia University. This is a job he hates, almost from the very beginning. When President Truman asks Eisenhower to be the Supreme Commander of NATO, Eisenhower is thrilled to finally feel like he is doing something important again. Finally, in 1951, Eisenhower decides to run for the presidency and wins. As President of the United States of America, Eisenhower fights throughout his entire eight years in office to keep the budget balanced and to maintain as peaceful relations with the Russians as he could. He is fought tooth and nail on both of these issues.

Eisenhower retires from public service in 1960, and has nine years of semi-retirement before he dies at the age of seventy-three in 1969 surrounded by Mamie, John and his grandson David. Eisenhower was said to be a happy person, and almost always with a huge grin on his face. He tried to maintain a positive outlook on everything and see the



good, not only in every situation but in everyone he every met as well. He went out of his way to see every possible angle of every situation and then he would make the best decision he could.

George Patton

Patton and Eisenhower meet in 1919 at Camp Meade while working on a study of the use of tanks in the next war. They are close friends and Eisenhower has a lot of respect for Patton, but as Patton's public outbursts became more common during World War II and he became harder to control, the two drifted apart. Patton was a General during major battles of World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge and the Liberation of France. He used his close friendship with Eisenhower on more than one occasion to get him out of trouble during WWII. While Patton was visiting a field hospital, he slaps a young GI because he did not think the young man appeared to be injured. Patton did not think the GI should have been in the hospital but instead should be back with his troop. Eisenhower tries to keep this incident from getting out and possibly ruining Patton's career. The story is ultimately leaked to the press and Eisenhower has to answer to his superiors for not punishing Patton or removing him from his command. Another time, Patton feels that Eisenhower should not trust the Russians; instead, Patton wants to attack the Russians. When he is told that is not going to happen, Patton starts running his mouth to the press about what he feels should be America's next move. Patton tries to play on the friendship between him and Eisenhower to get out this mess, but this time Patton has gone too far. Eisenhower feels that Patton's behavior is no longer outweighed by his usefulness to the military or his country. In the end, Eisenhower removed Patton from command and gave him a desk job studying lessons from the war. When Patton is relieved of his command he was a five star general, one of only a handful.

Richard Nixon

Nixon is Eisenhower's vice president for the full eight years that he is in office. The two were never close, but Eisenhower felt Nixon was a good vice president. During the 1952 election campaign, Nixon had to defend himself against charges that he took money from the campaign for personal use. No proof was ever found that he had done this, but the publicity that it caused almost made Eisenhower look for a new running mate. Nixon runs for president in 1960 against John F, Kennedy. Nixon of course loses that election, and Eisenhower felt that Nixon was not ready at that time to be president.

John Foster Dulles

Dulles had been part of the American delegation to the Versailles Peace Conference, he was a senior Partner in Sullivan and Cromwell, a law firm, he had written the Japanese Peace Treaty, and had been the Republican spokesman on foreign policy for a decade before becoming Eisenhower's Secretary of State. Eisenhower said Dulles "had been



training for this job all of his life" (p. 289). Dulles remained Eisenhower's Secretary of State until his death on March 24, 1959.

Fox Conner

Fox and Eisenhower met in 1920 at Camp Meade. Patton introduces the two men to each other. Conner and his wife are good friends with Mamie and Eisenhower, the two families move to the Panama Canal Zone together shortly after Icky gets scarlet fever and dies. It is Fox Conner who helps Eisenhower overcome the death of his, then only son, by giving him something else to focus on.

Douglas MacArthur

MacArthur is Eisenhower's superior for ten years. He is eager to become president, but never even comes close. MacArthur and Eisenhower are very close for the better part of the ten years, until they go to the Philippines. There, their friendship starts to strain. After the bombing at Pearl Harbor, MacArthur lays partial blame on Eisenhower for the loss of the Philippine Island, and the rift deepens. The two are never again as close as they once were.

Clifford Roberts

Roberts is another member of the "gang". He is a New York investment banker and he is in charge of Eisenhower's personal investments.

Bill Robinson

Robinson is one of Eisenhower's closest friends. He is also the leader of the "gang", a group of Eisenhower's closest and richest friends.

Mary Geneva Doud

Mary Geneva Doud, "Mamie", is Eisenhower's wife. The two met while Eisenhower was stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Ann Whitman

Whitman is Eisenhower's secretary during his time as president, and she also continues to maintain this role after Eisenhower retires. Whitman helped Eisenhower while he was writing his books by taking dictations.



Joe McCarthy

McCarthy is the senator at the center of the Army hearings in 1954. He is determined to rid Communism from the government and the military.

Kay Summersby

Kay Summersby is a young Irishwoman Eisenhower meets while he is in London. Kay is Eisenhower's driver, and it is rumored that Eisenhower was having an affair with Kay during the war, but both deny the affair.

John Eisenhower

Dwight and Mamie's second son. John attends West Point Military Academy and graduates the same day as the D Day invasion. He gets married and has three children. John's son David is where Camp David gets its name.

Milton Eisenhower

Milton is Eisenhower's youngest brother. He is a journalist and he helped Eisenhower with a report he was working on for the War Department on the history of the American Army in France.

David Eisenhower

David Eisenhower is Eisenhower's father. He worked at a creamery in Abilene, Texas. When Eisenhower was young, his father would read the Bible to him and his brothers and teach them to pray. In early 1942 David dies, but Eisenhower is unable to attend the funeral because he is so busy with the war.

Ida Stover Eisenhower

Ida is Eisenhower's mother. She is the caretaker of the family.



Objects/Places

Abilene, Kansas

Abilene, Kansas is where Eisenhower and his family lived from the time he was a young boy until he went to West Point.

West Point Military Academy

West Point is where Eisenhower went to college.

Fort Sam Houston, Texas

This is where Eisenhower is first assignment after he graduates from West Point. This is also where he meets his soon to be wife, Mamie. His first son, Icky is born here. The Eisenhowers move back to Fort Sam in 1940 when Eisenhower receives both of his promotions one to Colonel and then to Brigadier General.

Panama Canal Zone

Eisenhower goes to the Panama Canal as an assistant to MacArthur to help Quezon build his army and balance his budget.

Camp Meade, Maryland

Eisenhower is stationed here to run the 301st Tank Battalion.

Columbia University

Eisenhower was the President of Columbia upon his return from World War II. He was still working at Columbia when he decided to run for President in 1951.

The White House

This is where Eisenhower and his family lived from 1952 until 1960, while Eisenhower was President of the United States.

Paris Summit

The Paris Summit was where Eisenhower was hoping to finally make an agreement with the Soviet Union on the issue of test bans. The summit was barely underway when the Soviets walked out because Eisenhower refused to apologize for the U-2 flight that was shot down over Russia the day before.

Gettysburg Farm

This is the home the Eisenhower's bought while he was President of the United States. The Eisenhower's moved to the Gettysburg Farm when he finally retired in 1960, after he left office.

Walter Reed Memorial Hospital

This is where Eisenhower was taken after his second heart attack. He remained in Walter Reed until his death March 28, 1969.

Themes

Love

Early on one can see the great love between Eisenhower and his wife Mamie. Even though the two are separated for long periods of time early in their marriage, the Eisenhower's had a great love with one another. While Eisenhower was away from Mamie during World War II he wrote to her very often, and she wrote to him almost daily. One of the first things Eisenhower did every day was to read Mamie's newest letter, this was how he started every day. Eisenhower reveals in his letters to Mamie that his escape from planning battles was to dream about what their life would be like if he were with her instead of away at war. He was always reassuring her of his love for her, and asking for reassurance that she would always be there waiting for him when he returned. When things got too intense for Eisenhower, he would turn to his beloved wife for comfort, even if it was only in writing. He once told her "You're good for me- even for my official efficiency." He hated being away from her, and wanted her with him always even if he could not devote all of his time to her, he liked knowing she was there. He said just having her with him helped him to do his job better.

Love of country is also a theme throughout this biography. It is the love of country that drives most, if not all, of Eisenhower's military decisions. Eisenhower is not like most Generals during World War II he feels the full weight of every decision he makes during each battle. He is not sending these young men into battle to further his own career or make a name for himself. He is not thinking about becoming president someday. He is always thinking about what is best for his country and the people who live here, such as the children who deserve to grow up with the same freedoms he had as a child. He hopes that maybe he can make this country better. He does what he does because he loves this country and believes in its greatness.

He tries always to show America's strengths, not her weakness. When Eisenhower first goes to London, he does a great deal to boost the American imagine in the British press. As the Allied Commander, he tries to bring together the British and American troops to fight together as one team. Eisenhower knows the best way to keep American a great nation is to have good relations with her Allies, and Eisenhower did his best to accomplish just that for the country he loved so dearly. This was his goal through out his presidency as well. Eisenhower tried to always build America's allies. During the later part of his first term as president, most of his advisors want him to help France with their situation in Vietnam by using the H Bomb. Eisenhower knew that the use of this bomb would not help America or her allies, and he refused to do anything that did not benefit American in the long run as well as the short run.



Trust

Throughout Eisenhower's service to his country one thing was always clear, everyone trusted him. They may not have always understood or agreed with him, but they always trusted him. During his time as Supreme Commander in World War II, he came to understand that Eisenhower would always do what he believed to be best for the country and countrymen. Before he sent the men into Normandy, he made sure to visit them so they could "look at the man sending them into battle" (p. 129). He felt it was important for these men to be able to ask him questions and for him to just be there before they left for battle. Whenever he visited the troops, he made sure he slept where they slept, ate the same foods they ate, wore the same clothes they wore. He wanted them to know he was one of them. These things instilled a great amount of trust between the troops and General Eisenhower. They felt confident that any decision he made was for the good of the nation they were fighting for, not the career of the man calling the shots.

When Eisenhower became president, these feelings of trust were carried into the presidency. There are many times during his time in office when he cut the defense spending, even when everyone around him was urging him to give more money to defense. Yet, the people still trusted Eisenhower's judgment. Had any other man tried to cut defense spending at that time in history, the people would have been more concerned. Eisenhower, however, knew what the military really needed, and deep down everyone trusted the man who led the Normandy invasions would not leave the country in need of defense. Despite all their grumblings, they trusted Eisenhower's judgment and his devotion to America.

Even after Eisenhower left the presidency, people in the government, both domestic and foreign, still came to him for advice. America as a whole has come to expect that whether Supreme Commander, President of the United States, or Elder Statesman, Dwight D. Eisenhower is the man to trust for the ultimate good of America.

Loyalty

Loyalty is a trait that Eisenhower possesses in spades. His loyalty not only to his country but also to his friends is one of the things Eisenhower is most respected for. He is loyal almost to a fault. In most cases, Eisenhower is loyal even if it means great cost to him personally. During World War II, Eisenhower knew how important it was to have the British forces involved in important battles, such as the liberation of France, and Eisenhower was determined that this relationship was what was best for his country. Eisenhower could have had Montgomery removed for not following his orders; instead, he works hard to keep up relations with Montgomery. Eisenhower felt this was in America's best interest. He very well could have replaced Montgomery with Patton or Bradley and the liberation of France would have happened much quicker. Eisenhower knew that keeping the British involved in a significant role was important so he kept Montgomery. He took the criticism for this decision because he felt he was doing what



was right for America. His foremost concern was always his loyalty to America and her people.

When it came to his close friends, Eisenhower was just as loyal. In World War II, when Patton was getting into trouble with the press, Eisenhower was the first to come to his aide. Once Patton slapped a soldier who was in the hospital, Eisenhower did all he could do to keep the story from coming out in the papers and to help Patton keep his job. Eisenhower convinced the reporter not to run the story, not just because he was protecting his friend, but Eisenhower was also looking out for America again. Eisenhower was afraid that if he lost Patton over the slapping incident, he could not find a better person to take over Patton's troops. He felt that at that time it was important for America to have Patton as a leader for his troops. Eisenhower knew that Patton was a good commander and that was what he needed at this point. In this situation, Eisenhower's loyalty was to both his friend and his country, but when push came to shove, Eisenhower would always choose his country. He would not let a friendship come before the good of America. When Patton became completely out of control, Eisenhower took away his command and gave him a paper pushing job. Eisenhower would never allow his friend to damage America, which is what he felt Patton was doing.

When Eisenhower ran for President in 1951, it was loyalty that drove this decision. Most of the country had been begging him to run since he returned from World War II. He had always refused, until 1951, when he felt like it was his duty to do so. He was afraid of the direction the country was moving in, and after talking to Taft about NATO, Eisenhower felt like if he did not run he would be letting his country down. From the time Eisenhower left West Point until his death it was his sense of duty, or his loyalty, that drove all of his decisions, military or political. He did this at great cost to his own personal life.

Many times Eisenhower wrote to Mamie about what he would do when he finished his service to his country. But for Ike Eisenhower, his country always seemed to need him, and it was his duty to always be there for her.

Style

Perspective

This biography has the third person perspective of the author Stephen E Ambrose. Ambrose studied Eisenhower's life extensively. He has also written over two dozen history books, most of them dealing with Eisenhower. Ambrose was the founder of the Eisenhower Center, president of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans.

This biography is written with the information Ambrose collected over his years of studying Eisenhower. Ambrose not only tells what Eisenhower's contributions were to his country during World War II and as President of the United States of America, but he also explains the thought process Eisenhower went through while making some of his most crucial decisions. Most of this information came from Eisenhower himself, while not all directly, some of the information came from papers Eisenhower left behind as well as letters to his wife and friends. Some of these papers are "The Papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower" and "Eisenhower Papers" at the Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas. Ambrose interviewed some of the staff at the Eisenhower Library as well as family and friends of Eisenhower.

This author perspective allows the reader a brief look into the points in Eisenhower's life that shaped him into the man America would trust with their very freedom. Ambrose shows the depth of love that Eisenhower had for not just his country, but also his countrymen, including the sacrifices that he made in his own personal life for the country he loved so dearly. The great sense of duty he felt to every service man during the war; he never took lightly the sacrifice they or their families made in the name of freedom for every American. Ambrose shows the reader a different side of Eisenhower, one not made so public. Eisenhower may have made some mistakes during his service to his country, but he learned from them. More importantly, his mistakes were not made because of quick decision making, or by someone trying to further his own career. In everything Eisenhower did, right or wrong, he did for the good of America and her people. Ambrose managed to show all these things while still remaining objective enough to still voice the matters he felt Eisenhower feel short on.

This biography is told completely by Ambrose, while he may quote others in the story, the story is never told by anyone other than Ambrose.

Tone

The tone of this biography is objective, with very few moments of criticism. The author, Stephen E. Ambrose, mainly sticks to the facts; however, on occasion he does interject his own opinion or feelings as to whether the decisions Eisenhower made are correct.

Ambrose does explain the reasons behind most of Eisenhower's decision making process. For instance, when Eisenhower is reluctant to get involved with the race



issues, Ambrose points out Eisenhower's background and also his fears that the rich, white Southern would close the public schools if they were segregated. Ambrose's explanation is not meant to justify Eisenhower's unwillingness to get involved, but rather to allow the reader the insight as to why Eisenhower behaved in this manner.

Through out this biography, Ambrose notes how Eisenhower is able to answer questions in a manner that leaves everyone believing that Eisenhower agrees with their position. Ambrose has this same talent in this biography. While at times it seems as though Ambrose is going to disagree with one of Eisenhower's decisions, he will quickly give a theory or explanation as to why the decision may actually be a good one. Like Eisenhower, Ambrose manages to come across natural during most of this biography.

The only exception to that would be on race relations. While Ambrose does explain why Eisenhower choose not to get involved, he does on many occasions express his belief that if Eisenhower would have done more on that issue things would have been much different. Ambrose believed that Eisenhower should have taken a stronger hand from the very beginning. Overall, Ambrose remains objective and just tells the facts of Eisenhower's life.

Structure

This biography consists of twenty-three chapters; each chapter is approximately forty pages long. There are no subplots, and each chapter is titled by an event or events that are going to take place in the chapter. The chapters are broken up between Eisenhower's personal life and public offices. The chapters for the most part are told in sequence, but on occasion they do back up and tell something that happened in the past or will happen in the future as a result of what is happening in the storyline.

This biography is not necessarily a stand alone account of Eisenhower's life or the events mentioned in the book. Sometimes this can make it a little confusing to keep up with. If one does not already know quite a bit of information on the subject, one may tend to get lost. There a lot of characters that may be briefly mentioned in one chapter and then not again for several more, and then only by last name, forcing one to reread previous chapters.

This biography gives the reader a view of not only Eisenhower the commander and president, but also the family man. One is allowed a glimpse into the heart of the man himself, the man behind that "huge grin" and even bigger persona. The reader will finally understand why his campaign slogan was "I like Ike"

All in all a very interesting , fast paced book, so full of detail that the reader feels like a fly on the wall seeing it all take place. Once one gets all the characters lined out, the book is a fascinating read.

Quotes

"Any youngster who has the opportunity to spend his early youth in an enlightened rural area has been favored by fortune." Chap. 1 p. 18

"Ike Eisenhower knew who he was and where he was going." Chap. 1 p. 23

"He had obtained a free education and the Academy had sharpened his sense of duty." Chap. 1 p. 28

"Training troops was like coaching football all week without ever being able to play a game on Saturdays." Chap. 1 p. 32

"If he's going far he had better start soon." Chap. 2 p. 43

"There's no more active political organization in the world than the armed services of the U.S." Chap. 2 p. 47

"If the war ...is....long-drawn-out and ...bloody...then I believe that the remnants of nations emerging from it will be scarcely recognizable as the ones that entered it." Chap. 2 p. 52

"Opportunity is all about you. Reach out and take it." Chap. 2 p. 58

"The following day, Eisenhower wrote that "war is not soft, it has no time to indulge even the deepest and most sacred emotions." Chap. 3 p. 64

"As he put it on another occasion, the art of leadership is making the right decisions, then getting the men to want to carry them out." Chap. 3 p. 82

"I am in this thing with you to the end, and if it fails we will go down together." Chap. 5 p. 134

"He's just a little man, he's just as little inside as he is outside." Chap. 6 p. 167

"You have made history, great history for the good of mankind and you have stood for all we hope and admire in an officer of the United States Army." Chap. 7 p. 202

"Never has this town been outside my heart and memory." Chap. 8 p. 208

"I could never imagine feeling any compelling duty in connection with a Democratic movement of any kind." Chap. 9 p. 260

"He wanted what was best for his country, and in the end he decided that he was the best and would have to serve." Chap. 9 p. 267



"Eisenhower appeared to have cut the Gordian knot. He had replaced fear with hope."
Chap. 13 p. 343

"I am about to lose my British citizenship." Chap. 17 p. 427

"Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days government had better get out of the way and let them have it." Chap. 20 p. 492

"I've spent my life in this, and I know more about it than almost anybody." Chap. 21 p. 501

"Our defense is not only strong, it is awesome, and it is respected elsewhere." Chap. 21 p. 503

"Eisenhower said every citizen should keep well informed, because "it is only a citizenry, an alert and informed citizenry which can keep these abuses from coming about." Chap. 22 p. 538

"After a full one-half century in its service, the nation had finally allowed Dwight Eisenhower to retire. He was free." Chap. 22 p. 541



Topics for Discussion

During World War II, when Montgomery continually refuses to follow General Eisenhower's orders concerning battle plans, what motivates Eisenhower to keep Montgomery around?

What mistakes did Eisenhower make at Kasserine that cost the Allies the capture of Rommel?

During the 1952 election, what controversy surrounding Richard Nixon almost cost Eisenhower votes?

How does Camp David gets its name?

What are the two main reasons Eisenhower did not want to get involved in changing school segregation laws?

Give two traits of Eisenhower that make him a great commander and president.

What is the main conflict between Eisenhower and McCarthy?

Give two reasons Eisenhower refuses to give more money to the military defense spending.

Why does Eisenhower seek re-election in 1956?

What event finally pushes Eisenhower to take action on the segregation issue?

When the Soviets are finally ready to talk about a test ban, what incident stops the talks before they begin?

What role does Eisenhower play in Nixon losing the 1960 election?

Which two men take the lead in getting legislation passed that allows Eisenhower to regain his five star general status after he leaves the Presidency in 1960?

Give two examples of Eisenhower's accomplishments during his two terms as president.