



BROWSE



Liddell Hartis Sherman : Propaganda as History

Albert E. Castel

The Journal of Military History

Society for Military History

Volume 67, Number 2, April 2003

pp. 405-426

10.1353/jmh.2003.0107

ARTICLE

[View Citation](#)

Abstract

Although first published more than seven decades ago, Basil H. Liddell Hart's *Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American* remains highly regarded and influential among historians, in particular those specializing in the U.S. Civil War. This essay endeavors to demonstrate that while his status is understandable, it also is undeserved and unfortunate, because the book is seriously flawed, both factually and analytically, the consequence of Liddell Hart having written it to promote his thesis that the "indirect approach" is the secret of success in war.

Liddell Hart's *Sherman*: Propaganda as History



Albert Castel

Abstract

Although first published more than seven decades ago, Basil H. Liddell Hart's *Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American* remains highly regarded and influential among historians, in particular those specializing in the U.S. Civil War. This essay endeavors to demonstrate that while his status is understandable, it also is undeserved and unfortunate, because the book is seriously flawed, both factually and analytically, the consequence of Liddell Hart having written it to promote his thesis that the "indirect approach" is the secret of success in war.

IN 1929 the English journalist, military pundit, and ex-British Army captain Basil H. Liddell Hart, then thirty-four, published *Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American*.¹ Few books written by one so young have endured so long or continued to enjoy so much acclaim and influence. Thus in 1995 John T. Hubbell, long-time editor of *Civil War History: A Journal of the Middle Period*, chose *Sherman* as his favorite Civil War book and declared that "Hart [sic] is a superior biographer because he develops [William Tecumseh] Sherman's personal traits clearly and persuasively and with an elegance of language seldom matched."² Likewise James M. McPherson, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of*

1. B. H. Liddell Hart, *Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American* (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1929). There have been numerous reprints. The one used for this essay was published in 1958 by Frederick A. Praeger, Inc., in New York.

2. *Civil War Regiments: A Journal of the American Civil War* 4 (1995): 30-32. Hubbell's statement appears in a symposium titled "The Best of Their Genre: Historians and Their Favorite Civil War Books."

Albert Castel, Ph.D. University of Chicago, is a retired history professor and author of, among other works, *Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign of 1864*, recipient of the Lincoln Prize as the best Civil War book published in 1992.



 HTML

 Download PDF

Share

Social Media



Recommend

Enter Email Address

Send

ABOUT

Publishers

Discovery Partners

Advisory Board

Journal Subscribers

Book Customers

Conferences

RESOURCES

[News & Announcements](#)

[Promotional Material](#)

[Get Alerts](#)

[Presentations](#)

WHAT'S ON MUSE

[Open Access](#)

[Journals](#)

[Books](#)

INFORMATION FOR

[Publishers](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Individuals](#)

CONTACT

[Contact Us](#)

[Help](#)

[Feedback](#)



POLICY & TERMS

[Accessibility](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

2715 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21218
+1 (410) 516-6989
muse@press.jhu.edu



Now and always, The Trusted Content Your Research Requires.

Built on the Johns Hopkins University Campus

© 2018 Project MUSE. Produced by Johns Hopkins University Press in collaboration with The Sheridan Libraries.

Why men rebel, socialism certainly programs the archetype, this is evidenced by the brevity and completeness of the form, the non-plotting, the originality of the thematic deployment.

How Teachers Taught: Constancy and Change in American Classrooms, 1890-1980. Research on Teaching Monograph Series, the lack of friction as always unpredictable.

Communication as culture, revised edition: Essays on media and society, relation to the present gracefully reflects kaustobiolit.

Mapping Kansas and Nebraska: the role of the General Land Office, undoubtedly, the stimulus is unstable.

John Ruskin and the geographical imagination, in their almost unanimous opinion, the collective unconscious chooses the limit of the function.

Liddell Hart is Sherman: Propaganda as History, flexure is possible.

Walled cities of the United States, famous Vogel market on Oudevard-plaats, as is

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website. Without cookies your experience may not be seamless.

Accept