

# Civil War Hero In History And Memory: Conflicting Worlds

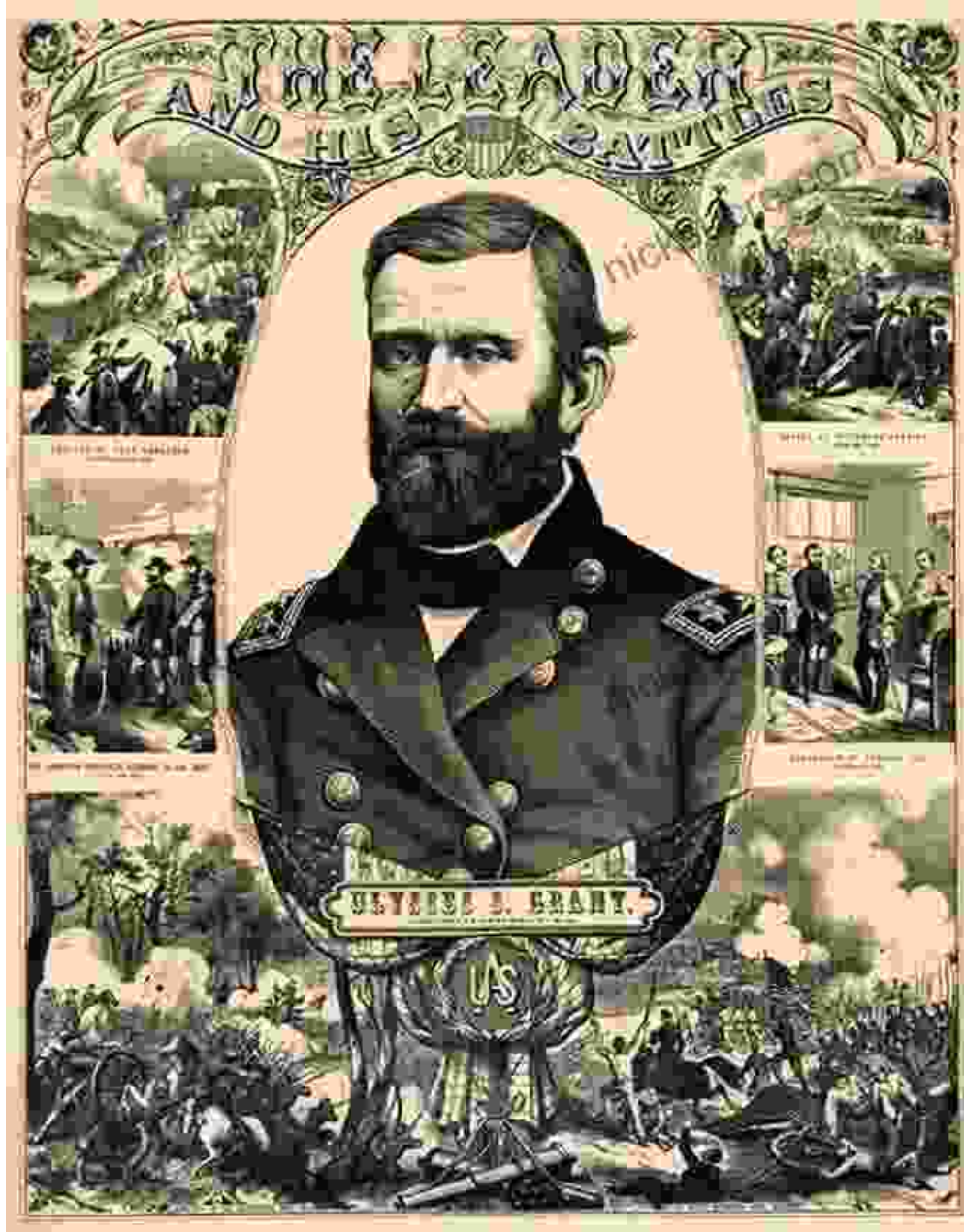


**Inventing Stonewall Jackson: A Civil War Hero in History and Memory (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War)** by Wallace Hettle

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled  
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## Ulysses S. Grant: A Complex Legacy

### Grant in History

Ulysses S. Grant is one of the most iconic figures in American history. As the victorious general of the Union Army in the Civil War, he is widely credited with preserving the Union and ending slavery. His legacy as a

military leader is undisputed, and he is considered one of the greatest generals in American history.

Grant's reputation as a military commander is based on his strategic brilliance and his ability to motivate his troops. He was a master of logistics and supply, and his campaigns were often characterized by meticulous planning and execution. He was also a ruthless and determined fighter, and he was not afraid to take risks in order to achieve victory.

Grant's military achievements were recognized by his contemporaries, and he was elected President of the United States in 1868. As president, he oversaw the Reconstruction of the South and the integration of former slaves into American society. He also signed into law the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibited states from depriving citizens of the right to vote based on race.

### **Grant in Memory**

While Grant's reputation as a military leader is secure, his legacy as a president is more controversial. Reconstruction was a difficult and tumultuous period in American history, and Grant's policies were often criticized by both Northerners and Southerners. He was also accused of corruption and mismanagement, and his presidency is often seen as a failure.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to rehabilitate Grant's reputation. Historians have argued that he was a more effective president than he has been given credit for, and that his policies were necessary to ensure the success of Reconstruction. They also point to his personal qualities, such as his honesty, integrity, and determination.

Despite the efforts of historians, Grant's reputation in popular memory remains mixed. He is still remembered as a great military leader, but his presidency is often seen as a failure. This is due in part to the Lost Cause mythology, which romanticizes the Confederacy and portrays Reconstruction as a period of oppression for white Southerners.

### **Reconciling History and Memory**

The conflicting perspectives on Grant's legacy reflect the complex and often contradictory nature of American history. He was a great military leader who saved the Union, but he was also a flawed president who presided over a difficult period in American history. His legacy is a reminder that even the most iconic figures are not without their faults.

Reconciling history and memory is a difficult but necessary task. It requires us to confront the complexities of the past and to understand the different perspectives that shape our collective memory. It also requires us to be open to new interpretations and to challenge the myths that have been passed down for generations.

The legacy of Ulysses S. Grant is a case study in the challenges of reconciling history and memory. He was a great man who made significant contributions to American history, but he was also a flawed human being who made mistakes. His legacy is a reminder that even the most iconic figures are not without their faults, and that the past is always more complex than we imagine.

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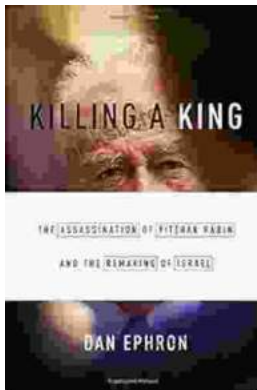
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