

Grant Takes Command: Bruce Catton's Masterpiece Explores the Early Days of the Civil War

Bruce Catton's *Grant Takes Command* is a Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece that chronicles the early years of the Civil War and the pivotal role played by Ulysses S. Grant. Written with Catton's signature blend of meticulous research and vivid prose, the book offers a captivating account of Grant's rise to prominence, his early successes, and the challenges he faced as he struggled to unite a divided nation.



Grant Takes Command by Bruce Catton

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3922 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 574 pages
Lending	: Enabled

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The Rise of Ulysses S. Grant

Born in Ohio in 1822, Ulysses S. Grant was a quiet and unassuming man who seemed an unlikely candidate for military greatness. However, his determination and intelligence soon became apparent, and he graduated

from West Point in 1843. After serving in the Mexican-American War, Grant resigned from the army and settled into civilian life.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Grant volunteered his services to the Union army. Despite his lack of experience, he quickly proved to be a gifted commander. His victories at Fort Donelson and Shiloh earned him the respect of his superiors and the admiration of the nation.

Grant's Challenges

As Grant's star rose, so did the challenges he faced. The Confederacy, led by the brilliant Robert E. Lee, proved to be a formidable opponent. Grant's early successes were followed by setbacks, and he faced criticism from both the press and the public.

One of the greatest challenges Grant faced was the sheer size of the war. The Civil War was the largest and deadliest conflict in American history, and it stretched across a vast expanse of territory. Grant had to coordinate the movements of hundreds of thousands of troops, and he faced logistical problems that would have overwhelmed a lesser commander.

Grant's Legacy

Despite the challenges he faced, Grant persevered. He led the Union army to victory at Vicksburg, a turning point in the war, and he went on to defeat Lee at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the conflict. Grant's generalship was instrumental in preserving the Union and shaping the course of American history.

Bruce Catton's *Grant Takes Command* is a masterful account of Grant's early years in the Civil War. Catton's prose is vivid and engaging, and he

brings the characters and events of the war to life. *Grant Takes Command* is a must-read for anyone interested in the Civil War, American history, or the life of one of the nation's greatest generals.

Additional Resources

- [Grant Takes Command on Amazon](#)
- [Ulysses S. Grant on Britannica.com](#)
- [Ulysses S. Grant on History.com](#)



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