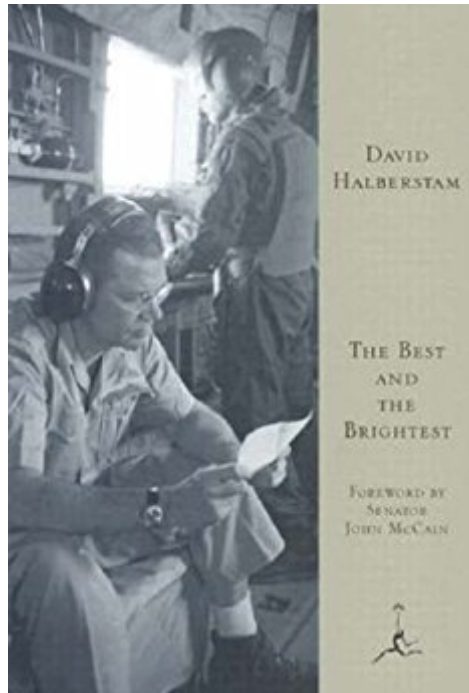


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The Best And The Brightest (Modern Library)



Synopsis

David Halberstam's masterpiece, the defining history of the making of the Vietnam tragedy, with a new Foreword by Senator John McCain. Using portraits of America's flawed policy makers and accounts of the forces that drove them, *The Best and the Brightest* reckons magnificently with the most important abiding question of our country's recent history: Why did America become mired in Vietnam, and why did we lose? As the definitive single-volume answer to that question, this enthralling book has never been superseded. It is an American classic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An illuminating, and ultimately tragic retelling of the long history of America's involvement in Vietnam, this book goes back to the beginning, in the immediate postwar period and explains why so much went so wrong. It was almost painful to read of the chances, dating back into the Roosevelt administration, when different choices could have been made, and ultimately why they weren't. I found this book, written before the actual end of the fighting, to be very insightful and a useful

addition for anyone who wants to understand this tragic period.

Another winner from Halberstam. Most readers of this book will be young enough to have missed the personal details in this book but that just makes it more historically pertinent. A must read.

The Best and the Brightest is a major history book about life, people and war in America. Not a thriller...but a deep and accurate picture of an important recording of the governing and characters of a special period in the life of the U.S. and her citizens. The book is meant for and will inform those who have a serious interest in "non-journalistic" reporting on what actually took place in certain war years. The character studies of our leaders alone, are well worth the long, professional reporting. Result...a true story of who did what and when...involving a sad and bruising loss for America and her military. Readers will learn the effect of the Viet Nam War on the young men that fought it and the government officials that struggled...one after another to no avail. It is human to make mistakes, but governing a huge country in war and peace takes those with consistent, high-powered decision-making.

I chose the five star rating because this book is truly fascinating. I could not believe the research that Mr. Halberstam did. This book truly details how a nation as great as the United States can be lead severely astray by its Best and Brightest.

David Halberstam outdid himself with this work. Published in 1972, and therefore dated, it is no less engaging and enlightening. Anyone studying the Vietnam war will be doing a disservice to their education if they fail to include this book in their reading. Incredibly well researched and definitive. It is a must read!

Reliving the stories in detail helps fill in what was missing and explains how the government actually worked. My Draft Number was 170. I think the final number chosen that year was 169. Some of my friends came back much worse than they left. One was ambulant, but died slowly from some type of wire grenade that eventually made it to his heart. This was a difficult, but necessary read.

Halberstam does a thorough analysis of the key players. The sad truth is that the ancient Greek warning against Hubris went unheeded. I would recommend this book to anyone who wishes to learn about how Washington functions.

Husband enjoyed

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