

The Savior Generals: How Five Great Commanders Saved Wars That Were Lost - From Ancient Greece to Iraq

By Victor Davis Hanson

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Prominent military historian Victor Davis Hanson explores the nature of leadership with his usual depth and vivid prose in *The Savior Generals*, a set of brilliantly executed pocket biographies of five generals (Themistocles, Belisarius, William Tecumseh Sherman, Matthew Ridgway, and David Petraeus) who single-handedly saved their nations from defeat in war. War is rarely a predictable enterprise-it is a mess of luck, chance, and incalculable variables. Today's sure winner can easily become tomorrow's doomed loser. Sudden, sharp changes in fortune can reverse the course of war.

These intractable circumstances are sometimes mastered by leaders of genius-asked at the eleventh hour to save a hopeless conflict, one created by others and frequently unpopular politically and with the public. The savior generals often come from outside the established power structure, employ radical strategies, and flame out quickly. Their careers regularly end in controversy. But their dramatic feats of leadership are vital slices of history-not merely as stirring military narrative, but as lessons on the dynamic nature of consensus, leadership, and destiny.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
Business has its turnaround artists; so does warfare. Classical historian Hanson presents five generals who retrieved wars from defeat, three Americans (William Sherman, Matthew Ridgway, and David Petraeus) and two from ancient history (Themistocles of Battle of Salamis fame and Belisarius, briefly the restorer in the 500s of the Roman Empire). As a group, they exhibit commonalities that Hanson develops through the specific situations they confronted. In each case, despondency descended on wars going wrong, and dispelling it as much as a strategic change of course lay behind these generals' successes. Each one, Hanson argues, was a good communicator, up the line to their leaders, down the line to their soldiers, and more widely to civilians. Dispelling hopelessness by rejustification of a cause, explaining plans to redeem it, and restoring morale, they were, in Hanson's view, contrarians who naturally irritated political interests with their repudiations of preceding failures of strategy. Ingratitude was usually these generals' reward; after their rescue operations, most were shunted aside. Students of military leadership will be intrigued by Hanson's astute set of cases. --Gilbert Taylor

Review

"An instructive series of portraits of five military outsiders called in to turn defeat into victory." ?*Kirkus Reviews*

"It is not really news that Victor Davis Hanson has written another outstanding and eye-opening book. He has done that before and repeatedly, on a variety of subjects." ?*The Washington Examiner*

"Students of military leadership will be intrigued by Hanson's astute set of cases." ?*Booklist*

"Mr. Hanson's fluency with a broad range of historical epochs, which has made him one of his generation's most notable historians, is on full display in *The Savior Generals*." ?*Wall Street Journal, Mark Moyar*

About the Author
Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Residence in Classics and Military History at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, a professor of Classics Emeritus at California State University, Fresno, and a nationally syndicated columnist for Tribune Media Services. His many books include the acclaimed *The Father of Us All*, *A War Like No Other*, *The Western Way of War*, *Carnage and Culture*, and *Ripples of Battle*.

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Dustin Alvarez:

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Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the book untitled The Savior Generals: How Five Great Commanders Saved Wars That Were Lost - From Ancient Greece to Iraq can be great book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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