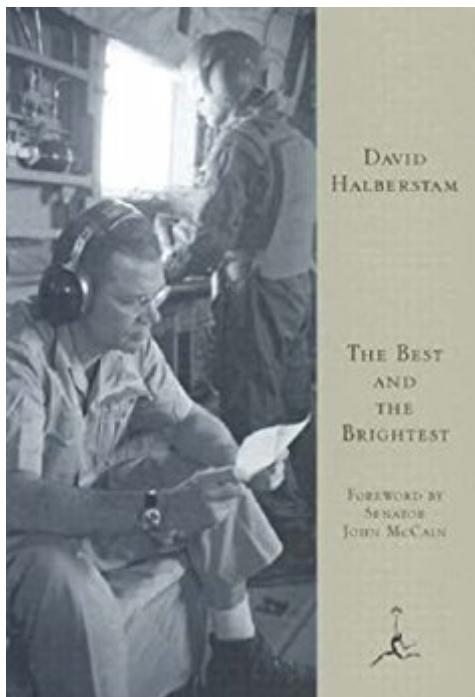


The book was found

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 As the definitive single-volume answer to that question, this enthralling book has never been superseded.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

File Size: 2124 KB

Print Length: 832 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0449908704

Publisher: Modern Library; 20 edition (March 26, 2002)

Publication Date: March 26, 2002

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000FC1GV0

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #38,059 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #31 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Vietnam War #45 in Books > History > Military > United States > Vietnam War #101 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > 20th Century

Customer Reviews

Nothing so brilliantly crystallized and clarified the epic true story of how the American people were led into the tragedy of Vietnam better than did this classic book by David Halberstam. Already famous for his journalistic overview in "The Making of a Quagmire", Halberstam riveted the nation with his absorbing, literate, and very detailed account of how the arrogant, insular, technocratically well educated, and affluent sons and daughters of the Power Elite in this country led us into the unholy miasma of Vietnam. This is a classic story superbly told by a journalist with impeccable

credentials. Halberstam already had a wealth of personal experience as a correspondent in Vietnam before initiating the research for this book, and he draws a number of fascinating, intimate, and quite absorbing in-depth portraits of the major figures involved in this fool's errand formerly referred to as French Indochina. From the feckless and perhaps clueless Robert McNamara to McGeorge Bundy, brother William Bundy, former Oxford Scholar Dean Rusk, George Ball, William Westmoreland, Maxwell Taylor, and Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, all these alumni of the best schools and best families (with the single exception of LBJ, an accidental president) pranced their pseudo-macho way toward the single most disastrous series of military decisions this side of Pearl Harbor. Unlike those of us who actually saw the jungles of Vietnam up close and personal, these men were neither ignorant, nor provincial (at least not in the ordinary use of that term), nor poorly informed; rather, they both considered themselves and were considered by others to be the most outstanding, capable, and effective members of the contemporary "Power Elite" i.e.

Halberstam's book's most illuminating quote is attributed to one of Walt Rostow's (the chief architect of the US bombing of North Vietnam) Harvard colleagues. After his friend departed Cambridge, to take up his position the Kennedy administration, this colleague walked into a roomful of students, and said, more or less, "you never sleep as well at night when you actually know people running the country." This book is all about the men (the best and the brightest) who mired this nation in Vietnam. It's also about other men, men like John Peyton Davies, perhaps the State Department's best Asian expert, purged from public service after the McCarthy juggernaut swept through the country. It's also about applying the wrong lessons of history to wrong problems: Kennedy and Johnson learned from Munich that nations shrink from "tyranny" at their own peril, and therefore decided to confront the "tyranny" of North Vietnam communism, which, according to Halberstam, was simply nationalism -- the extension of their colonial wars of the 1950s. Men like Davies would have realized this, and then warned against intervention; but men like Davies, ostensibly "soft" on communism, had already been run out of Washington (during the Vietnam War, Davies, the man Halberstam uses to personify the flight of those who really understood the intentions of North Vietnam, was making furniture in Peru). Men like McNamara, the Bundys, and Dean Rusk, despite their rationalism and considerable mental horsepower, didn't get this. Nor did they understand how to bring themselves (and the country) back once they'd stepped beyond the brink. For all its quality and insight, the book makes a little much of the "establishment" credentials of the war's architects.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Best and the Brightest (Modern Library) The Brightest Star in the Highlands: Jennie and Aedan

(Clan Grant Series Book 7) Brightest Heaven of Invention: A Christian Guide To Six Shakespeare Plays The Most Brilliant Darkness: Interviews with the Brightest Stars of the Horror The Modern Library Writer's Workshop: A Guide to the Craft of Fiction (Modern Library Paperbacks) Best of the Best from Hawaii Cookbook: Selected Recipes from Hawaii's Favorite Cookbooks (Best of the Best State Cookbooks) Best of the Best from New Mexico Cookbook: Selected Recipes from New Mexico's Favorite Cookbooks (Best of the Best Cookbook) Best Man Best Speech: How to Be the Best Best Man Jokes : Best Jokes 2016: (Funny books, Joke books, Funny jokes, Best jokes 2016, Best jokes 2015) (Best Jokes 2016 Bundle) BEST BOOKS: Recommended Reading-Best American Literature (Fiction & Nonfiction), Must Read Titles in English, Best Young Adult Books, the Best Kindle Books, ... Novels & Book Club Picks (Good Reads 1) Stravinsky - Oedipus Rex and Symphony of Psalms: The Masterworks Library (Boosey & Hawkes Masterworks Library) (The Boosey & Hawkes Masterworks Library) Medieval Epics: Beowulf, The Song of Roland, The Nibelungenlied, and The Cid (The Modern Library of the World's Best Books) Maya Angelou 350+ Best Quotes: Maya Angelou Inspirational and Best Quotes from A Phenomenal Woman (Best Famous Quotes Book 1) Best Climbs Joshua Tree National Park: The Best Sport And Trad Routes In The Park (Best Climbs Series) The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I; Barbara W. Tuchman's Great War Series (Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction Books) Slaughterhouse-Five: A Novel (Modern Library 100 Best Novels) Ragtime: A Novel (Modern Library 100 Best Novels) The Best Short Stories of O. Henry (Modern Library) The Best Short Stories of Fyodor Dostoevsky (Modern Library) The Making of Jordan: Tribes, Colonialism and the Modern State (Library of Modern Middle East Studies)

[Dmca](#)