

Smedley Butler: The Marine Corps' Most Decorated Hero and a Legendary Soldier of Fortune

Major General Smedley Darlington Butler, USMC (1881-1940), was the most decorated Marine in American history. He was also a controversial figure, whose career was marked by both heroism and scandal. In his book, *The Adventures of Smedley Butler*, Butler tells the story of his life, from his early days as a young officer in the Marine Corps to his later years as a soldier of fortune and a critic of American imperialism.



Old Gimlet Eye (Illustrated): The Adventures of Smedley D. Butler by Lowell Thomas

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2727 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 258 pages
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported



Butler's book is a fascinating and informative read, providing a unique perspective on American history from the perspective of one of its most colorful and controversial figures.

Butler's Early Life and Career

Smedley Butler was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1881. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1903 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Butler quickly distinguished himself as a brave and resourceful officer, and he saw action in the Philippines, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

During World War I, Butler commanded the 13th Marine Regiment in France. He led his regiment in several successful battles, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Belleau Wood.

After the war, Butler served as the military governor of Haiti. He was a controversial figure in this role, and he was accused of being too harsh in his treatment of the Haitian people. However, Butler's actions in Haiti helped to bring stability to the country, and he was credited with improving the lives of many Haitians.

Butler as a Soldier of Fortune

In 1929, Butler retired from the Marine Corps. However, he soon found himself drawn back to military life. In 1933, he joined the Shanghai Municipal Police, where he served as the force's chief of staff. Butler was involved in several battles against Chinese communist forces, and he was credited with helping to save the city of Shanghai from falling to the communists.

In 1935, Butler left Shanghai and joined the Italian army, where he fought in the Ethiopian War. Butler was a controversial figure in this role, as he was accused of supporting fascism. However, Butler claimed that he was only fighting for the Italian army because he believed that they were the best chance to defeat the communists.

Butler's Later Years

In 1936, Butler returned to the United States. He became a vocal critic of American imperialism, and he accused the government of being involved in a conspiracy to profit from war. Butler's views were controversial, and he was accused of being a traitor. However, Butler remained unyielding in his beliefs, and he continued to speak out against American imperialism until his death in 1940.

Butler's Legacy

Smedley Butler was a complex and controversial figure. He was a brave and resourceful soldier, but he was also a man with strong opinions that often got him into trouble. However, Butler's legacy is one of heroism and sacrifice. He was a true American patriot, who served his country with distinction both in war and in peace.

The Adventures of Smedley Butler is a fascinating and informative read, providing a unique perspective on American history from the perspective of one of its most colorful and controversial figures. Butler's story is a reminder that even the most decorated heroes can have their flaws, but it is also a reminder that even the most controversial figures can make a positive contribution to their country.

Author's Note

I am a huge fan of Smedley Butler, and I believe that his story is one that should be told. I hope that this article has helped to shed some light on Butler's life and career, and I encourage you to read his book, *The*

Adventures of Smedley Butler, to learn more about this fascinating American hero.

Image Alt Attributes

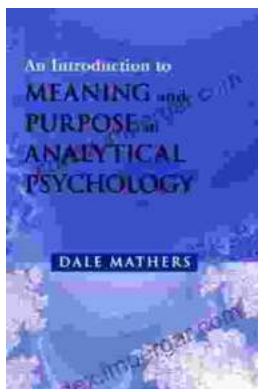
* Smedley Butler in uniform * Butler receiving the Medal of Honor * Butler in Haiti * Butler in Shanghai * Butler in Ethiopia



Old Gimlet Eye (Illustrated): The Adventures of Smedley D. Butler by Lowell Thomas

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2727 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 258 pages
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported



Unlocking Meaning and Purpose in Life: An Exploration of Analytical Psychology

In an increasingly complex and fast-paced world, finding meaning and purpose in life can feel like an elusive quest. Analytical Psychology, a school of...



Memoirs of the Early Pioneer Settlers of Ohio Illustrated

A Window into the Lives of Courageous Settlers Step back in time and witness the extraordinary journey of Ohio's early pioneers through the lens of their own compelling...