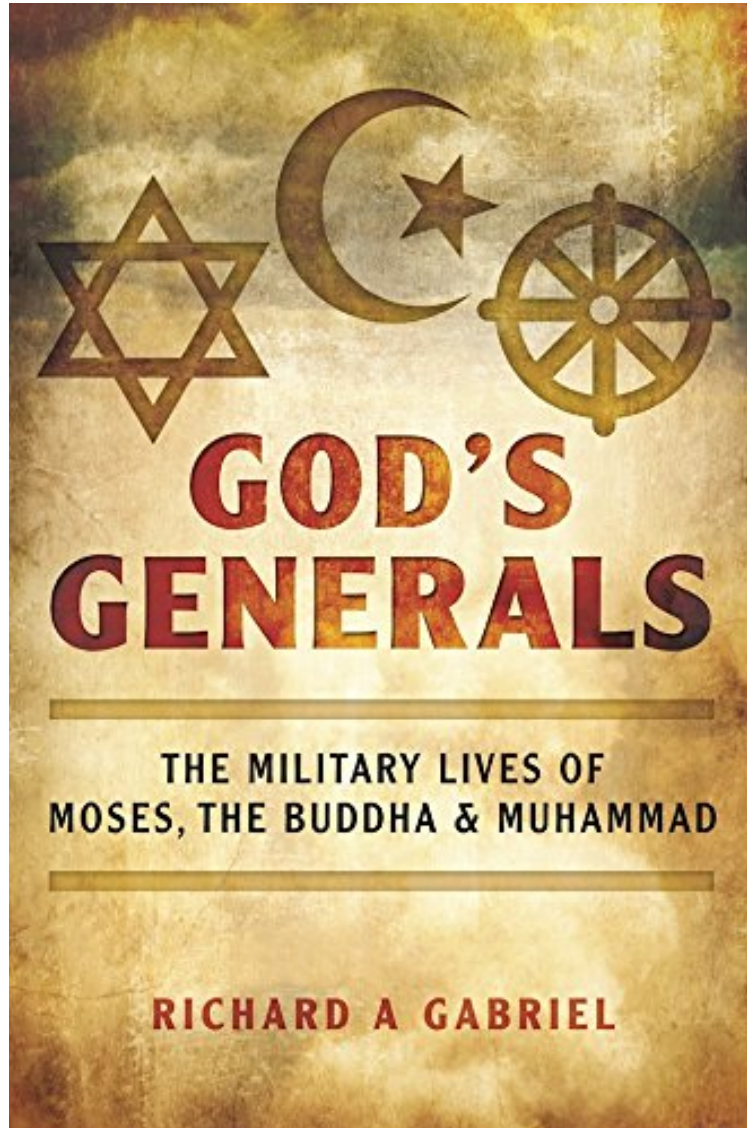


(Ebook pdf) God's Generals: The Military Lives of Moses, the Buddha, and Muhammad

God's Generals: The Military Lives of Moses, the Buddha, and Muhammad

Richard A. Gabriel

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Richard A. Gabriel : God's Generals: The Military Lives of Moses, the Buddha, and Muhammad before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God's Generals: The Military

Lives of Moses, the Buddha, and Muhammad:

Examines how the military experience of three religious founders shaped their spiritual legacy. It is one of the more startling facts of military history that the founders of three of the four great religions—Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam—were also accomplished field generals with extensive experience in commanding men in battle. One of these, Muhammad, fought eight battles and was wounded twice, once almost fatally. Another, Siddhartha Gautama (later to become the Buddha), witnessed so much battlefield carnage that he suffered a psychological collapse. Moses had become so much a god-intoxicated personality that it is a reasonable suspicion that he, like the Buddha, was murdered. Indeed, had the experiences of these men in war not been so successful, it is quite possible that their achievements as religious leaders would never have occurred. For all three, war and religion were so closely intertwined in their personalities that it is difficult to discern where the influence of one ended and the other began. This book attempts to explore the military lives of Moses, the Buddha, and Muhammad, and the role their war experiences played in their religious lives. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history—books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

Richard Gabriel drives his narrative with the desperate speed of a war-chariot, sometimes careening on one wheel so exciting is his story-telling, but masterfully never up-setting. This dean of military history does not preach, but the reader of *Gods Generals* will learn as much about our own world as about the deeds and times of the holy soldiers of whom Gabriels writes. J.E. Lendon, author of *Soldiers and Ghosts: A History of Battle in Classical Antiquity* Religions may be peaceful, but their founders usually couldnt be. Moses, leading some 25,000 migrants away from and then through hostile territory, was obliged to guard both rear and front constantly and to fight dissidents within, predators without, and dwellers resisting newcomers. Given his vision of the ummah, or worldwide Islamic community, Muhammad had to forge a military force to extend and protect it. Prolific military-historian Gabriel argues from scriptural explication, nonscriptural sources, and the insights of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and modern history that both leaders met their military challenge brilliantly. He does the same with the Buddha, who, despite the legend of his sequestered upbringing, was obliged by his familys status to be a warrior in a very violent era and almost certainly conceived Buddhism in revulsion, powered by what is now called PTSD. As interesting as Gabriels martial portrayals of his subjects is the shaping contention that monotheism is particularly conducive to violence. Gabriels accessible style and scholarly propriety make this volume as convincing as it is eye opening. Booklist Praise for Richard A. Gabriels previous work: *On Scipio Africanus: A brilliant work of research and analysis from one of the countrys leading military historians. A comprehensive, original and important work of scholarship and military biography that is certain to become the definitive work.* Steve Weingartner, editor of the *Cantigny Military History Series* and author of *Chariots Like a Whirlwind On Genghis Khans Greatest General: Subotai the Valiant: An extraordinarily fine description of the structure of the Mongol army Every officer who has command over other officers should hasten to purchase a copy of this extraordinary book.* *Journal of Military History* On Hannibal: Richard Gabriels *Hannibal* is a worthy successor to his books on Subotai, Muhammad, Scipio Africanus, Thutmose III, and Philip of Macedon. Informed equally by the authors encyclopedic knowledge of antiquity and his own military background, *Hannibal* is a highly readable military biography. Keith Poulter, editor of *Military Chronicles*