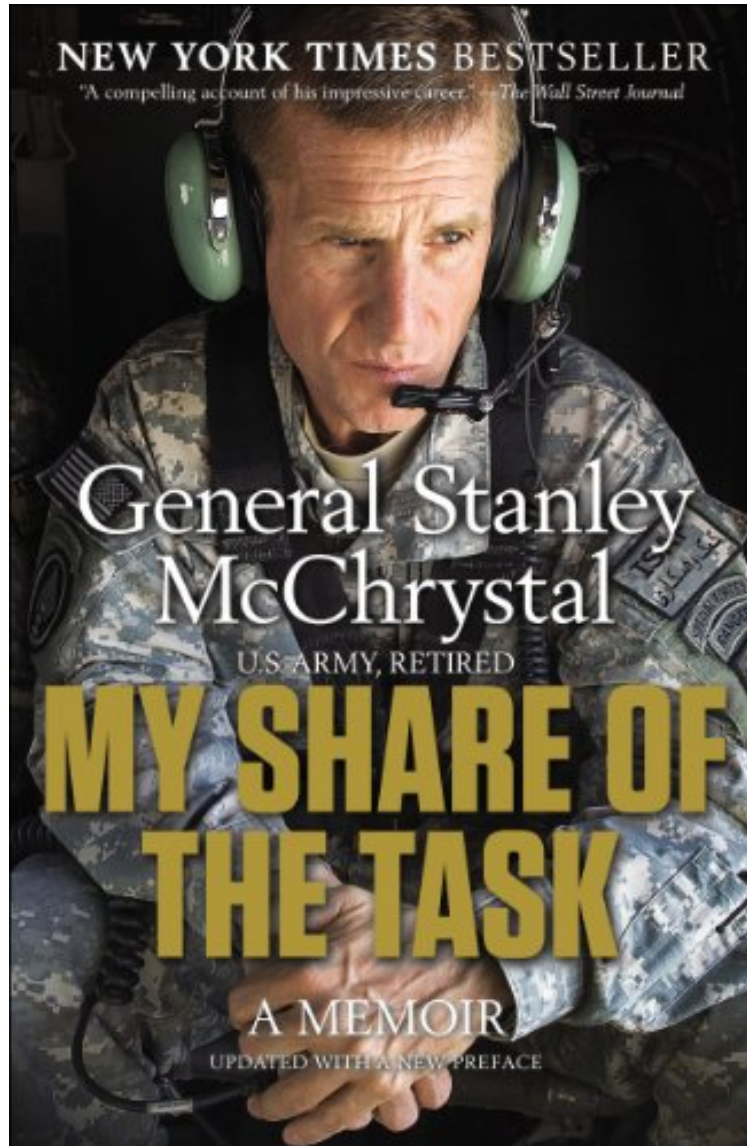


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My Share of the Task: A Memoir

General Stanley McChrystal

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General Stanley McChrystal : My Share of the Task: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Share of the Task: A Memoir:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. General McChrystal's successes, how we began to win in Iraq and AfghanistanBy P. SharmaThis memoir runs through the key events in General McChrystal's military career, but the most interesting sections, relevant in 2015, describe his leadership in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Republicans and Democrats seem to agree that the Iraq war was a mistake, and that is arguably true. Nevertheless, the US military had figured out how to effectively win in Iraq and Afghanistan and keep the peace, which is a remarkably feat. You will

gain insight into how this came to be under the "surge." You will better understand why some claim that pulling troops out later led to the current chaos in Iraq, and has the potential to repeat in Afghanistan. The General does not address in any detail the two main controversies he was involved in (Pat Tilman and the Rolling Stone interview). He writes about the Commander in Chief in nothing but respectful language. If you are looking for more on these controversies, you will not find it, maybe not surprisingly. You will find insightful descriptions of how the military works, solves problems at a high level, and works with our diplomatic core and foreign allies. You will see how *good* our military really can be. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Highly Recommended* By Sassan31 Remarkable book by a remarkable man who not only shares his experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, but most importantly teaches the readers the life lessons he has learned in what makes a leader and the leadership qualities that are important for people of all walks of life. Stanley McChrystal is a humble, empathetic, compassionate man who cares about the lives of all people, whether his troops or the lives of Afghan and Iraqi civilians. He shares the various leadership qualities good and bad from those he has served alongside with and helps the reader take the journey with him through all the ups and downs of battle. As aforementioned, the leadership qualities that he has come to learn through both an intellectual grasp of history as well as those who served above him and with him enables the reader to become a more nuanced and appreciative person of the qualities important for our daily lives. *Highly recommended*. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A true hero tells it as it was By Customer This is a fine book written by a real hero and a great and very effective leader. I echo the comments of many other who praise this book and its author, but the book also tells some important truths about the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. 1. The disbanding of the Iraqi army by J Paul Bremer created much of the conflict in Iraq, and the balance of it was created by Al Qaeda which had not been established in Iraq prior to the war but was drawn to it by American presence. 2. Although Al Qaeda had had haven in Afghanistan under the Taliban, by the time the author was in command there Al Qaeda had either been decimated or moved on to other places. During the author's relation of his time in command in Afghanistan, Al Qaeda barely merits a mention; it's all about the Taliban. The author was supremely effective in waging war, but his telling of the story seems to support the idea that mission creep had changed the focus from hunting down Al Qaeda to "nation building" in Afghanistan. Gen. McChrystal and his forces did extremely well at everything they did. Should we be spending our blood and terror on this effort is a separate question the answer to which is far less clear. This is a good read for those who want to know what actually happened. There villains in the story other than the Taliban and Al Qaeda, but you must read between the lines to find them. General McChrystal wisely avoids identifying them, but they emerge for a careful reader.

"General McChrystal is a legendary warrior with a fine eye for enduring lessons about leadership, courage, and consequence." —Tom Brokaw General Stanley McChrystal is widely admired for his hunger to know the truth, his courage to find it, and his humility to listen to those around him. Even as the commanding officer of all U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan, he stationed himself forward and frequently went on patrols with his troops to experience their challenges firsthand. In this illuminating New York Times bestseller, McChrystal frankly explores the major episodes and controversies of his career. He describes the many outstanding leaders he served with and the handful of bad leaders he learned not to emulate. And he paints a vivid portrait of how the military establishment turned itself, in one generation, into the adaptive, resilient force that would soon be tested in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the wider War on Terror. "A compelling account of his impressive career." —The Wall Street Journal "This is a brilliant book about leadership wrapped inside a fascinating personal narrative." —Walter Isaacson, author of Steve Jobs Stanley McChrystal retired in July 2010 as a four-star general in the U.S. Army. His last assignment was as the commander of the International Security Assistance Force and as the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. He is currently a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs and cofounder of the McChrystal Group, a leadership consulting firm. He and his wife, Annie, live in Virginia.

General McChrystal is a legendary warrior with a fine eye for enduring lessons about leadership, courage, and consequence. He took me inside the command bunker, on nighttime raids, and through the fog of war, political and military. My Share of the Task is an important, riveting, and instructive account of the triumphs and trials of America's two longest wars. —TOM BROKAW, author of The Greatest Generation "Written in the tradition of Ulysses S. Grant, My Share of the Task is a clear, compelling, self-critical, and utterly unpretentious memoir. I know of no better book on the nature of modern military command." —JOHN LEWIS GADDIS, author of George F. Kennan: An American Life "This is a brilliant book about leadership wrapped inside a fascinating personal narrative. By describing his own life, and especially his command in Afghanistan, General McChrystal helps us understand the modern missions of the military. More than that, he provides lessons about leadership and values that are indispensable in our daily lives. It's a deeply inspiring tale." —WALTER ISAACSON, author of Steve Jobs and Benjamin Franklin "Stanley McChrystal has written the finest military memoir of his generation. Lucid, thoughtful, and steeped in military and strategic history, My Share of the Task is not just the story of one man's service; it is the story of the development of a new way of war. This book is not just

for aficionados of military history or for students of American foreign policy; it's for anyone who wants to understand the challenges of leadership in America today."—WALTER RUSSELL MEAD, author of *Special Providence and God and Gold* "A remarkable memoir by one of the most exceptional and thoughtful leaders of his generation."—RORY STEWART, author of *The Places in Between* About the Author STANLEY McCHRISTAL retired in July 2010 as a four-star general in the U.S. Army. His last assignment was as the commander of the International Security Assistance Force and as the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. He had previously served as the director of the Joint Staff and as the commander of the Joint Special Operations Command. He is currently a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs and the co-founder of the McChrystal Group, an advisory services and leadership development firm. He and his wife Annie, live in Virginia.