



The White Tecumseh: A Biography of General William T. Sherman

By Stanley P. Hirshson

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"Extraordinarily readable." --Paul D. Casdorph, author of Jackson and Lee

Best remembered as the man who burned Atlanta and marched his army to the sea, cutting a swath of destruction through Georgia, William Tecumseh Sherman remains one of the most vital figures in Civil War annals. In *The White Tecumseh*, Stanley Hirshson has crafted a beautiful and rigorous work of scholarship, the only life of Sherman to draw on regimental histories and testimonies by the general's own men. What emerges is a landmark portrait of a brilliant but tormented soul, haunted by a family legacy of mental illness and relentlessly driven to realize a powerful military ambition.

"Sympathetic yet excellent . . . insight into how Sherman's own troops felt about him and his relationships with fellow generals, especially Grant. . . . Highly recommended." --Library Journal

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

William T. Sherman was Ulysses S. Grant's staunchest ally in the Union Army; in 1862 he even dissuaded his friend from resigning. This opinionated work on the leader of the merciless March to the Sea takes issue with many previous biographies. According to Stanley Hirshon, Sherman was not a racist (at least, not by 19th-century standards), not a philanderer (though he liked to flirt), and not a bad general (though he lost a lot of battles). The author makes a persuasive case for these contentions in his strongly argued text.

From Library Journal

Utilizing regimental histories, historian Hirshon offers a sympathetic yet excellent biography of one of the more noted Civil War generals, best remembered for burning Atlanta, cutting a swath of destruction across Georgia, then creating total destruction in South Carolina, including the burning of Columbia. Hirshon gives us an insight into how Sherman's own troops felt about him and his relationships with fellow generals, especially Grant. The author not only describes Sherman's role in the war but also details his early life and family problems. The latter part of the book deals with his life after the war, especially with the Indians in the West as well as his relationships with Presidents Johnson and Grant. This work focuses more closely on Sherman's battles and marches than most other biographies do and discusses his failures and accomplishments in detail. Highly recommended. W. Walter Wicker, Louisiana Tech Univ., (ret.) Ruston
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As is true of most complicated historical figures, the way Sherman looks depends on how the historian looks at him. Hirshon disagrees "completely" with the previous biography, *Citizen Sherman*, by Michael Fellman (1995), which delved into speculative psychobiography. What Sherman did, rather than why he did it or what racist attitudes he harbored, matters most to Hirshon. And since Sherman was a soldier, that means a helluva lot of soldiering goes on in this book, which consequently reads like the hundreds of regimental histories the author consulted for this work. The detail, though, doesn't obscure the main and well-known events of Sherman's career, from prewar business failures to wartime battles and campaigns to postwar matters, like writing his memoirs, putting down the Indians, and putting up with importunate politicians. Adopting a posture as Sherman's defense counsel, Hirshon argues that he was better at maneuvering than at set-piece battling, a view the bloody results of Shiloh and Kennesaw Mountain support. A carefully researched, closely written work for seasoned Civil War buffs. *Gilbert Taylor*

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