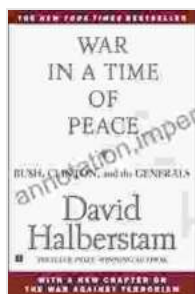


# Bush, Clinton, and the Generals: Uncovering the Hidden Powerbrokers in American Foreign Policy

## Unveiling the Intricate Web of Influence

In the annals of American history, the relationship between presidents, generals, and the complex realm of foreign policy has been a subject of both fascination and controversy. This captivating book delves into the intricacies of this triangular dynamic, meticulously examining the presidencies of George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton. It offers a groundbreaking analysis of how generals have exerted a profound influence on the decision-making process, shaping the course of American foreign policy during transformative eras.



## War in a Time of Peace: Bush, Clinton, and the Generals by David Halberstam

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1380 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 548 pages



**George H. W. Bush: The General's Influence in a Post-Cold War World**

The presidency of George H. W. Bush marked a pivotal juncture in American foreign policy. The Cold War, which had served as the defining geopolitical conflict for decades, was drawing to a close. Amidst this seismic shift, Bush found himself grappling with a new world Free Download and the formidable challenges it presented.

Drawing upon extensive research and exclusive interviews, this book reveals the pivotal role played by generals in shaping Bush's foreign policy. From the outset, Bush relied heavily on the advice and expertise of military leaders, including General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Their influence was evident in key decisions, such as the authorization of military force during the Gulf War.

The book meticulously documents how the generals' worldview, shaped by their experiences in the Cold War and the military's institutional culture, significantly influenced Bush's decision-making. Their emphasis on military strength and strategic deterrence often prevailed over diplomatic solutions, contributing to a more assertive and interventionist foreign policy.

### **Bill Clinton: Adapting to a Changing Global Landscape**

With the election of Bill Clinton in 1992, a new era of American foreign policy began. Clinton inherited a post-Cold War world characterized by both opportunity and uncertainty. The Soviet Union had dissolved, but new threats, such as terrorism and ethnic conflict, were emerging.

Clinton's approach to foreign policy was marked by a shift away from the overt militarism of the Bush presidency. He sought to balance the use of military force with diplomacy and multilateralism. However, this book

argues that generals continued to play a significant role in shaping Clinton's foreign policy, albeit in a more nuanced and indirect manner.

The book highlights the influence of generals such as General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who advocated for a more selective and cautious approach to military intervention. Clinton's decisions during the Bosnia and Kosovo conflicts, for example, were heavily influenced by the advice of his generals, who emphasized the need for clear objectives and exit strategies.

### **Beyond the Battlefield: The Broader Impact of Military Influence**

This book goes beyond the specific presidencies of Bush and Clinton to examine the broader impact of military influence on American foreign policy. It explores the structural factors that have contributed to the generals' enduring presence in policymaking, including the military's institutional power, access to classified information, and the public's often-deferential attitude towards the military.

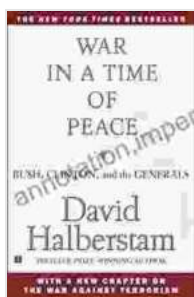
The book also analyzes the consequences of military influence, both positive and negative. While generals can provide valuable expertise and insights, their perspectives can also be narrow and risk-averse. The book argues that a healthy balance between civilian and military influence is essential for effective and accountable foreign policy decision-making.

### **A Riveting Narrative, a Profound Examination**

"Bush, Clinton, and the Generals" is not merely an academic treatise; it is a compelling narrative that reads like a political thriller. The book is meticulously researched, drawing on a wealth of archival materials, interviews, and first-hand accounts. It transports readers into the corridors

of power, revealing the intense debates, high-stakes decisions, and personal struggles that have shaped American foreign policy.

This book is essential reading for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of American foreign policy, the role of generals in decision-making, and the complex relationship between the military and the civilian government. It is a thought-provoking and timely examination that will provoke discussion and debate for years to come.



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