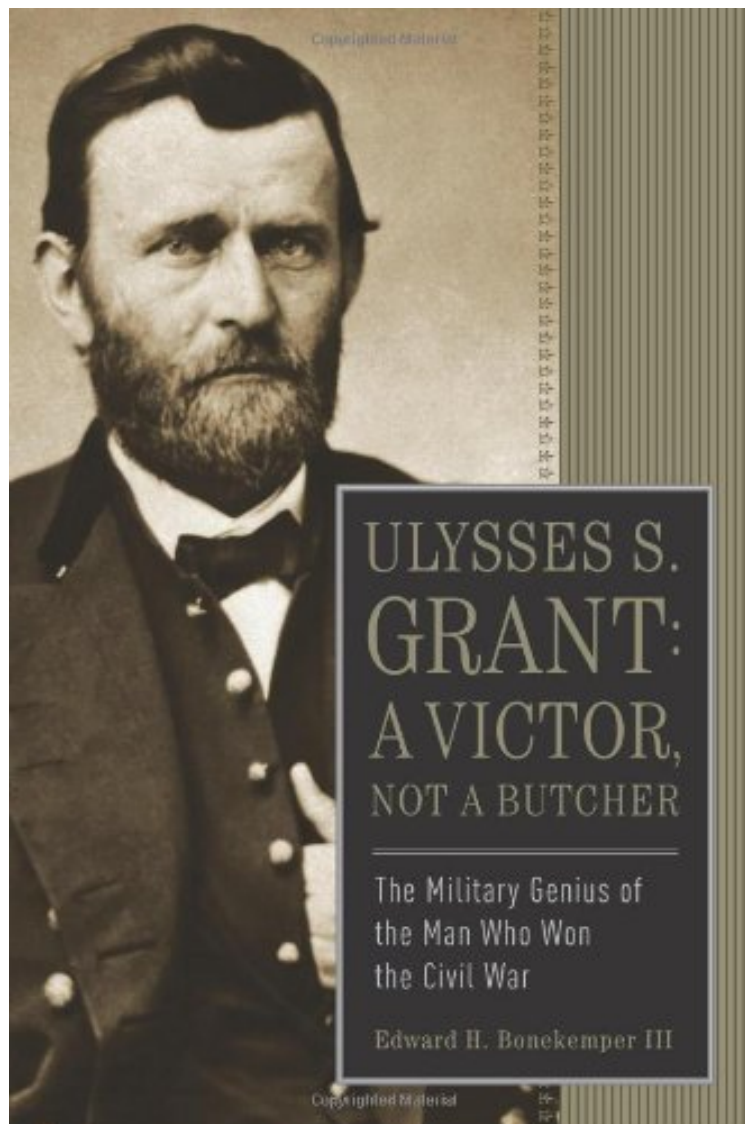


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## Ulysses S. Grant: A Victor, Not a Butcher: The Military Genius of the Man Who Won the Civil War

*Edward H. Bonekemper III*

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**Edward H. Bonekemper III : Ulysses S. Grant: A Victor, Not a Butcher: The Military Genius of the Man Who Won the Civil War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ulysses S. Grant: A Victor, Not a Butcher: The Military Genius of the Man Who Won the Civil War:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Always buy BonekemperBy CustomerBonekemper is a real find for

civil war readers. An amateur historian much respected, by other historians and readers. This book is a refutation of the common, post war criticism, that Grant won by killing large numbers of the enemy. Bonekemper documents the fact that Grant actually inflicted a lower casualty rate than Lee. 24 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly well-done! By Candace Scott Bonekemper follows in the shoes of JFC Fuller and T. Harry Williams who long ago argued that Ulysses Grant was the preeminent soldier of the Civil War. For nearly 100 years, the rise of the Lost Cause mentality has obscured Grant's true brilliance as a general and his great rival, Lee, has been elevated to near demi-God status. Bonekemper dispenses with such nonsense and shows, point by point, how Grant won the Civil War. He did so because he was a military genius and possessed rare gifts of stubbornness, intelligence, daring, patience and sheer nerve. The fans of Robert E. Lee will be reaching for their smelling salts when they pick up this tome! The book is not heavy on statistics or details and those who dislike plodding military narratives will still find something to like here. Bonekemper's "Appendix I" is especially interesting, particularly for those who are familiar with Grant literature from the past. It's interesting to read his opinions on some of the recent spate of Grant biographers. Equally impressive is Bonekemper's list of Grant's "Attributes" which he lists in descending order. Among these are modesty, the dis-inclination to constantly demand reinforcements (which is what contributed to McClellan's downfall), and a stubborn tenacity. Bonekemper brilliantly refutes the tired old adage that Grant was a butcher who was injudicious with the lives of his men. Borrowing stats from McWhiney and Fuller, he clearly demonstrates that General Lee lost far more men in proportion than did Grant. My only criticism is that Bonekemper inexplicably describes Grant as "an alcoholic." He should have known better, because it's simply untrue. Grant drank and imbibed too much early in his army career, almost always when separated from his much-adored wife. He also got drunk on occasion in the ACW, but it didn't interfere with his service career and was borne out of a need to be with Julia. No serious historian of the past 50 years has described Grant as an alcoholic and it's disappointing that Bonekemper follows suit. This is an odd inclusion, particularly when he states that "alcoholism made him a better general." This is a theory borrowed from McPherson and should have been omitted. Aside from this small lapse, the remainder of the book is a grand exercise in proving what Grant students have long known: this man was one awesome soldier! Kudos to Bonekemper from proving this point so thoroughly. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very readable, fact-filled. By Robert Sparks I really enjoyed it. I had been reaching the same conclusions about Grant. In my continued study this consolidated the facts for me.

Ulysses S. Grant is often accused of being a cold-hearted butcher of his troops. In *Ulysses S. Grant: A Victor, Not a Butcher*, historian Edward H. Bonekemper III proves that Grant's casualty rates actually compared favorably with those of other Civil War generals. His perseverance, decisiveness, moral courage, and political acumen place him among the greatest generals of the Civil War—indeed, of all military history. Bonekemper proves that it was no historical accident that Grant accepted the surrender of three entire Confederate armies and won the Civil War. Bonekemper ably silences Grant's critics and restores Grant to the heroic reputation he so richly deserves.

From Publishers Weekly In line with the recent rise in the Union military leader's stock among historians, this engaging if reverential study pegs Grant as the greatest general of the Civil War. Historian Bonekemper (*How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War*) contends that Grant relied whenever possible on maneuver, distraction and stealth rather than brute force, and that his brilliantly successful campaigns were marked by comparatively modest body counts. Even the bloody war of attrition against Lee in 1864, the main count in the "butcher" indictment, was a strategically sound approach, he says, with its carnage less the fault of Grant than of inept subordinates who squandered the opportunities created by his flanking maneuvers. The author's celebration of Grant dovetails with his disparagement of Lee, whom he feels lacked Grant's mastery of grand strategy, and whose unnecessarily aggressive campaigns, in which he sacrificed many more men than Grant did during the war as a whole, make him the real butcher. Bonekemper's interpretation of Grant is not groundbreaking (although scholars and buffs will appreciate his exhaustive tabulation of casualties in Grant's engagements), and the comparison with Lee is perhaps unfair given the vastly greater resources in men and material that Grant enjoyed. But he offers a lucid and vigorous narrative of Grant's campaigns that vividly conveys the general's energy, daring and shrewdness, as well as the unassuming personality that has made him a symbol of the age of the common man triumphing over Lee's backward-looking aristocracy. Photos and maps. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From the Inside Flap—Although I am a great admirer of Robert E. Lee, I also admire the exciting and controversial historical analysis of Lee and Grant that Ed Bonekemper has created. *How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War* was outstanding, and *Ulysses S. Grant: A Victor, Not a Butcher* is even better. —Edwin R. Baldrige, Professor Emeritus, Muhlenberg College —Ed Bonekemper slashes incisively through the thick fog of politicized history that surrounds Ulysses S. Grant to give us a long overdue reassessment of Grant's unparalleled gifts as a military commander. —John A. Barnes, author of *ULYSSES S. GRANT ON LEADERSHIP: EXECUTIVE LESSONS FROM THE FRONT LINES* From the Back Cover—Although I am a great admirer of Robert E. Lee, I also admire the exciting and controversial historical analysis of Lee and Grant that Ed Bonekemper has created. *How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War* was outstanding, and

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