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Brute: The Life of Victor Krulak, U.S. Marine

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However, the topics the editors chose to cover in this book also include detailed insight and analysis that transcends the struggle with al-Qa'ida and undoubtedly will be debated and revisited in many venues for years to come.

While it is impractical to review in detail each individual author and chapter, a brief synopsis of the discussions presented is essential for assessing this book's value within the scope of current events. Detailed yet readable analyses of the issues and challenges involving detainees and military commissions, U.S. constitutional issues, national security concerns, intelligence efforts, the law of war, and civil-military relations provide a broad overview of the legal concerns and challenges the government faces when confronting terrorists. A chapter discussing civil liberties provides an integral counterbalance and reminds readers of the human impacts that efforts to counter terrorism often create.

Collectively, these essays represent a well reasoned and researched look into the role of executive power and the challenges that confronting terrorism on a global scale presents to those tasked with applying (or even developing) domestic and international law. To their credit, the editors clearly note that many of the issues addressed by the authors are "so new or so unsettled that no one can draw bright legal lines with great confidence." If the book does not offer any bright legal lines, it does help focus readers on where those bright lines might better fit within the various issues discussed.

This book's worth is reflected in the quality of authors whom Moore and Turner selected. Arguably, their diverse and notable backgrounds make this book a uniquely authoritative

compilation. From a law-school dean to several law professors, as well as current and former senior CIA, military, and homeland-security legal professionals, the authors are recognized and tested experts within their areas of expertise. Undoubtedly, John Norton Moore and Robert F. Turner's own extensive backgrounds and reputations in international law have enabled them to bring together individuals who clearly were up to the challenge. The reader is much better off for the results.

Overall, *Legal Issues in the Struggle against Terror* is an important work that should be considered an integral resource for anyone interested in the legal, ethical, and moral issues that efforts to counter terrorism raise in the twenty-first century.

ERIC YOUNG
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Coram, Robert. *Brute: The Life of Victor Krulak, U.S. Marine*. New York: Little, Brown, 2010. 374pp. \$27.99

Victor "Brute" Krulak is a legend within the U.S. Marine Corps. That may be a cliché, but it is true. This reviewer personally witnessed this phenomenon at the Naval War College, in Newport, Rhode Island, nearly four decades after Krulak left the service. While delivering a lecture at the College, I flashed a picture of Krulak on the screen. Instantly, audience members began to call out Krulak's nickname—"Brute! Brute!" The fact that Krulak's son became Commandant of the Corps only enhanced his reputation. The funny thing about Krulak's being so admired is that he never held a major combat command

as a general officer. He was brave, and he won hero medals in World War II, including the Navy Cross, but as a general during the Vietnam War he was in Hawaii instead of in country. Flag and general officers usually need to be combat leaders during a war to reach iconic status.

As a result, this biography of Krulak by Robert Coram is an all the more worthy contribution to the historical literature on the American military. Coram was trained as a journalist and has written two biographies of Air Force colonels, John Boyd and Bud Day. This background proved important, because Krulak had a powerful military intellect and could think well on how to employ military power in all three mediums, air, land, and sea.

Coram makes a strength out of a weakness when he starts the biography off in what seems a vague fashion. Krulak was a brilliant self-promoter who often distorted the historical record to bolster his reputation. This tendency included lying about his early years growing up in Wyoming. Born and raised a Jew, Krulak decided sometime after his arrival at the U.S. Naval Academy that he was an Episcopalian. He also hid the fact that he had married as a teenager. Although his deception regarding his ethnic and religious identity could be understood as a consequence of the bigotry of the time, it continued for the rest of his life. One of his biggest claims was for a wartime association with Lieutenant (junior grade) John F. Kennedy—there was none. Krulak's assignment to the Kennedy White House had nothing to do with old ties of wartime comradeship.

As Coram notes, what is important about Krulak is his military career, not

so much his personal character. With that point made, Coram—in a testament to his skills as a reporter—does a good job of letting the man's personality come through. The biography grows in strength as Krulak moves through his career. In the days before World War II he made major, truly important contributions to the development of amphibious warfare. After the war he helped develop doctrine for the use of the helicopter. In the 1960s he turned his intellect toward counterinsurgency. The section on counterinsurgency is the best part of the book, though specialists will want to see more than is there. Krulak had good ideas that are still extremely relevant. In all of this, Krulak was a constant defender of the institutional interests of the U.S. Marine Corps, including in the acrimonious debates on military unification in the late 1940s.

In short, after reading this book it is easy to see why Krulak is such an icon. Marines and others will enjoy the read.

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Peattie, Mark, Edward Drea, and Hans van de Ven, eds. *The Battle for China: Essays on the Military History of the Sino-Japanese War of 1937–1945*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press, 2010. 614 pp. \$65

The title of this book appropriately suggests a degree of ambiguity regarding the actors fighting over the territorial integrity and cultural identity of China. The interplay of imperial Japan, Nationalist and Communist Chinese, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, France, and the United States from 1937 through 1945 creates a terrain challenging to