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George C. Marshall: Education of a General, 1890-1939

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Pogue, Forrest C. *George C. Marshall: Education of a General, 1890-1939*. New York: Viking, 1963. 421p.

This book is the first volume of the 3-volume biography of General George Catlett Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff from 1939 to the end of World War II. The volume traces in a superb and detailed manner the progress of the General from childhood to the time he assumed the duties as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army in 1939. The reader is given a perceptive insight into the training and character of General Marshall, as well as a view of the old Army with its many problems and changes during this period. The volume highlights his studies at Virginia Military Institute and his duty as a student and instructor at Ft. Benning and Ft. Leavenworth. This formal schooling, coupled with extensive staff and field duty in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War, in World War I, in China, and on numerous tours with National Guard units, developed an officer qualified for duties far beyond those normally undertaken by one of his rank. This book is a most scholarly account of the trials and tribulations of an exceptional Army officer during the period prior to 1939, and clearly demonstrates how the right man got to the right place at the right time.

Monroe, Elizabeth. *Britain's Moment in the Middle East, 1914-1956*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1963. 254p.

'The British Empire is preeminently a great Naval, Indian and Colonial power,' read the report that inaugurated the Committee of Imperial Defence in 1904. The word 'Indian' explains the reason why the British went into the Middle East in the first place. They saw the Middle East as a shield against Russian expansion. *Britain's Moment in the Middle East* traces British Middle Eastern policy and actions from that beginning. For those who wonder why Lawrence was in Arabia in the first place, this book provides the answer; for those who are puzzled by the intricacies of the influence of oil on foreign policy, this book provides much information; and for those seeking background on recent occurrences in the Middle East, this book is invaluable. The volume is a gold mine of information for the serious student of Middle Eastern affairs—it ranges from the Boer War to the Suez Crisis, from London to Moscow by way of Delhi, and from Zionism to the Arab League. This is not a book to be picked up and devoured at one sitting; the story it tells is far too complicated and requires too much thought for that. For the person interested in the Middle East, however, and especially for military men desiring some background on this area, the work is very valuable.