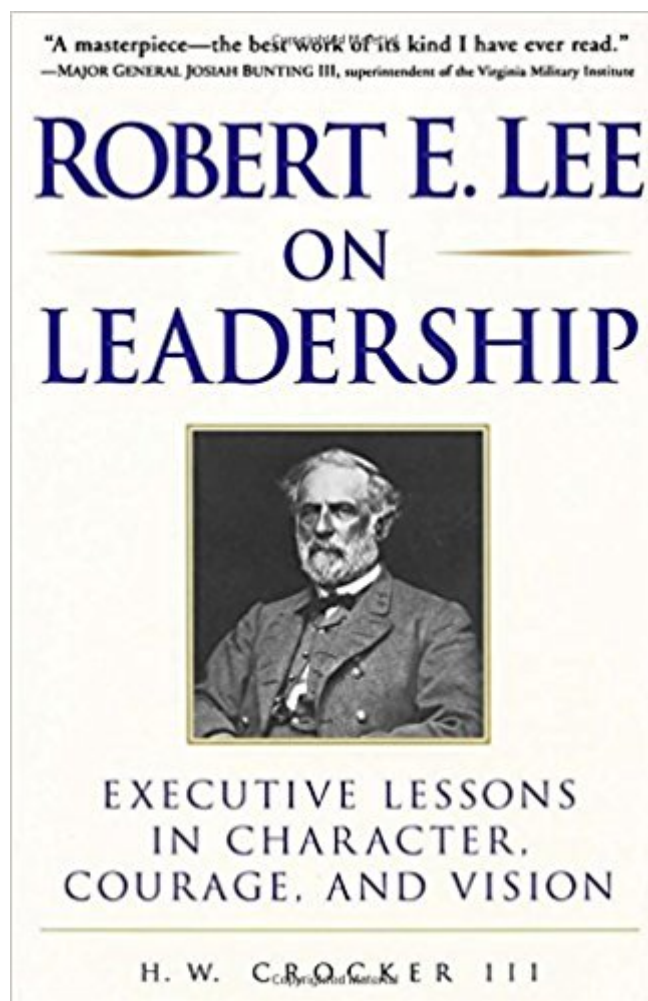




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# Robert E. Lee On Leadership : Executive Lessons In Character, Courage, And Vision



## Synopsis

Robert E. Lee was a leader for the ages. The man heralded by Winston Churchill as "one of the noblest Americans who ever lived" inspired an out-manned, out-gunned army to achieve greatness on the battlefield. He was a brilliant strategist and a man of unyielding courage who, in the face of insurmountable odds, nearly changed forever the course of history. "A masterpieceâ€”the best work of its kind I have ever read. Crocker's Lee is a Lee for all leaders to study; and to work, quite deliberately, to emulate." â€” Major General Josiah Bunting III, superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute

In this remarkable book, you'll learn the keys to Lee's greatness as a man and a leader. You'll find a general whose standards for personal excellence was second to none, whose leadership was founded on the highest moral principles, and whose character was made of steel. You'll see how he remade a rag-tag bunch of men into one of the most impressive fighting forces history has ever known. You'll also discover other sides of Leeâ€”the businessman who inherited the debt-ridden Arlington plantation and streamlined its operations, the teacher who took a backwater college and made it into a prestigious university, and the motivator who inspired those he led to achieve more than they ever dreamed possible. Each chapter concludes with the extraordinary lessons learned, which can be applied not only to your professional life, but also to your private life as well. Today's business world requires leaders of uncommon excellence who can overcome the cold brutality of constant change. Robert E. Lee was such a leader. He triumphed over challenges people in business face every day. Guided by his magnificent example, so can you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

General Lee eluded the Union army for three years and cunningly thwarted his foe by applying successful leadership and military acumen, winning many battles but losing the war. However, his reputation and legacy remain intact, suggesting leadership principles that could successfully be applied today. In very readable prose, Crocker, an executive editor at Regency Publishing and author of articles in the National Review, American Spectator, and Human Events, reviews Lee's career not only in the military but as a farmer and college president (the school now known as Washington and Lee University). At the end of each chapter, he provides a section called "Lee's Lessons" A leadership principles based on Lee's Christian lifestyle, his education (at West Point), and his character. Thought-provoking ideas for today's present and future leaders; for business collections and larger public libraries. A Steven J. Mayover, Free Lib. of Philadelphia Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A masterpiece" the best work of its kind I have ever read. Crocker's Lee is a Lee for all leaders to study; and to work, quite deliberately, to emulate." " Major General Josiah Bunting III, superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute "A splendid and inspiring book, Robert E. Lee on Leadership offers enormously valuable lessons for all of us today, and should be required reading in the White House, the State Department, and the Pentagon, at least." " Caspar Weinberger, former Secretary of Defense, chairman of Forbes magazine "As Harry Crocker reminds us, the principles that guided Robert e. Lee were grounded in the finest traditions of American values. Robert E. Lee on Leadership is a timely and valuable reflection on character, and on the personal and spiritual convictions that make for great leaders." " S. Patrick Presley, director of Federal Government Affairs, British Petroleum "A moving and illuminating look at Lee the man, so that thoughtful people can learn from him how to succeed in the business of life." " Dinesh D'Souza, author of Ronald Reagan: How an Ordinary Man Became an Extraordinary Leader "Harry Crocker has provided a great service by reminding us through this moving and tightly written biography that winning isn't the only thing: faithfulness and honor live in our memories after the guns are silent." " Marvin Olasky, author of the bestselling Renewing American Compassion and The American Leadership Tradition

Not at all a Marble Man, Robert E. Lee was a true leader. This book does him justice and puts his leadership skills and abilities into a modern context useful for anyone in a leadership role. It's much

more a character study than a business book. The author clearly is a great fan of the great man. Business lessons are nicely extrapolated from both true historical events and how Lee handled adversaries in blue, adversaries on his staff, and adverse events in the field. Lee's brilliance at taking risks and making the most out of less is strongly shown-- especially in The Seven Days Battles and during Chancellorsville-- his finest hour. The author is particularly harsh on General Longstreet at Gettysburg, suggesting most strongly that Longstreet was insubordinate, disobedient to orders, and undermined Lee's strategies during that cataclysmic struggle. This is a very readable and approachable introduction to Lee for the modern reader and a pleasant review for students of the Civil War who don't mind Lee's lessons put into a more modern frame. While Lee is the great spirit of the "Lost Cause", his greatness or lack of it is not due to his victories or defeats, but rather on the very elegant and superb quality of his character. War often brings lesser men to the forefront of history and thrusts gargantuan tasks and responsibilities upon them. But it also gives superb men their moments-- often at great cost to themselves and others. Without Lee, one could make the argument that the Confederate cause would have failed long before it actually did. The idea that "the man and the hour have met", popular during the inauguration of Jefferson Davis, is far more appropriate for Lee and his elevation to command of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee is certainly one of the great Americans with a character and demeanor from which we can still learn valuable lessons today. Ever the gentleman and man of kindness and forgiveness, Lee would turn a silent gaze on the failure of Stuart at Gettysburg and even forgive Longstreet. One might say that these were mistakes on Lee's part, but he had to work with what he had available to him and there were few commanders in Lee's opinion who could replace either man. Even those few independent thinkers such as Stonewall Jackson-- who could be trusted with independent action and great responsibility while fulfilling the wishes of the commander-- could fail as did Stonewall during the Seven Days fighting around Richmond. But Lee would give them other chances and they would do their utmost to regain the trust and respect of their Master Robert. This is an excellent book and quite a treat, too!

This book is a fascinating treatise on a man who is appropriately considered by many to be the greatest American of the nineteenth century. Esteemed by Europeans, loved by his fellow Southerners, and revered by many Northerners, Robert E. Lee was truly an extraordinary man whose life and maxims remain as ever-available tutors for modern readers. H.W. Crocker's easy writing style makes this an enjoyable and entertaining read, and I am pleased to relate that I finished this book in one sitting. Irrespective of one's personal views on the American Civil War, anyone can

be educated and enlightened by many of his Lee's thought-provoking leadership decisions, many of which were made under the extreme duress of war. His accomplishments on the battlefield are legendary and his deeds as a civilian praiseworthy, yet he will always be remembered as the wily General who consistently stymied (and often defeated) numerically and materially superior Union armies. The fact that Lee managed this for nearly four years with an underfed, under-armed, rag-tag collection of Virginia farm boys makes his accomplishment all the more extraordinary. The title of this book is somewhat misleading as I was expecting it to be primarily a motivational book for American business leaders. Instead, it turned out to be a pleasant, chronological review of the Civil War for those who might enjoy some relatable moral lessons at the end of every chapter as, "Lee's Lessons." In 21st century America, success is more often than not attained by the exultant use of power; individuals and businesses utilizing any means available to gain an advantage over any and all competitors. The ultimate goal in our capitalist society will probably always be self-fulfillment at any cost. In H.W. Crocker's disquisition, we learn this to be the antithesis of Robert E. Lee's personal philosophy, which was understandably founded on the highest Christian principles of his time. Lee believed that a true leader never utilizes force or coercion; instead he leads by the power of his own example. He also believed that leaders must make every effort to do whatever they can for those less well placed than themselves. Lee's ideal was freedom, his prescription was self-discipline, and his method was kindness. As a matter of fact, Lee is the only historical personage I am aware of whose strength of character was capable of turning the Machiavellian principle of, "It is better to be feared than loved," upside down. There is no mention of Lee ever losing his temper or berating his subordinates, even when the flagrant insubordination of General Longstreet or the frequent 'excesses' of J.E.B Stuart demanded his attention. Lee dedicated his life to the Christian principles of self-denial and self-control, and it is to his credit that he always practiced what he preached. Thus, Lee's serious nature won him respect, and his quiet concern for others won him both the affection and devotion of his soldiers (and later his students). Robert E. Lee recognized the value of people as individuals, and this is probably the most important take away lesson from the business aspect of this book: people count, and individuals matter. *Vincit qui se Vincit*. Loosely translated from the Latin, "he conquers who (first) conquers himself." Lee's remarkable capacity for self-control was legendary and a direct reflection of his personal and spiritual convictions. What impressed me the most about Lee was his ability to motivate those around him to accomplish and achieve more than they ever thought possible. I believe Lee to be unique among military leaders in the sense that, aside from his genius as a tactician, his remarkable battlefield successes were many times attributable to loyalty, devotion, and respect on the part of

his soldiers with regard to his person. Lee was a motivator and an inspirational leader par excellence. Surprisingly, one of Lee's greatest achievements in life came after the war. As the newly elected president of Washington college, he helped transform a small backwater Virginia institution into one of the most prestigious private Universities in the nation (Washington & Lee University). I thoroughly enjoyed this book and believe there are yet a great many lessons yet to be learned from the 'Wily Grey Fox.' I highly recommend this motivational study to any student of American history or any person curious about one of our nations greatest leaders and noblest souls.

I ordered this book for my retired father per his request. Since the title includes the word "leadership", and I imagine is usually ordered by someone in business, I asked him why he wanted this book. He said " I am a father of 8 and a grandfather to 18 so I am a leader everyday." He wanted to read the book and then share with his children who are parents and "leaders" everyday in their own homes. Such wisdom! So, I was inspired to read it for myself as a business manager and was very impressed with Mr Lee's extensive experience and his wisdom, which transcends time and is as applicable today as it was over 100 years ago. Good read.

Read this book several years ago and still refer to it frequently. Most recently, our Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp has included this book in our presentations of the H.L. Hunley Award to outstanding Junior ROTC cadets in our area. General Lee was an extraordinary military commander, inspirational leader, and an amazing example of personal character, discipline, and commitment. The scenarios and depictions of handling difficult problems and making sound decisions under stressful conditions are an excellent guide for leaders and managers at all levels.

I didn't know all that much about Lee until I started this book. It is a solid intro into his character and the example he set as a military figure and post Civil War. Some of the action items are elementary. Other are less so. All are generally easy to apply to all levels of leadership. One word of caution. Many of the chapters reference Lee's strong Christian faith. If that concerns you, you may want to look elsewhere.

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