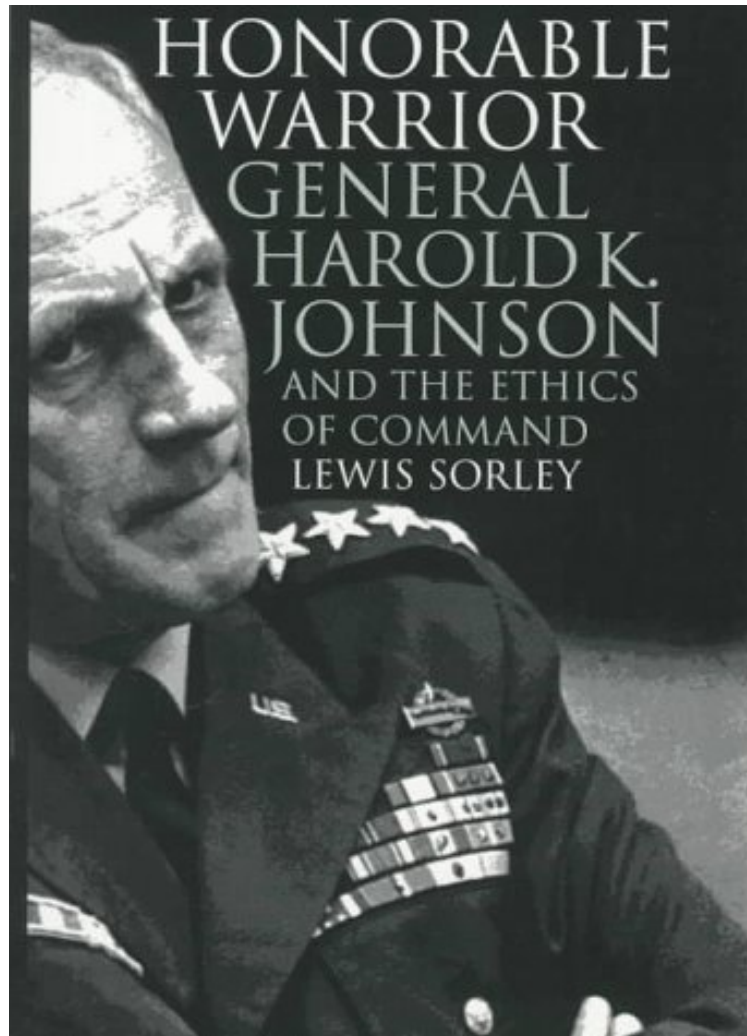


[Mobile library] Honorable Warrior: General Harold K. Johnson and the Ethics of Command (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))

Honorable Warrior: General Harold K. Johnson and the Ethics of Command (Modern War Studies (Hardcover))

Lewis Sorley

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Lewis Sorley : Honorable Warrior: General Harold K. Johnson and the Ethics of Command (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Honorable Warrior: General Harold K. Johnson and the Ethics of Command (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Superb study in Character and LeadershipBy CustomerLewis Sorley is a US Army and Vietnam War Veteran who has added greatly to our understanding of one of the finest General Officers of the Vietnam era, former Chief of Staff of the Army, Harold K. Johnson. A West Point graduate, General

Johnson served in the old "brown shoe army" reminiscent of "From Here to Eternity". He learned how to lead and to manage and direct in an efficient manner. As the operations officer of the Philippines Scouts, he saw Japan run forward and conquer the islands to include the fall of Bataan and his participation in the infamous Bataan Death March. Fortunate to survive, Johnson endures the Japanese "Hell Ships" of POWs being sent to Japan, Korea and Manchuria. Despite an offer to be given a "rest assignment" after release from captivity, Johnson rededicates himself to his profession and his family. His performance as a BN and Regimental Commander in Korea, set him on a path to earning the DSC and General Officer rank. He is given the plum assignment of Commandant of the CGSC in FTLW KS. This exposes him to the JCS and OSD and eventual election as a young Chief of Staff of the Army. Johnson does not like the way AMB, Maxwell Taylor, SECDEF McNamara and Gen. Westmoreland are running the Vietnam War. Ever the professional, he meets every challenge but works to get his Vice CSA, Creighton Abrams into MAC-V. LBJ also has a way of circumventing his JCS advice and Johnson a deeply moral and religious Man, contemplated resigning as CSA. Omar Bradley talks him out of it. A wonderful addition as a biography and a lesson in leadership and character. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Respected Career Officer Pointed Out Vietnam Strategy Flaws By JP MacA forgotten man in the history of the Vietnam War, General Harold K. Johnson served as U.S. Army Chief of Staff during the run-up to the war and fought against the ill-conceived policies behind it. A highly-decorated officer who had survived three brutal years as a Japanese prisoner, and served as a highly-decorated field commander in Korea, General Johnson saw the error in attempting to fight a war of attrition in Vietnam using draftees. He warned LBJ and Secretary of Defense McNamara that a failure to call up the reserves would result in cannibalizing the American Army in three years. As General Johnson predicted, men and equipment were stripped from Europe and other commands to feed the Vietnam beast. The American Army was transformed into a hollow shell. Told in a linear fashion, Lewis Sorley's narrative follows Johnson's life from rural North Dakota to West Point, through two wars and a grueling peace, to four-star rank. A worthwhile read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Biography of a major figure in LBJ's Prosecution of the Vietnam War. By John M. Cooper I got this biography after Westmoreland's. Sorley does a very thorough job. I never knew he had been a POW, and the coverage of this searing experience is excellent. The discussion of Gen. Johnson's many tactical, operational, and strategic difference with Westmoreland really fills in some gaps for me in my research.

A man of extraordinary inner strength and patriotic devotion, General Harold K. Johnson was a soldier's officer, loved by his men and admired by his peers for his leadership, courage, and moral convictions. Lewis Sorley's biography provides a fitting testament to this remarkable man and his dramatic rise from obscurity to become LBJ's Army Chief of Staff during the Vietnam War. A native of North Dakota, Johnson survived more than three grueling years as a POW under the Japanese during World War II before serving brilliantly as a field commander in the Korean War, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism." The latter experiences led to a series of high-level positions that culminated in his appointment as Army chief in 1964 and a cover story in Time magazine. What followed should have been the most rewarding period of Johnson's military career. Instead, it proved to be a nightmare, as he quickly became mired in the politics and ordeal of a very misguided war. Johnson fundamentally disagreed with the three men—LBJ, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, and General William Westmoreland—running our war in Vietnam. He was sharply critical of LBJ's piecemeal policy of gradual escalation and his failure to mobilize the national will or call up the reserves. He was equally despondent over Westmoreland's now infamous search-and-destroy tactics and reliance on body counts to measure success in Vietnam. By contrast, he advocated greater emphasis on cutting the North's supply lines, helping the South Vietnamese provide for their own internal defenses, and sustaining a truly legitimate government in the South. Unheeded, he nevertheless continued to work behind the scenes to correct the nation's flawed approach to the war. Sorley's study adds immeasurably to our understanding of the Vietnam War. It also provides an inspiring account of principled leadership at a time when the American military is seeking to recover the very kinds of moral values exemplified by Harold K. Johnson. As such, it presents a profound morality tale for our own era.

From Library Journal Sorley (Thunderbolt: General Creighton Abrams and the Army of His Times, Brassey's, 1988), who served in Vietnam as a commander of a tank battalion, follows Gen. Harold Johnson's career from the North Dakota plains to his service in World War II and the Korean War. Johnson distinguished himself during the war on the infamous Bataan death march and spent three years in a Japanese prison camp. His later experience in Korea made him well qualified to be army chief of staff in 1964. Unfortunately, Johnson disagreed with the administration's conduct of the Vietnam War almost from the beginning, advocating the use of long-range patrols and security for rear areas instead of General Westmoreland's "search and destroy" tactics and use of body counts to gauge success. Johnson's greatest ethical challenge came in supporting the war but working behind the scenes to avert disaster. Raising some ethical questions that only the reader will be able to answer, this well-researched and interesting book should appeal to subject specialists and all interested readers. A Mark E. Ellis, Albany State Univ., GA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This splendid and fascinating biography traces the career of an outstanding soldier

who had the terrible luck to make it to the top of his profession just as LBJ took over micro-management of the conflict in Vietnam. Recommended without reservation (and I'd like to see it made required reading for all future generals, who will find much to contemplate)."—Stephen E. Ambrose, author of *Undaunted Courage* and *Citizen Soldiers* "A significant contribution to our understanding of the Vietnam War and a timely commentary on military leadership, especially its moral dimensions. Harold Johnson very much exemplified the kind of moral leadership that all of the military services are trying to recapture today."—Colonel Harry G. Summers, Jr., author of *On Strategy* and editor of *Vietnam* magazine "A magnificent biography and compelling portrait of a courageous, devoted man. Full of enlightening new details concerning America's strategic approach to Vietnam, *Honorable Warrior* provides unique insight into the nature of civil-military relations at the highest level of American government."—H.R. McMaster, author of *Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam* "A brilliant work of heart and art about a bona fide American hero. I have never read a biography—including Douglas Southall Freeman's *Robert E. Lee*—that moved me so much."—General Bruce Palmer, Jr., author of *The Twenty-Five Year War: America's Military Role in Vietnam* "A superb book that deserves a wide readership."—Lieutenant General Dave R. Palmer, author of *Summons of the Trumpet*

From the Back Cover A man of extraordinary inner strength and patriotic devotion, General Harold K. Johnson was a soldier's officer, loved by his men and admired by his peers for his leadership, courage, and moral convictions. Lewis Sorley's biography provides a fitting testament to this remarkable man, who rose from obscurity to become LBJ's Army Chief of Staff during the Vietnam War. A native of North Dakota, Johnson survived more than three grueling years as a POW under the Japanese during World War II before serving brilliantly as a field commander in the Korean War, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism". These experiences led to a series of high-level positions culminating in his appointment as Army chief in 1964. Johnson fundamentally disagreed with the three men running our war in Vietnam: LBJ, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, and General William Westmoreland. He was sharply critical of LBJ's piecemeal policy of gradual escalation and failure to mobilize the national will or call up the reserves. He was equally despondent over Westmoreland's now infamous search-and-destroy tactics and reliance on body counts to measure success in Vietnam.