



## The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941–1942

By Nigel Hamilton

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The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941–1942 By Nigel Hamilton

*Longlisted for the National Book Award*

**“This bold argument . . . will undoubtedly change the way we see Franklin Roosevelt.”**

—*Christian Science Monitor*

**“Masterly.”**

—*Wall Street Journal*

**A dramatic, eye-opening account of how FDR took personal charge of the military direction of World War II**

Based on years of archival research and interviews with the last surviving Roosevelt aides and family members, *The Mantle of Command* offers a radical new perspective on Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s masterful — and underappreciated — leadership of the Allied war effort. After the disaster of Pearl Harbor, we see Roosevelt devising a global strategy that will defeat Hitler and the Japanese, rescue Churchill and the British people, and quell a near insurrection of his own American generals and War Department. All the while, Hamilton’s account drives toward Operation Torch — the invasion of French Northwest Africa — and the outcome of the war hangs in the balance. *The Mantle of Command* is an intimate, sweeping look at a great President in history’s greatest conflict.

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## The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941–1942 By Nigel Hamilton Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

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A popular biographer of various twentieth-century leaders, Hamilton here addresses a seemingly exhausted subject. Not so, he avers. FDR's leadership as commander-in-chief is a space Hamilton offers to fill with this work. The first of two projected volumes, it chronologically extends from FDR's August 1941 meeting with Churchill to the November 1942 Allied landings in French North Africa. Thematically, Hamilton depicts FDR's assertion of his authority over American army and navy chiefs and, increasingly over time, Churchill. Palpably gleeful when pinpointing unflattering episodes these figures omitted from their memoirs, Hamilton is tantamount to the amanuensis for the memoir FDR never wrote. The portrait that emerges is complimentary and praises FDR as a strategist superior both to fellow Allies and to Axis enemies. He insisted MacArthur fight in the Philippines, he rejected British requests to defend India, he refuted his military officers' proposals to invade France and to concentrate on Japan, and he ordered them to carry out Operation Torch, the North African invasion. Well researched and confident in its conclusions, Hamilton's study ably augments the gallery of WWII leaders. --Gilbert Taylor

Review

*"The Mantle of Command is splendid: It's the memoir Roosevelt didn't get to write."*

—*New York Times Book Review*

*"Masterly."*

—*Wall Street Journal*

*"A definitive volume on this aspect of Roosevelt's career and essential reading for anyone interested in WWII, the Roosevelt Presidency, and presidential leadership."*

—*Publishers Weekly*

*"This convincingly written and gripping volume is essential for historians, political scientists, and history buffs, for a deeper understanding of the principle of civilian supremacy of the military in the U.S. political system."*

—*Library Journal*, STARRED

*"A deeply engrossing study of the first year of Franklin Roosevelt's prescient military leadership in World War II...Lively, elucidating, elegant and highly knowledgeable."*

—*Kirkus*, STARRED

*"Hamilton is tantamount to the amanuensis for the memoir FDR never wrote...well researched and confident in its conclusions, Hamilton's study ably augments the gallery of WWII leaders."*

—*Booklist*

*"Nigel Hamilton's Mantle of Command is a stirring and noteworthy book about Roosevelt's crucial role as commander-in-chief during World War II. Hamilton writes with insight, passion, and a great grasp of history. I believe this book will become the standard by which other books about FDR's role in World War II will be measured."*

—Carlo D'Este, author of *Patton: A Genius for War* and *Warlord: A Life of Churchill at War, 1874–1945*

“This is not the Roosevelt (or Churchill) you’d expect. From the start, an aggressive, in-charge FDR emerges from a wonderful weaving of established scholarship and the fascinating bits and pieces that make history live. Churchill is an inspirational nag, with a busy, unfocused strategic vision. A key entry into the ongoing debate over who made grand strategy in the early war years — Roosevelt or Churchill?”

—Warren F. Kimball, author of *Forged in War: Roosevelt, Churchill, and the Second World War*

“Nigel Hamilton in *Mantle of Command* presents a very different wartime Franklin Delano Roosevelt than the one we are used to seeing. Whether or not one agrees with all his conclusions, Hamilton clearly shows that FDR was an extremely strong and effective commander-in-chief. This volume should go a long way to dispelling popular myths about Roosevelt as a naïve and weak war leader.”

—Mark Stoler, editor of the George C. Marshall Papers & Professor Emeritus of History, University of Vermont

“Nigel Hamilton has written a spirited and thoughtful ‘revisionist’ study of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as commander-in-chief during the first phase of U.S. involvement in the Second World War. Hamilton’s narrative skill brings alive the human dramas, logistic hurdles, and strategic debates to show how FDR’s indispensable drive and forward-looking leadership tamed his own ‘team of rivals’ and set the United States and its Allies on the road to victory over the Axis. The book enlivens the often murky worlds of bureaucratic struggle and military detail to demonstrate how important it was for the United States to ‘get it right’ early in the war and how FDR accomplished this.”

—Michael Schaller, author of *Douglas MacArthur* & Regents Professor of History, University of Arizona

From the Inside Flap

## **A dramatic, eye-opening account of how FDR took personal charge of the military direction of World War II**

Based on years of archival research and interviews with the last surviving Roosevelt aides and family members, *The Mantle of Command* offers a definitive account of Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s masterful — and underappreciated — leadership of the Allied war effort. Nigel Hamilton brings readers inside FDR’s White House Oval Study — his personal command center — and inside the meetings where he battled with Churchill about strategy and tactics and overrode the near mutinies of his own generals and secretary of war. Time and again FDR was proven right and his allies and generals were wrong. When the generals wanted to attack the Nazi-fortified coast of France, FDR knew the Allied forces weren’t ready. When Churchill insisted that his Far East colonies were loyal and would resist the Japanese, Roosevelt knew it was a fantasy. As Hamilton’s account reaches its climax with the Torch landings in North Africa in late 1942, the tide of war turns in the Allies’ favor and FDR’s genius for psychology and military affairs is clear. This intimate, sweeping look at a great president in history’s greatest conflict is essential reading.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Benita Eldridge:**

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or read a book called *The Mantle of*

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**Samuel Potter:**

The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941–1942 can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941–1942 however doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily drawn you into new stage of crucial imagining.

**Jennifer Bedard:**

With this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of many books in the top checklist in your reading list is usually The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941–1942. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking way up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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