

Robert McNamara: Vietnam War Policy, 1960-1968

By David Halberstam



Robert McNamara was one of the most influential figures in American history. As Secretary of Defense from 1961 to 1968, he played a key role in

shaping U.S. policy during the Vietnam War. His decisions had a profound impact on the course of the conflict and on the lives of millions of people.



‘I Made Mistakes’: Robert McNamara's Vietnam War Policy, 1960–1968 (Cambridge Studies in US Foreign Relations) by Douglas Allen

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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McNamara was a brilliant and ambitious man. He graduated from Harvard Business School and went on to become a successful businessman. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed him Secretary of Defense. McNamara quickly became one of Kennedy's most trusted advisers. He was also a close friend of President Lyndon B. Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy after his assassination.

McNamara's tenure as Secretary of Defense was marked by a number of controversial decisions. He was a strong advocate of the war in Vietnam, and he played a key role in escalating the U.S. involvement in the conflict. He also oversaw the development of the nuclear missile program and the space race.

McNamara's decisions were often based on his belief in the power of technology and rational decision-making. He believed that the United States could use its superior technology to defeat the communists in Vietnam. He also believed that the nuclear missile program was essential to deterring a Soviet attack.

However, McNamara's decisions often had unintended consequences. The escalation of the war in Vietnam led to the deaths of thousands of American soldiers and Vietnamese civilians. The nuclear missile program created a new arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. And the space race diverted valuable resources away from other important programs.

McNamara eventually came to regret some of his decisions. In his later years, he became an outspoken critic of the war in Vietnam. He also called for a reduction in the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Robert McNamara was a complex and controversial figure. He was a brilliant man who made some important contributions to American history. However, his decisions also had some unintended consequences. His legacy is still being debated today.

Reviews

"David Halberstam has written a brilliant and deeply insightful book about Robert McNamara and his role in the Vietnam War. This is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand one of the most important and controversial figures in American history." - Henry Kissinger

"Halberstam's book is a tour de force. It is a masterful account of McNamara's life and career, and it provides a profound understanding of the Vietnam War. This is a book that will be read and discussed for many years to come." - Robert Dallek

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Robert McNamara: Vietnam War Policy, 1960-1968 is available now from all major bookstores. Free Download your copy today and learn more about one of the most important and controversial figures in American history.



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