



# **Brothers, Rivals, Victors: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley and the Partnership that Drove the Allied Conquest in Europe**

*Jonathan W. Jordan*

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## **Brothers, Rivals, Victors: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley and the Partnership that Drove the Allied Conquest in Europe** Jonathan W. Jordan

**The true story of the friendship-and rivalry-among the greatest American generals of World War II.**

Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower, General George S. Patton, and General Omar N. Bradley engineered the Allied conquest that shattered Hitler's hold over Europe. But they also shared an intricate web of relationships going back decades. In the cauldron of World War II, they found their prewar friendships complicated by shifting allegiances, jealousy, insecurity, patriotism, and ambition.

Meticulously researched and vividly written, Jonathan W. Jordan's *Brothers Rivals, Victors* recounts the battle for Europe through the eyes of these three legendary generals who fought to liberate two continents. For the first time in such detail, the bonds between these battle captains are explored, and readers are treated to a rare insider's view of life at the summit of raw, violent power. Throughout three years of hard, bloody warfare, Eisenhower, the Alliance's great diplomat, sought victory in the fighting qualities and tactical genius of his most trusted subordinates, Bradley and Patton. Bradley and Patton, in turn, owed their careers to Eisenhower, who protected them from the slings and arrows of politicians, rival generals, their allies, and the U.S. Navy. The twin pillars of their working relationships were duty and trust. Yet their friendship, so genuine and unalloyed before the war, would be put to the ultimate test as life-and-death decisions were thrust upon them, and honor and duty conflicted with personal loyalty.

*Brothers Rivals Victors* is drawn from the candid accounts of its main characters, and strips away much of the public image of "Ike" (Eisenhower), the "G.I.'s General" (Bradley), and "Old Blood and Guts" (Patton) to reveal the men lurking beneath the legend. Adding richness to this insider's story are the words and observations of a supporting cast of generals, staff officers, secretaries, aides, politicians, and wives, whose close proximity to Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton in times of stress and tranquility are brought together to produce a uniquely intimate account of a relationship that influenced a war. The story of how these three great strategists pulled together to wage the deadliest conflict in history, despite their differences and rivalries, is marvelously told in this eye-opening narrative, sure to become a classic of military history.

## **Brothers, Rivals, Victors: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley and the Partnership that Drove the Allied Conquest in Europe Details**

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# **From Reader Review Brothers, Rivals, Victors: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley and the Partnership that Drove the Allied Conquest in Europe for online ebook**

**Josh Yager says**

Complicated relationship of Eisenhower, Patton and Bradley

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**Mal Clough says**

extremely readable and fast paced history of the three leading military leaders during ww2 in europe.

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**Doreen Petersen says**

Outstanding book focusing on the relationships between Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton. Each having a unique personality and drive that contributed to the success of the Allies. A definite must read!!

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**Scott Smith says**

Here is my latest review from the Kenosha News - Off the Shelf reviews page published on 8/5/12.

Award-winning author Jonathan Jordan has conducted meticulous research and goes into incredible detail to bring together the intertwining lives of three of World War II's most interesting and storied commanders; Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley and George Patton.

Using their personal correspondence and diaries as well as observations of those who worked with each of them, for the first time we see in vivid detail the relationships between these three legendary fighting men and the intricate web of their relationships going back decades. We are brought into the complicated shifting allegiances, jealousy, insecurity, and ambition each of them shared, showcasing the personal side of life at the summit of raw, violent power during World War II from which the outcome was so uncertain.

We know through history that Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower, General George S. Patton, and General Omar N. Bradley engineered the Allied conquest that shattered Hitler's hold over Europe. Individually we have heard recounts the battle for Europe through the eyes of these three legendary generals who fought to liberate two continents. What this book explores is the behind the scenes never before explored history of their relationships.

Brothers Rivals,Victors draws from the candid accounts of its main characters, and strips away much of their public image to reveal the men lurking beneath the legends. Adding to this insider's story are the words and observations of a supporting cast of generals, staff officers, secretaries, aides, politicians, and wives, whose close proximity to Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton in times of stress and tranquility are brought together to produce a uniquely intimate account of a relationship that influenced a war. We are treated to a rare insider's view of life at the highest level of power in warfare. Throughout three years, we see Eisenhower as the Alliance's great mediator. A man who sought victory in the fighting qualities and tactical genius of his most

trusted subordinates. We see in their past the contrast between the three men; the poor, low-key Bradley, the rich arrogant Patton and the young dreamer and consummate diplomat Eisenhower who in spite of their differences were brought together by the things they had in common; West Point alumni, ambition to succeed as officers in the U.S. Army and their frustration at the post-WWI military. We see how Bradley and Patton owed their careers to Eisenhower and how he ultimately protected them from the slings and arrows of politicians, rival generals and their allies. The pillars of their working relationships were duty and trust. Yet their genuine friendship before the war would be put to the ultimate test as life-and-death decisions were thrust upon them, when honor and duty conflicted with personal loyalty.

The story of how these three great strategists pulled together to wage the deadliest conflict in history, despite their differences and rivalries, is marvelously told in this eye-opening narrative, sure to become a classic of military history.

Here are some companion books available at the Kenosha Public Library that explore the men as individuals.

A great deal has been written about Gen. George S. Patton but two of the more interesting books have been written by his grandsons. *The Patton's: A Personal History of an American Family* by noted author Robert H. Patton explores the general's childhood, family and genealogy and how it shaped his leadership qualities. *Growing Up Patton: Reflections on Heroes, History and Family Wisdom* by documentary film maker Benjamin Patton looks into the legacy he left behind and the son who met, and in his own toned-down way, even surpassed the legend of his father.

In sharp contrast very little has been written about one of the most beloved and low-key Generals of WWII. However, a recent book *Bradley* by Alan Axelrod, of course focuses on Bradley's WW II command, but also the little known areas he had such an impact on such as; his creation of the Officer Candidate School system, as a five-star general head of the what was, up until his arrival, a corrupt and mismanaged Veterans Administration, his post as U.S. Army chief of staff and the first ever Joint Chief of Staff and head of NATO.

*Eisenhower: In War and Peace* by Jean Edward Smith is a reveling and highly detailed look at the former president from all aspects and changes in his life from his childhood in Kansas, as a West Point cadet, into his role as Supreme Commander in WWII and into his campaign and subsequent presidency.

For anyone interested in World War II history and the men who commanded those brave men into battle, these books are a must read.

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## **Maurits van Rees says**

A gripping biography (triography?). A well written and extensive characterization, with as main story line the most important military events in the West. The events influence the characters, but the characters influence the events more.

Patton: colorful, outspoken. Brilliant and fast in hunting the enemy and making the best of a tactical advantage. Known for his profanity ("Nuts" was about the only swear word I did \*not\* use,) but really the most friendly of the three. More a loner, writing lots in his diary. Showman. A quiet, boring period means he will get himself and his superiors in trouble because of his big mouth and foolish actions. Thinks he is the best general: the others are too careful and scared, and Ike listens too much to the English. I would have liked to see what would have happened if Patton had been the supreme commander. Probably the Americans would have been in Berlin in October 1944, but it would have been without the scandalized English, and they would have been fighting the Soviets.

Bradley: quiet, calm figure. Does not pull attention to himself. On Sicily he is frustrated with his direct boss, the unguided missile Patton. In France, with the loyal Patton serving under him, it is better. There they form one front against their biggest enemies: Montgomery and his lackey Ike, who constantly steal troops. Brilliant strategist and leader of an army group, whom Ike could trust blindly.

Eisenhower: forced into a more political role in the background as supreme commander. Most alive when at the front among soldiers. Hard worker, short sleeper. Constantly waiting for the next Patton stupidity. Constantly defending the unfathomable but almost indispensable Patton and championing the shortchanged Bradley who he thought was better, more all-round general than Patton.

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### **Chad Foster says**

If you are familiar with the history of WW II, you won't find much new information here. However, the author comes at the history from the angle of the relationships between these three central figures. He explores how these relationships shaped some of the most momentous decisions of the war. What is striking about this narrative is how the strengths and weaknesses of each leader played off those of the others - in some cases, the result was incredible success. In others, increased tension and misunderstanding were the outcomes. The great attributes and deep imperfections of each general are on display for all to see.

A very interesting thought is to consider this three-way dynamic from the perspective of professional legacy. How have the influences of these three towering figures lived on in the military profession? In some ways, it is arguable that the worst attributes of each man persist more strongly than their best: Self-promotion and a tendency to boot-lick, intense conservatism that results in a sharp preference for by-the-book methods and a distrust of anything outside the comfortable confines of dogmatic orthodoxy, and an almost pathological need for consensus even in the face of the most difficult and divisive questions. Today, many argue that our most senior leaders have formed an exclusive club where only the most conformist of "company men" are allowed to enter and rabid self-serving and bureaucratic maneuvering hide under a thin veil of meekness and professions of teamwork.

Another interesting thing that this book inspires is reflection on the role of loyalty in leadership, especially the question of loyalty to individuals versus loyalty to one's professional duty. Of all three individuals, it seems that Eisenhower managed this best, although both Bradley and Patton also did well. Patton's loyalty was, not surprisingly, much more personal in nature.

Overall, I rate this book very high. For someone new to the study of WW II and these generals, it is an excellent place to begin. Just the right depth to have strong substance but not going so far that it would overwhelm the reader with monotonous tactical detail. For experienced students of these topics, this book will give you reason to think about them from different perspectives.

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### **Sam says**

These three generals (two of them made 5 stars, and one 4 stars), knew each other for decades, all of them graduating from West Point, all of them serving during WWI, and, interestingly, all of them at one point or another, swapping seniority amongst themselves. The book goes into great detail regarding the lives of Eisenhower, Bradley, and Patton; where they came from, their modest (except for Patton...born with a silver

spoon in his mouth) beginnings, through their many years of Army life, where promotions were scarce, serving together at times, and then ultimately thrown together to start the great crusade that freed Europe from the Nazis. Jordan discusses how they felt about each other, digging up information from diaries, letters, and official papers. Eisenhower, for instance, thought Bradley a weak leader, and Patton almost more trouble than he was worth, although, he also knew that Patton was not only just about the best tank commander in Europe, certainly he was a fighter. Bradley wanted no part of Patton, after Sicily, but Eisenhower saddled him with Patton and, as a result, started winning victory after victory. Bradley also felt that Eisenhower kissed the butts of the British too much, at the expense of the war effort. Patton, had no use for either Eisenhower (he also felt that Ike was "too British"), and referred to Bradley as "Omar the tent maker." Regardless of how they felt towards each other, all three of them had a deep hatred for the British General Montgomery, who they felt wanted nothing except resources, glory, and not to fight. If someone's a WW II aficionado, I highly recommend this book.

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### **Jaime Hay says**

For history, this was really good! I don't consider myself a history buff, and if this wasn't a lucky draw, I don't know what is! I have to say of anything I could have read about World War II this book was most definitely the perfect choice.

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### **Eric says**

An excellent book, tying three of our most well-known World War II European theater commanders together and showing how they related to each other and worked together.

Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley were West Point classmates in 1915 ("the class the stars fell on") and Eisenhower and Patton became close friends right after World War I, in 1919. Then, Patton outranked Eisenhower and was mentor to the younger officer. Twenty-four years later, Eisenhower was Patton's senior and pulled him out of several messes of Patton's creation because he needed his old friend in the hard fighting ahead.

Many may think that Allied commanders worked easily together toward the common goal of victory, but that is not the case and author Jonathan Jordan shows us what these senior generals thought of each other and other generals. Their private thoughts were not always flattering towards one another.

Jordan also points out how close Ike came to quitting as Supreme Allied Commander over his disagreements with British Gen. Bernard Montgomery and his referee duties with the squabbles of other generals.

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### **Randy says**

Excellent insight to these three heroes of World War II --Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton. Explains the relationship and history of the three. Begins with a history and bio of each then follows a detailed cross section of each career and their relationship throughout WW II. The author has extensive account of notes, memos and letters surrounding the battles and incidents of the War. I gained an appreciation for some of their challenges and their interactions. At times they admired each other, at other times held each other in disdain. The politics of the Army and the war are something I never had a feel for until now. This book also highlights the major campaigns of the War in Europe and how each general dealt with the planning, the execution and the immediate aftermath of the war. The book had a good mix of details, general war plans

and maps and provided a very good history lesson on how the war in Europe was won. And it explained their individual and collective roles. Great book and one worth reading.

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### **Tom says**

Wow! 5 stars just like Eisenhower. A few points 1] Ike might not have known it but he was emulating A. Lincoln when he created a team of quarreling allies as Lincoln did and Goodwin described in "Team of Rivals". Perhaps an aspect of leadership that is often absent these days is the ability to partner with/hire someone who is going to disagree with you, 2] Men viewed as heroes to these soldiers were Grant, Sherman, Longstreet, Stonewall Jackson, James Longstreet ("Hit hard when you start, but don't start until you have everything ready."). What these men knew, and what they learned from prior wars was reflected in Longstreet's quote. If you're going to fight, then fight. War is about killing, like it or not. If you're getting in, get in to win. 3] Montgomery was a jerk, reminded me of the ineffectual McClellan in the Civil War, wait, ask for more troops, wait some more . . . sheesh! 4] We need warriors like Patton, even with all his faults. He died a tragic death.

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### **'Aussie Rick' says**

I have just finished reading *Brothers Rivals Victors* and what a marvellous read it was. I finished the book having really enjoyed the travel through history with three of America's greatest soldiers; Dwight D. Eisenhower, General George S. Patton, and General Omar N. Bradley.

The book does not provide an in-depth military account of the campaigns and battles that these three men fought during the Second World War. What the author does provide is an interesting, and at times funny account of the battles these men fought with each other, their British allies and the forces of the Axis nations. I really loved the author's style of writing, the book was easy to read and at times I didn't want to put it down and turn the light out for some much needed sleep.

The book tells the story of how Eisenhower, Patton, and Bradley developed into a war winning team, although their relationships were full of jealousy, insecurity, and ambition. I liked the author's use of private diaries and letters to tell the story behind many of those famous incidents that occurred during the chequered career of Patton. I also enjoyed learning more about General Omar N. Bradley, a man that I had not read much about previously.

I think this book would interest anyone who enjoys a well written and fast paced book covering the lives of three great American soldiers. Overall a very decent account and well worth the time to pick up and read.

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### **Dan Chance says**

9/26/12 [update - continued] Brad knew that his profession asked him to put men in harms way but he never liked doing it. He was good in any job to which he was assigned, training, administration, whatever. The first opportunity for all of them to work together was in the Tunisian operation in North Africa. Ike had



difficulty in restraining conflicts between allied units. Patton had barely managed to restrain himself from taking the bit in his teeth and teaching the British what they ought to be doing. Brad... just always did a great job even if he didn't like it...like delivering bad news to a friend.

Patton experienced personal loss when his personal aid Dick Jensen was killed in a Nazi air raid, and despite a period of serious strain in British-US relations, it did work out to better air cover from British planes for US troops....more to follow.

9/28/12 [update - continued] Palermo. Patton sometimes ignored orders from British General Alexander but made such great progress that his disobedience was overlooked. Brad wasn't getting much action but it was beginning to improve as he was given an objective up near Messina. Anything was better than the painful hemorrhoids with which he had begun the campaign.

9/30/12 No one knew but the Brits's assignment of Gold - Sword beaches was a cream puff whereas the American Beaches of Utah and Omaha would become a blood bath. Patton was finally invited to lead an invasion army under Brad. Brad wasn't happy to have the loudmouthed General in his command.

10/02/12 [update - continued] After all landings had been completed the allies still had operations on the beach for weeks or months as they unloaded supplies for moving inland and stacked them for later distribution. It was weeks before Bradley succeeded in getting out of the hedgerows and in the meantime called for Patton to activate Third Army and head east. Montgomery didn't want Patton there because he knew Patton would do a better job than Monty would do and thus get more media coverage, which he did, but he had better sense than to make any statements to the press. In getting out of the bocage (sp?) the allies had encompassed and captured several thousand German troops even though some escaped.

10/06/12 [update - continued] action being conducted by other armies such as Bradley's and Patton's. Eisenhower at times had to all-but-fire Monty, and probably would have but he was trying to use him as much as possible to keep the British happy. The 3rd army was advancing fast toward the east when the Germans hit Bradley's army with 17 armored divisions (pardon me if my military jargon is wrong) so Patton had to turn around and stop the Germans from doing any more damage. George was just happy to be 'killing krauts'. Once the bulge counteroffensive had been stopped (and Montgomery had been put in his place) Bradley and George set about crossing the Rhine River and pacifying central and southern Germany since Eisenhower had told them to let the Russians take Berlin. Eisenhower never got over seeing the true nature of Nazi brutality that he saw in the concentration camps and insisted on TOTAL DENAZIFICATION in their postwar administration of conquered territories.

Patton's death from injuries in a minor traffic accident that paralyzed him for months may have been the kindest end for a man that would not have been happy in a world of compromises and kissing asses required for peace.

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## **Barney says**

Yes, 672 pages. I blew through this book in three sittings. Jordan has a lot of experience in writing about all three of the above men, and he brings his expertise to bear in this book. My only complaint about this text is the overuse of phrases like "cut to the bone" and "pot boiled over"; this is a minor quibble of style, The substance in the book is fascinating

Here are ten things I liked about the book.

1. The author's use of diaries and personal communication. Ike, Bradley and Patton all come across a little differently in private, most of all Bradley. Ike and Patton had by 1941 been friends for going on 25 years. Bradley and Patton knew each other somewhat, Ike and Bradley were classmates at West Point but had not been together much in years. It is remarkable to see how their opinions and views of each other change throughout the war, and how pre-conceptions can work to undermine relationships.
2. The pacing of the book is excellent. It is difficult to weave one story together let alone three, and Jordan does this quite well.
3. Ike is not handled with kid gloves in this book. For a lot of Americans, he was the Conformity loving, golfing, avuncular bald man who was president before the guy with the haircut and Boston accent. Ike served as the Supreme Commander of Allied forces in Europe, and it is a job that NO ONE in their right mind would want. Ike said many times "If some other sonofabitch wants my job, he sure as hell can have it."
4. My favorite lines from Patton's diary:  
--"am amused at all the envy and hatred I wasted on him (General Mark Clark) and many others. Looking back, men seem less vile" June 1942 (158)  
-- "He (Bradley) fails to see war as a struggle, and not an educational course" March 1945 (488)
5. The relationship between Eisenhower and General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery is sort of like watching two high school girls fighting over a boy. They snipe, one smacks the other down, apologies are given, and then one writes in his diary "Ike has no competency for war or anything else. He has all the popular cries but no skill." (422). I disliked Montgomery before I read this book, and am now convinced he is one of the more overrated commanders of World War II.
6. Hell, Patton and Bradley are just as bad. At least Bradley didn't travel around wearing a silver helmet with ivory-handled pistols (Patton) or a chauffeur who most likely doubled as a mistress and who arranged for room on a ship for his ping pong table while Patton's tanks needed gas (Eisenhower).
7. SHAEF stands for Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force. For many GI's it stood for "Should Have Army Experience First".
8. Ike and Patton's debate over de-Nazification is short, but well done. Patton did not have a lot of time for Jews, Communists, Gypsies or Eastern Europeans...in short, everyone who "was rolled over by the Germans". (522)
9. More on Montgomery: Ike smoked like 700 packs of cigarettes a day (if you worked with these arrogant pricks you would also) and at one point during a strategy meeting in North Africa he asked "Who is smoking? There is no smoking when I am speaking." Like I said, what a dick. In 1944, as his offensive in the Low Countries floundered, Monty railed against Ike, his commands, Patton, Bradley, the Moon and blamed the weather, shortages, the Pope and Marlene Deitrich for his failures. Ike patted his knee and replied "Steady, Monty. You can't speak to me like that. I'm your boss." (398)
10. Bradley and Patton both labeled Monty as an SOB in their diaries. If there is a lot of Monty bashing going on, he deserves it. Of course, no one is perfect. Bradley is petty and sometimes judgmental, Ike is short tempered and Patton is a flaming egotist with a big mouth. But they did their jobs well.

Extra Point:

11. I cannot believe the pressure that Eisenhower was under from both sides. It is a wonder that the alliance

stayed in place; after reading this book, it is not out of the realm to argue that had anyone else been in charge, it would not have. This was an excellent read.

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### **Sam Honeycutt says**

The Best one volume study of the Generals that won the war in Fortress Europe and points south.

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