

## Boekbesprekings / Book Reviews

### **AMERICAN CAESAR: Douglas MacArthur, 1880-1964, by William Manchester. Little, Brown, 1978. 793p. R16,70.**

The narrative begins on a hilltop in Tennessee in 1863. It is Missionary Ridge where 18-year-old Lt Arthur MacArthur, the father of Douglas MacArthur, won the Medal of Honour. Arthur, who later became a Lieutenant General, was the driving spirit behind Douglas throughout his career.

The biography of Douglas MacArthur spans eight decades of American military history and describes the life of a man who served his country for 48 years (33 as a general officer); won 13 combat decorations for heroism (including the Medal of Honour and the Distinguished-Service Cross); and had reached the pinnacle (five-star rank) at his career's end.

Manchester, the gifted storyteller, presents MacArthur in all his many faceted glory, complexity and contradiction. MacArthur, as Manchester so ably puts it, '... was a great thundering paradox of a man, noble and ignoble, inspiring and outrageous, arrogant and shy, the

best of men and the worst of men . . . no more baffling soldier ever wore a uniform'.

The reader follows MacArthur from West Point where he graduated top of his class; the Philippines where he first came under fire; Vera Cruz where his daring raid caused him to be recommended for the Medal of Honour; World War I and his heroics in the AEF; West Point as superintendent; the Bataan retreat (WWII) and the landing at Inchon (Korean War) where he displayed his genius as a strategist. Finally back to West Point and that unforgettable farewell address to the corps of cadets.

Here then we have the life-story of a man whose whole life was the army and yet who at the end of it asserted, 'I am one hundred percent disbeliever in war'.

Highly readable with a magnificent array of photographs, this book is not only a biography but a study of command.

**Col V. C. Muller**

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### **CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES BY Roy C Macrides, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Winthrop, 1980.**

In 'Contemporary Political Ideologies' vind ons 'n geskrif van uitstaande gehalte oor politieke ideologieë deur prof Macrides, akademikus en outeur van gesaghebbende staatsleer werke. Sy strewre, nl om nie te ideologies te raak in sy besprekings nie, is wel deeglik bereik soos dadelik gesien kan word uit die sistematiese uiteensetting van die inhoud.

Sy analise vooraf onderstreep die verskil tussen filosofie, teorie en ideologie. By die totstandkoming van alle politieke bewegings en deurgaans by die bespreking van elke nuwe rigting, bring hy weer hierdie element van die belangrikheid van die menslike intellek na vore. Dit laat die student teen wil en dank met 'n groter respek vir en omsigtigheid in sy benadering tot so 'n lotsbeslissende vak soos die politiek. Soos hy tereg in die voorwoord die gees van die boek saamvat — 'Ideologies fashion our motivations, our attitudes and the political regimes under which we live. They shape our values. Theory and philosophy involve contemplation, organisation of ideas and whenever possible demonstration.'

*Prof. Macrides onderskei drie groepe politieke ideologieë, nl*

- a. Status quo ideologieë;
- b. Radikale en revolusionêre ideologieë;
- c. Hervormingsgerigte ideologieë

*en pas dan daarby die stelsels in 'n uiteensetting in, soos volg:*

#### **Deel 1: Demokrasie (regering deur die massa) — vertakkings en aanverwante rigtings.**

1. *Kontemporêre Demokrasie.* Bevat vier kern-konsepte van demokrasie nl gelykheid, vryheid van die individu, 'n regering gebaseer op die goedkeuring van die wat regeer word, beperkings op magte van die staat.

Die Achilles-heel van hierdie stelsel vat hy so saam: 'Democracy is a fragile system: it may collapse when political parties or social movements can successfully establish 'private armies' whose resort to violence, street fighting, bombings, the breaking up of their opponent's meetings, or simply intimidation — cannot be controlled by the elected authorities.'<sup>18</sup>