

Generals – Ten British Commanders who shaped the world by Mark Urban.  
Faber and Faber 2005.

As a former devotee of John Keegan, and an admirer of many other authorities on military history, I find myself now in a position, having completed *Generals* and having read *Rifles* and *The Man Who Broke Napoleon's Codes*, of according to Mark Urban the accolade of being my favourite military historian.

Urban writes incredibly well, as might be expected of a journalist with his pedigree, and in *Generals* he brings to life 10 major figures whom, in his view, altered history by their actions and thus changed the world. The *Generals* in question are: George Monck, John Churchill, William Howe, Frederick, Duke of York, Arthur Wellesley, Charles Gordon, Herbert Kitchener, Edmund Allenby, John Fuller and Bernard Montgomery. They cover a period from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, a time when the most significant events in the history of Britain as a nation and as a global power occurred.

Urban brings his generals to life in both their strengths and weaknesses, and writes with humour and an attention to detail; and in depicting their most significant military achievements he explains their place in history and justifies their inclusion in this book.

This is Mark Urban at his very best.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh