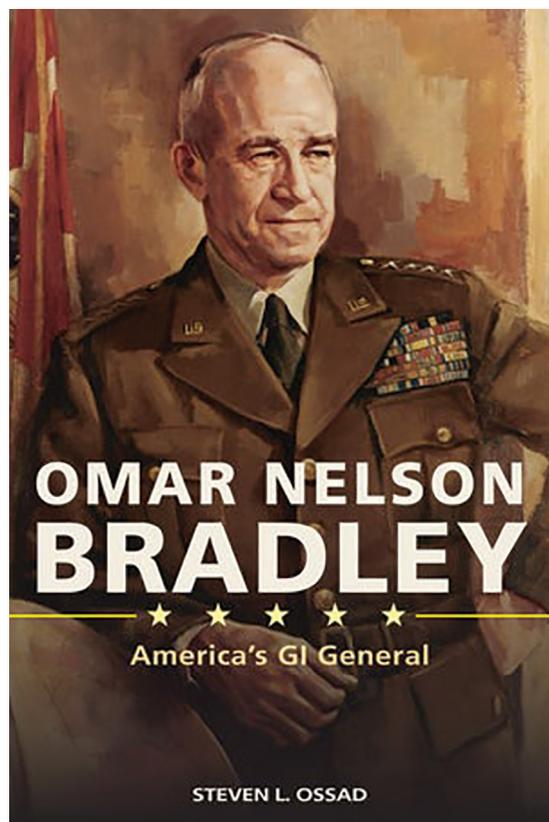


REVIEW ESSAY

Omar Nelson Bradley

America's GI General,
1893–1981

Steven L. Ossad,
University of Missouri Press,
Columbia, Missouri, 2017, 492 pages



Lt. Col. Rick Baillergeon, U.S. Army, Retired

“Always examined in comparison to fascinating figures above and below him, Omar Bradley has rarely been seen as interesting, compelling, or inherently valuable for study. Those who have written about him have strained to find synonyms for *quiet, shy, modest, steady, humble,* and *soft-spoken,* without resorting to the use of the words *dull, colorless, or slow.*”

The above passage is taken from Steven L. Ossad's superb biography *Omar Nelson Bradley: America's GI General, 1893–1981*. For many, Bradley is clearly known for his World War II leadership and service, although he has been overshadowed over the years by his contemporaries such as Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton. Ossad strives to bring Bradley back into the public consciousness with a book that readers will find highly readable and informative.

Before delving into the many virtues of Ossad's book, it is worthy to address why historians have generally strayed from Bradley as a biographical subject. First, as the review's initial quote highlights, historians do not view Bradley as a particularly intriguing or worthwhile subject to devote a book to. Consequently, many are more apt to put another Patton or Eisenhower biography on the market. Second, amongst most historians, there is a belief that Bradley's own personal memoirs (e.g., *A Soldier's Story* and *A General's Life*) have been more than sufficient to meet the public's interest over the years. Fortunately for readers, Ossad did not fall into any of the above categories.

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