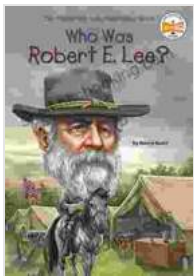


# Robert E. Lee: A Complex and Controversial Figure in American History

Robert E. Lee was a Confederate general during the American Civil War. He is considered one of the greatest military commanders in American history, and his tactics are still studied today. However, Lee's legacy is also complex and controversial, as he fought to preserve the institution of slavery.

Lee was born in Stratford Hall, Virginia, on January 19, 1807. His father, Henry Lee III, was a Revolutionary War hero and governor of Virginia. Lee's mother, Anne Hill Carter Lee, was the daughter of a wealthy planter. Lee grew up in a privileged environment, and he received a classical education at various private schools.



## Who Was Robert E. Lee? (Who Was?) by Jane Sutcliffe

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.8 out of 5  
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File size : 62735 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 112 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



In 1825, Lee entered the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated second in his class in 1829, and he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Lee served in the army for 32

years, and he fought in the Mexican-American War. In 1855, Lee was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and he became superintendent of West Point.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Lee resigned from the United States Army and joined the Confederate Army. He was appointed commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, and he led the Confederate forces to victory in several major battles, including the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. However, Lee was unable to defeat the Union Army, and he surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

After the war, Lee returned to Virginia and became president of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University). He died in Lexington, Virginia, on October 12, 1870.

Lee's legacy is complex and controversial. He is considered one of the greatest military commanders in American history, but he also fought to preserve the institution of slavery. Some people believe that Lee was a traitor, while others believe that he was a hero. Lee's legacy is still being debated today.

### **Lee's Military Career**

Lee was a brilliant military commander. He was a master of strategy and tactics, and he was able to motivate his troops to fight bravely. Lee's victories at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg are considered some of the greatest military achievements in American history.

However, Lee was also a controversial figure. He fought to preserve the institution of slavery, and he believed that the states had the right to secede from the Union. Lee's decision to join the Confederate Army made him a traitor in the eyes of many Americans.

## Lee's Legacy

Lee's legacy is complex and controversial. He is considered one of the greatest military commanders in American history, but he also fought to preserve the institution of slavery. Some people believe that Lee was a traitor, while others believe that he was a hero. Lee's legacy is still being debated today.

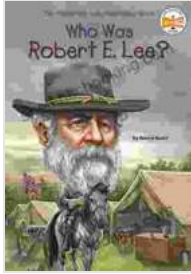
There are many different perspectives on Lee's legacy. Some people believe that he was a great military commander who was fighting for what he believed in. Others believe that he was a traitor who fought to preserve the institution of slavery. Still others believe that Lee was a complex figure who was both a great military commander and a flawed human being.

Ultimately, it is up to each individual to decide what they believe about Robert E. Lee. There is no easy answer, and there are many different perspectives on his legacy. However, it is important to remember that Lee was a complex figure who played a significant role in American history.

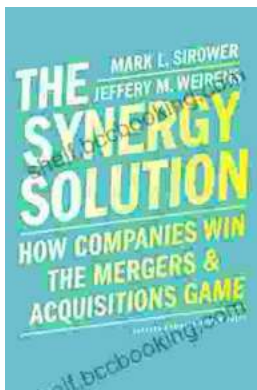
Robert E. Lee was a complex and controversial figure. He was a brilliant military commander, but he also fought to preserve the institution of slavery. Lee's legacy is still being debated today, but there is no doubt that he was one of the most important figures in American history.

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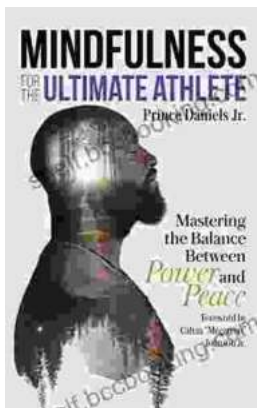


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