



Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia

By Michael Korda

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From Michael Korda, author of the *New York Times* bestselling Eisenhower biography *Ike* and the captivating Battle of Britain book *With Wings Like Eagles*, comes the critically-acclaimed definitive biography of T. E. Lawrence—the legendary British soldier, strategist, scholar, and adventurer whose exploits as “Lawrence of Arabia” created a legacy of mythic proportions in his own lifetime. Many know T.E. Lawrence from David Lean’s Oscar-winning 1962 biopic—based, itself, upon Lawrence’s autobiographical *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*—but in the tradition of modern biographers like John Meacham, David McCullough, and Barbara Leaming, Michael Korda’s penetrating new examination reveals new depth and character in the twentieth century’s quintessential English hero.

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Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia By Michael Korda Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Despite its grand, hagiographic title, one of *Hero*'s greatest strengths is its ability to represent Lawrence—"a scholar and warrior, an imperialist and supporter of Arab independence, a politician and rebel, a publicity seeker and recluse" (*New York Times Book Review*)—as a complex, multilayered figure. Korda gives a painstaking account of Lawrence's audacious exploits, extraordinary victories, and disheartening failures. He also dissects previous biographers' disagreements, confronts some of the most entrenched misconceptions surrounding Lawrence, and ultimately contributes to a greater understanding of Lawrence—no small feat given that nearly sixty biographies cover much the same ground. Though some critics objected to its length, Korda's extensive research, engaging prose, and fascinating subject will ensure that this newest biography receives a hero's welcome among readers.

From [Booklist](#)

The first 100 pages of this very lengthy biography of T. E. Lawrence will prove a trial for all readers other than military-history buffs. Once past that rocky start, however, the excessive detail of those interminable early pages becomes the rich substance of a sophisticated, rigorously pursued life-study by a distinguished editor and biographer. Lawrence—famously known as Lawrence of Arabia—has always been regarded as a vital leader, operating within the structure and goals of the British army, of the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire during WWI. In fact, as recalled and emphasized here, Lawrence emerged from the global conflict as the most renowned, and lasting, hero. He was an exceptional individual nearly from birth, with an early-born consciousness of his destiny as a hero. His cultivation of such awareness began during his schoolboy years, and he eventually showed his brilliance in military strategy, diplomacy, and politics. The map of the Middle East looks as it does today due in large part to Lawrence's nearly single-handed nation building in the area as a leading fighter for Arab independence and, later, at the postwar Paris Peace Conference. The author's fathoming of his subject's convoluted sexuality adds not prurience to the picture but a definite human dimension. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Heavy media promotion, including an online publicity campaign targeting history and book blogs, will bring this book to a wide, and widely curious, audience. --Brad Hooper

Review

"[A] beguiling biography. . . . Korda is at his best describing, after the heroics in the desert, the touching antiheroics of Lawrence's later life." (*New York Times Book Review*)

"An unexpectedly fresh, engagingly written biography that adds substantially to our understanding of this strange, contradictory, curiously admirable and compelling subject's life and contribution." (*Los Angeles Times*)

"In case you thought there was nothing left to say about T.E. Lawrence . . . along comes Michael Korda with *Hero*: brilliant, illuminating, un-putdownable, a masterpiece of biography about quite possibly the most fascinating and complex personality of the 20th century." (Christopher Buckley, author *Losing Mum and Pup*)

"The strength of *Hero* lies in its ability to analyze Lawrence's accomplishments and to add something meaningful to the larger body of Lawrence lore. . . . Mr. Korda writes with authority...Sagacious and valuable. . . . Most important, Mr. Korda makes himself a credible authority on some of the most egregious

misconceptions that surround Lawrence's story." (*New York Times*)

"The story of T.E. Lawrence's life is one well worth reading, particularly for its insights about the history of the Middle East." (*USA Today*)

"Michael Korda captures the indomitable, tormented spirit of this extraordinary man. . . . Well crafted and excellent in its depiction of T.E. Lawrence as a multi-dimensional figure. . . . A fine biography." (*Washington Post*)

"This magisterial biography of British soldier and adventurer T.E. Lawrence celebrates a life spent subverting authority in the most glamorous--and bizarre--ways. Korda's vivid portrait of Lawrence and his warring impulses captures the brilliance and charisma of this fascinating figure." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

"Michael Korda's new biography of Lawrence of Arabia is big-hearted and provocative—a page-turner that also helps us understand how the Middle East became the confused mess it is today. *Hero* is a magnificent achievement." (Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *The Last Stand*)

"A splendid biography about a most unusual and extraordinary individual." (Hugh Thomas, author of *The Spanish Civil War*)

"T.E. Lawrence is next to impossible to fix on the page. Yet Michael Korda has done so, delivering up a crowded, improbable life in a page-turning biography, every bit as rich as its protean subject. A splendid read." (Stacy Schiff, author of *Cleopatra: A Life*)

"Few come closer to appraising the man in all his protean grandeur, and essential mystery, than Michael Korda. . . . One of the most compelling books I have read in a long time." (Sir Alistair Horne, CBE, author of *A Savage War of Peace*)

"Much has been written about him, but no one has succeeded in illuminating the quintessential Lawrence of Arabia so profoundly and so well as Michael Korda. *Hero* is a work of brilliance, discernment and meticulous scholarship that surely will be hailed as the gold standard." (Henry A. Kissinger)

"Lawrence of Arabia, one of the great heroes of any age, has found the right biographer in Michael Korda--a keen judge of the human condition and a master story teller who can separate myth from reality without diminishing the grandeur of his subject." (Evan Thomas, author of *The War Lovers*)

"Comprehensive. . . . An accessible, textured story of one man who intimately knew the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." (Kirkus Reviews)

"*Hero* is a full-scale, major event, [and] a great biography. . . . The triumph of the book is Michael Korda's brilliant, always balanced portrait of the infinitely fascinating Lawrence of Arabia, the relevance of which, now in our time, is of greater importance than ever." (David McCullough)

"Michael Korda's magisterial and beautifully illustrated new book... is a stunningly good biography of one of the most famous, yet least understood heroes of the 20th century." (Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

"*Hero* is a portrait of Lawrence in all his complexity that is worth its 700-plus pages." (BookPage)

“Korda’s biography of Lawrence’s life and legend conjure up a pathos and a very human side to the mystique of Lawrence of Arabia.” (New York Journal of Books)

“[Korda] has redrawn the map, and reinvented T.E. Lawrence, coming closest to giving this elusive holograph in a white *dishdash* a pulse.” (Daily Beast)

“There couldn’t be a better time to brush up on the life and times of T.E. Lawrence. . . . Korda persuasively argues that had Lawrence’s vision for a Mideast peace prevailed after the war . . . that deeply troubled part of the world might be a far more peaceful, prosperous region than it is today.” (Associated Press)

“In *Hero*, Korda presents Lawrence’s life in minute, fascinating detail. . . . Korda’s extensive research and straightforward writing make this a valuable addition to the Lawrence library, a one-stop resource for all who are interested in this hero.” (Dallas News)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Beaudoin:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book titled *Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia*? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have some other opinion?

Christopher Hairston:

Often the book *Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia* will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book you just read, this book very suited to you. The book *Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia* is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Robert Defazio:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day long to reading a book. The book *Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia* it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

David Conover:

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