# U.S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth



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## **Reviews**

The book is fantastic and great. It is filled with wisdom and knowledge I am just easily will get a enjoyment of looking at a composed publication.

(Bradley Hahn)

## U.S. GRANT: AMERICAN HERO, AMERICAN MYTH



Audible Studios on Brilliance, United States, 2016. CD-Audio. Book Condition: New. Unabridged. 170 x 135 mm. Language: English . Brand New. At the time of his death, Ulysses S. Grant was the most famous person in America, considered by most citizens to be equal in stature to George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Yet today his monuments are rarely visited, his military reputation is overshadowed by that of Robert E. Lee, and his presidency is permanently mired at the bottom of historical rankings. In an insightful blend of biography and cultural history, Joan Waugh traces Grant's shifting national and international reputation, illuminating the role of memory in our understanding of American history. She captures a sense of what led 19th-century Americans to overlook Grant s obvious faults and hold him up as a critically important symbol of national reconciliation and unity. Waugh further shows that Grant's reputation and place in public memory closely parallel the rise and fall of the Northern version of the Civil War story, in which the United States was the clear, morally superior victor and Grant was the emblem of that victory. After the failure of Reconstruction, the dominant Union myths about the war gave way to a Southern version that emphasized a more sentimental remembrance of the honor and courage of both sides and ennobled the Lost Cause. By the 1920s, Grant s reputation had plummeted. Most Americans today are unaware of how revered Grant was in his lifetime. Joan Waugh uncovers the reasons behind the rise and fall of his renown, underscoring as well the fluctuating memory of the Civil War itself.



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