

100 greatest generals in history

The 100 Greatest Generals in History

Throughout history, countless military leaders have risen to prominence through their strategic brilliance, leadership qualities, and battlefield successes. These generals have shaped the fate of nations, altered the course of wars, and left an indelible mark on history. This article seeks to commemorate the 100 greatest generals whose legacies continue to inspire military strategists and historians alike.

Criteria for Selection

To compile this list of the greatest generals in history, several criteria were considered:

1. Strategic Acumen: The ability to devise and execute military strategies that led to significant victories.
2. Leadership: The capability to inspire and lead troops, fostering loyalty and morale among ranks.
3. Innovations in Warfare: Contributions to military tactics or technology that changed the nature of warfare.
4. Historical Impact: The influence of their campaigns on the course of history, politics, and society.
5. Longevity of Influence: The lasting legacy and continued relevance of their strategies in modern military thought.

The List of 100 Greatest Generals

1-10

1. Alexander the Great - Renowned for his unparalleled conquests and tactical genius, Alexander created one of the largest empires in history.
2. Genghis Khan - The founder of the Mongol Empire, Genghis Khan revolutionized warfare with his mobility and innovative strategies.
3. Hannibal Barca - Famous for his audacious crossing of the Alps, Hannibal's tactics at the Battle of Cannae are studied to this day.
4. Julius Caesar - A master of both military and political strategy, Caesar's campaigns in Gaul showcased his brilliance as a general.
5. Napoleon Bonaparte - Known for his strategic prowess and the Napoleonic Code, Napoleon changed the landscape of European warfare.
6. Sun Tzu - The ancient Chinese general and philosopher whose work "The Art of War" remains influential in military strategy.
7. Scipio Africanus - Defeated Hannibal at Zama, demonstrating exceptional military strategy and leadership.
8. Frederick the Great - The Prussian king known for his innovative tactics and military reforms during the Seven Years' War.
9. George Washington - The commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary

War, leading the colonies to independence.

10. Robert E. Lee - Renowned for his leadership during the American Civil War, particularly in battles such as Chancellorsville.

11-20

11. Wellington - Best known for defeating Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, he was a master of defensive warfare.

12. Hermann von Moltke the Elder - A German general credited with the success of Prussian forces during the Austro-Prussian War.

13. Tamerlane - A Central Asian conqueror known for his military genius and the vast empire he created.

14. Atilla the Hun - A formidable leader whose campaigns instilled fear across Europe and challenged the Roman Empire.

15. Saladin - The Muslim leader known for his role in the Crusades and his chivalrous conduct in warfare.

16. Cyrus the Great - The founder of the Persian Empire, known for his innovative approach to governance and warfare.

17. Philip II of Macedon - The father of Alexander the Great, he transformed Macedon into a dominant military power.

18. William Tecumseh Sherman - Famous for his "March to the Sea" during the American Civil War, employing total war tactics.

19. Ulysses S. Grant - Led the Union Army to victory in the American Civil War, known for his relentless pursuit of the enemy.

20. Erwin Rommel - The "Desert Fox" was noted for his leadership in North Africa during World War II.

21-30

21. Bernard Montgomery - A key British commander in WWII, known for his leadership during the Battle of El Alamein.

22. Andrew Jackson - A military hero for his victories in the War of 1812 and his role in various Indian Wars.

23. Gustavus Adolphus - The Swedish king known for his innovative military tactics during the Thirty Years' War.

24. Charles Martel - Famous for his victory at the Battle of Tours, halting the advance of Muslim forces into Europe.

25. Leonidas I - The Spartan king known for his heroic stand at the Battle of Thermopylae.

26. Oda Nobunaga - A Japanese daimyō who played a key role in unifying Japan during the Sengoku period.

27. Mikhail Kutuzov - The Russian general credited with defeating Napoleon during the French invasion of Russia.

28. James Wolfe - Known for his victory at the Battle of Quebec during the Seven Years' War.

29. Chandragupta Maurya - The founder of the Maurya Empire in ancient India, known for his military campaigns against the Nandas.

30. Alfred the Great - The Anglo-Saxon king who defended England against Viking invasions and reformed the military.

31-40

- 31. Boudica - The warrior queen who led a revolt against Roman rule in Britain, symbolizing resistance and bravery.
- 32. Nimitz - A key naval commander in the Pacific Theater during World War II, known for the victory at Midway.
- 33. Patton - A controversial yet brilliant commander known for his leadership of U.S. forces in Europe during WWII.
- 34. Cornelius Scipio - Roman general who defeated Hannibal and transformed Roman military tactics.
- 35. Mao Zedong - The leader of the Chinese Communist Party who used guerrilla warfare tactics to achieve victory.
- 36. George S. Patton - Known for his aggressive tactics and leadership in the European theater during WWII.
- 37. Admiral Horatio Nelson - A British naval commander who secured key victories during the Napoleonic Wars.
- 38. T.E. Lawrence - Known as "Lawrence of Arabia," he was instrumental in the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire.
- 39. Dwight D. Eisenhower - The Supreme Commander of Allied Forces during WWII, known for orchestrating D-Day.
- 40. Hannibal - His tactical brilliance at the Battle of Cannae is still studied in military academies around the world.

41-50

- 41. David Farragut - The first admiral in the U.S. Navy, noted for his victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay.
- 42. Bismarck - A Prussian statesman who was instrumental in unifying Germany through military and diplomatic means.
- 43. Moshe Dayan - An Israeli general known for his role in the Six-Day War and innovative military strategies.
- 44. Yamamoto Isoroku - The mastermind behind the attack on Pearl Harbor, a key figure in the Pacific Theater.
- 45. William the Conqueror - Successfully led the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, changing the course of English history.
- 46. Richard the Lionheart - A key figure in the Crusades, known for his military leadership and bravery.
- 47. Zhukov - A Soviet general credited with leading the Red Army to victory in several crucial battles during WWII.
- 48. Khalid ibn al-Walid - An early Islamic general known for his military tactics during the Rashidun Caliphate.
- 49. Ney - A French marshal known for his bravery and tactical skill during the Napoleonic Wars.
- 50. Laozi - Ancient Chinese philosopher and military strategist, though more mythical, his teachings influenced warfare.

51-60

- 51. Patrice de MacMahon - Noted for his military leadership during the Franco-Prussian War.
- 52. Horatio Gates - An American general during the Revolutionary War, credited with victory at the Battle of Saratoga.

- 53. Joan of Arc - A peasant girl who became a national heroine of France for her role in leading French forces during the Hundred Years' War.
- 54. Pizarro - Spanish conquistador who conquered the Incan Empire, showcasing military strategy and cunning.
- 55. Suleiman the Magnificent - Expanded the Ottoman Empire significantly and reformed its legal system.
- 56. Alfred von Schlieffen - Developed the Schlieffen Plan, which outlined Germany's military strategy in WWI.
- 57. William Marshal - A medieval knight and statesman, known for his military exploits and loyalty to the English crown.
- 58. John Paul Jones - A naval commander during the American Revolutionary War, famous for his daring raids against British supply lines.
- 59. Scipio Aemilianus - Noted for his role in the destruction of Carthage during the Third Punic War.
- 60. Shaka Zulu - The leader of the Zulu Kingdom, known for his military innovations and the unification of Zulu tribes.

61-70

- 61. Mao Zedong - An innovative military leader in the Chinese Civil War, using guerrilla tactics effectively.
- 62. Ferdinand Foch - A French general who

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is often regarded as the greatest general in history?

Many historians consider Alexander the Great to be the greatest general due to his undefeated record in battle and his ability to conquer vast territories.

What criteria are used to determine the greatest generals in history?

Criteria often include military strategy, leadership skills, battlefield success, innovation in warfare, and lasting impact on history.

Which general is known for his tactics during the Napoleonic Wars?

Napoleon Bonaparte is renowned for his innovative tactics and strategies that changed the face of warfare during the Napoleonic Wars.

How did Genghis Khan influence military strategy?

Genghis Khan is credited with revolutionizing military tactics through the use of mobility, psychological warfare, and advanced communication among troops.

What role did Hannibal Barca play in the Second Punic War?

Hannibal Barca is famous for his audacious crossing of the Alps and his tactical victories against Rome, including the Battle of Cannae.

Which general is known for creating the Macedonian phalanx?

Philip II of Macedon is credited with developing the Macedonian phalanx, a military formation that was pivotal to his son Alexander's conquests.

What was the significance of Julius Caesar's military campaigns?

Julius Caesar's campaigns, especially in Gaul, expanded Roman territory and showcased his military genius, leading to his rise in power.

Who was the commander of the Confederate Army during the American Civil War?

General Robert E. Lee was the commander of the Confederate Army, known for his leadership and tactical prowess, despite ultimately losing the war.

What impact did Sun Tzu's 'The Art of War' have on military strategy?

Sun Tzu's 'The Art of War' has had a profound influence on military strategy and philosophy, emphasizing the importance of strategy, flexibility, and intelligence.

Which World War II general is famous for his leadership in the Pacific Theater?

General Douglas MacArthur is well-known for his role in the Pacific Theater during World War II, including the liberation of the Philippines.

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