

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910953379903321
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Titolo	Commander of all Lincoln's armies : a life of General Henry W. Halleck / / John F. Marszalek
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, MA, : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2004
ISBN	9780674040649 0674040643
Descrizione fisica	ix, 324 p., [18] p. : ill., ports
Disciplina	973.7/41/092
Soggetti	Generals - United States United States History Civil War, 1861-1865 Biography United States History Civil War, 1861-1865 Campaigns
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [261]-307) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Prologue -- 1 Born to Gentility, Educated to Elitism -- 2 Army Engineer at Home and Abroad -- 3 War and Peace in California -- 4 From Soldier to Businessman -- 5 From Peace to War -- 6 Commander of the Western Theater -- 7 Supreme Commander -- 8 War by Washington Telegraph -- 9 The Western Generals Bring Success -- 10 Chief of Staff under Grant -- 11 From War to Peace -- Bibliographical Essay -- Abbreviations Used in the Notes -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Illustration Credits -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the summer of 1862, President Lincoln called General Henry W. Halleck to Washington, D.C., to take command of all Union armies in the death struggle against the Confederacy. For the next two turbulent years, Halleck was Lincoln's chief war advisor, the man the President deferred to in all military matters. Yet, despite the fact that he was commanding general far longer than his successor, Ulysses S. Grant, he is remembered only as a failed man, ignored by posterity. In the first comprehensive biography of Halleck, the prize-winning historian John F. Marszalek recreates the life of a man of enormous achievement who bungled his most important mission. When Lincoln summoned him to the nation's capital, Halleck boasted outstanding qualifications as a

military theorist, a legal scholar, a brave soldier, and a California entrepreneur. Yet in the thick of battle, he couldn't make essential decisions. Unable to produce victory for the Union forces, he saw his power become subsumed by Grant's emergent leadership, a loss that paved the way for Halleck's path to obscurity. Harnessing previously unused research, as well as the insights of modern medicine and psychology, Marszalek unearths the seeds of Halleck's fatal wartime indecisiveness in personality traits and health problems. In this brilliant dissection of a rich and disappointed life, we gain new understanding of how the key decisions of the Civil War were taken, as well as insight into the making of effective military leadership.
