

# A Review of Stephen A. Ambrose's, *To America*

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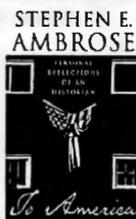
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*To America*  
-Personal Reflections of An Historian  
By Stephen E. Ambrose



Reviewed by Courtney E. Bowers

Stephen Ambrose was one of the best known and most loved historians of the twentieth century. He changed the study of history from the dry facts of a textbook into the engaging true story of human achievements and failures, and so brought this “boring” subject into the mainstream of popular enjoyment and discussion. *To America* was his final book; through it we finally get a look into the life and mind of this beloved storyteller.

As an historian, Ambrose struggled to find and present the truth in the clearest and most objective way possible. As a writer, he strove to make the facts come alive, to portray the humanity of their proponents. He discusses his reasons behind becoming an historian and the often arduous path to his success in a world where history is constantly being made. For the first time, he allows himself to color and interpret the facts from his own standpoint through a series of logical arguments based on his years of research and interviews. He presents many different arguments and then puts forth his own, explaining why he feels his takes to be worth merit. He also tells of his own encounters with history, from his beginnings as Eisenhower’s chosen biographer to his anti-war activities during Vietnam and his final major projects concerning the building of a World War II monument in New Orleans and his work on the movie/documentary *Band of Brothers*.

This book is ideal for any history buff, but can be thoroughly recommended to anyone regardless of their knowledge of or interest in the American story. Ambrose tells his own history with his characteristic good humor and wit and makes these 265 pages both extremely informative and entertaining. He allows his own flaws to be seen just as he presented the humanity of history’s characters in his many bestsellers. He brings into focus the importance of understanding our history and puts forth his hopes for the future. This final book could not be a better tribute to an outstanding historian and man.

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Category: Biography/Memoirs