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Command and Leadership Series

Charles de Gaulle

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Charles de Gaulle (1890–1970)

Introduction

Charles de Gaulle became President of France in 1944 when his country was still under German occupation. Born in Lille he earned a reputation for bravery during the fighting in World War One and also escaped capture by the Germans during this time. As Under Secretary for National Defence and War in France in 1940, he opposed France's truce with Germany and left for London to negotiate with the British Government. He spent most of World War Two in exile, as leader of the Free French forces in Britain.

Post-war, de Gaulle returned to France and was appointed President, however, he became disillusioned about policy and resigned and it was not until 1958 that he resumed leadership following the revolt in Algerian. During his presidency he made strong decisions both militarily and financially, including the use of troops and reform proposals to quell student uprisings in 1968. He wrote extensively and retired to write his memoirs before his death in 1970.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on de Gaulle. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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