

# HUBRIS ALISTAIR HORNE

Performed by James Adams

**S**ir Alistair Horne has been a close observer of war and history for more than fifty years, and in this wise and masterly work, he revisits six battles that changed the course of the twentieth century to reveal the one trait that links them all: hubris.

In Greek tragedy, hubris is excessive human pride that challenges the gods and ultimately leads to the total destruction of the offender. From the Battle of Tsushima in the Russo-Japanese War of 1905, to Hitler's 1941 bid to capture Moscow, to MacArthur's disastrous advance in Korea, to the French surrender at Dien Bien Phu, Horne shows how each of these battles was won or lost due to excessive hubris on one side or the other. In a sweeping narrative written with his trademark erudition and wit, Horne provides a meticulously detailed analysis of the ground maneuvers employed by the opposing armies in each battle and examines the strategies, leadership, preparation, and geopolitical goals of aggressors and defenders to show how devastating combinations of human ambition and arrogance led to overreach. Making clear the danger of hubris in warfare, his insights hold important, resonant lessons for civilian and military leaders navigating today's complex global landscape.

A dramatic, colorful, stylishly written history, *Hubris* is a brilliant and much-needed reflection on war from a master of his field.

**SIR ALISTAIR HORNE** is the author of over twenty books on history and politics. They include *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954–1962*, winner of the Wolfson Prize; *The Price of Glory: Verdun 1916*, winner of the Hawthornden Prize; *How Far from Austerlitz? Napoleon 1805–1815*; and *Seven Ages of Paris*. In 1969 he founded the Alistair Horne Fellowship to help young historians at St. Antony's College, Oxford. He was awarded the French Légion d'Honneur in 1993 and received a knighthood in 2003 for his work on French history. Horne and his artist wife, Sheelin, live in Oxfordshire, England.

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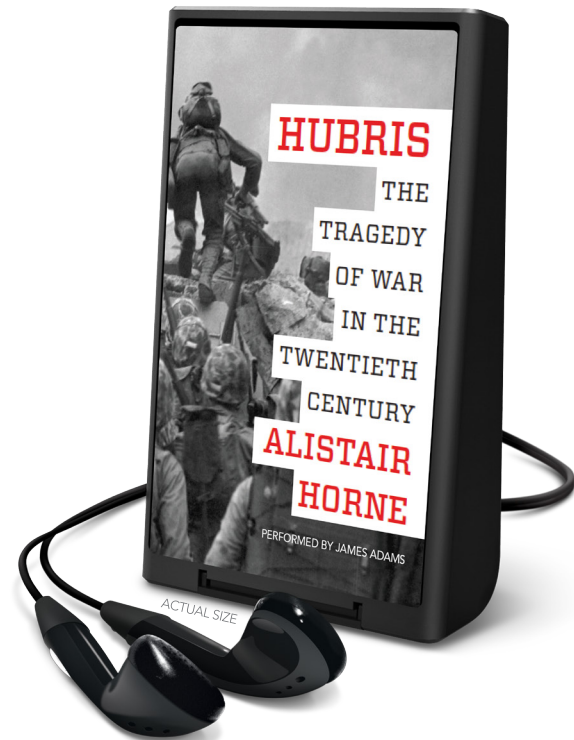
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