

Rickover: The Struggle for Excellence



Rickover: The Struggle for Excellence by Francis Duncan

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Admiral Hyman Rickover is considered the father of the nuclear navy. He was a brilliant engineer, a demanding leader, and a tireless advocate for excellence. Rickover's career spanned more than half a century, and he played a major role in shaping the US Navy's technological development and operational capabilities.

Rickover was born in Poland in 1900. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1906. After graduating from the US Naval Academy in 1922, Rickover served on a variety of ships and submarines. In 1946, he was assigned to the Bureau of Ships, where he was responsible for overseeing the development of nuclear propulsion for submarines.

Rickover's work on nuclear propulsion was groundbreaking. He overcame numerous technical challenges and bureaucratic obstacles to develop the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus. The Nautilus was launched in 1954 and revolutionized naval warfare. It was capable of traveling underwater for months at a time, without having to surface for air or fuel.

In addition to his work on nuclear propulsion, Rickover also played a major role in the development of the US Navy's ballistic missile submarine fleet. He was the driving force behind the development of the Polaris missile, which was the first submarine-launched ballistic missile. The Polaris missile gave the US Navy a powerful new deterrent against nuclear attack.

Rickover was a demanding leader, but he was also a fair and compassionate one. He expected the best from his subordinates, but he was always willing to help them achieve their full potential. Rickover's mentorship program helped to develop a generation of naval officers who went on to lead the US Navy with distinction.

Rickover retired from the US Navy in 1982, but he continued to work on nuclear propulsion projects until his death in 1986. He was a brilliant engineer, a demanding leader, and a tireless advocate for excellence. His legacy continues to inspire naval officers and engineers around the world.

Rickover's Leadership Principles

Rickover's leadership principles were based on his deep belief in the importance of excellence. He believed that leaders must set high standards and demand the best from their subordinates. He also believed that leaders must be willing to make tough decisions and take risks. Rickover's leadership principles can be summarized as follows:

- Set high standards and demand the best from your subordinates.
- Be willing to make tough decisions and take risks.
- Be fair and compassionate, and always put the needs of your subordinates first.
- Develop your subordinates and help them achieve their full potential.
- Lead by example and set a high standard of conduct for yourself.

Rickover's Legacy

Rickover's legacy is immense. He is considered the father of the nuclear navy, and his work revolutionized naval warfare. He also played a major role in the development of the US Navy's ballistic missile submarine fleet. Rickover was a brilliant engineer, a demanding leader, and a tireless advocate for excellence. His legacy continues to inspire naval officers and engineers around the world.



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