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“Supposition about the future should begin with an understanding of how the past produces the present.”

Retired Lieutenant General
H.R. MCMASTER

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Retired Army Lieutenant General and former National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster explains why military leaders need to study the past to gain clarity in the present and also shares a career worth of lessons to include why the Battle of 73 Easting taught him about the importance of tough, realistic training. Finally, he spends a few minutes talking about the mindset he adopted before he stepped into the role of the National Security Advisor and how he dealt with the stressors that came along with that position.

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About H.R. McMaster (@LTGHRMcMaster)

H. R. McMaster is the Fouad and Michelle Ajami Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He is also the Bernard and Susan Liautaud Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute and lecturer at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. He was the 26th assistant to the president for National Security Affairs. Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1984, McMaster served as a commissioned officer in the United States Army for thirty-four years before retiring as a Lieutenant General in June 2018.

From 2014 to 2017 McMaster designed the future army as the director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center and the deputy commanding general of the US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). As commanding general of the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, he oversaw all training and education for the army's infantry, armor, and cavalry force. His has extensive experience leading soldiers and organizations in wartime including Commander, Combined Joint Inter-Agency Task Force—Shafafiyat in Kabul, Afghanistan from 2010 to 2012; Commander, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq from 2005 to 2006; and Commander, Eagle Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Operation Desert Storm from 1990 to 1991. McMaster also served overseas as advisor to the most senior commanders in the Middle East, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

McMaster holds a PhD in military history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was an assistant professor of history at the United States Military Academy from 1994 to 1996. He is author of [*Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World*](#) and the

award-winning *Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Lies that Led to Vietnam*. He was a contributing editor for *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy* from 2010 to 2017. His many essays, articles, and book reviews on leadership, history, and the future of warfare have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Survival*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*.

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