Stephen Edward Ambrose (January 10, 1936 - October 13, 2002) was an American historian and biographer of U.S. Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon. He was a longtime professor of history at the University of New Orleans and the author of many bestselling volumes of American popular history.

There have been allegations of plagiarism and inaccuracies in his writings. However, in a review of To America: Personal Reflections of an Historian for the New York Times, William E. O'Reilly wrote that "he certainly deserved better from some of his envious peers" and credited the historian with reaching "an important lay audience without endorsing its every prejudice or sacrificing the profession's standards of scholarship."

Ambrose was born in Lovington, Illinois, to Rosepha Tripe Ambrose and Stephen Hedges Ambrose. His father was a physician who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Ambrose was raised in Whitewater, Wisconsin, where he graduated from Whitewater High School. His family also owned a farm in Lovington, Illinois, and vacation property in Marinette County, Wisconsin. He attended college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he was a member of Chi Psi Fraternity and played on the University of Wisconsin football team for three years.

Ambrose originally wanted to major in pre-medicine, but changed his major to history after hearing the first lecture in a U.S. history class entitled "Representative Americans" in his sophomore year. The course was taught by William H. Hesseltine, whom Ambrose credits with fundamentally shaping his writing and igniting his interest in history. While at Wisconsin, Ambrose was a member of the Navy and Army ROTC. He graduated with a B.A. in 1957. Ambrose received a master's degree in history from Louisiana State University in 1958, studying under T. Harry Williams. Ambrose then went on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1963, under William H. Hesseltine.

Career

Academic positions

Ambrose was a history professor from 1960 until his retirement in 1995. From 1971 onward, he was on the faculty of the University of New Orleans, where he was the Boyd Professor of History in 1989, an honor given only to faculty who attain "national or international distinction for outstanding teaching, research, or other creative achievement". During the 1969-1970 academic year, he was the Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History at the Naval War College. While teaching at Kansas State University, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of Peace and War and Peace from the 1970-1971 academic year, Ambrose participated in heckling of Richard Nixon during a speech the president gave on the KSU campus. Given pressure from the KSU administration and having job offers elsewhere, upon finishing out the year Ambrose offered to leave and the offer was accepted. His opposition to the Vietnam War stood in contrast to his research on "presidents and the military at a time when such topics were increasingly regarded by his colleagues as old fashioned and conservative."

Ambrose also taught at Louisiana State University (assistant professor of history; 1960-1964) and Johns Hopkins University (associate professor of history; 1964-1969). He held visiting posts at Rutgers University, the University of California, Berkeley, and a number of European schools, including University College Dublin, where he taught the Mary Ball Washington Professor of American History.

He founded the Eisenhower Center at the University of New Orleans in 1989 serving as its director until 1994. "The mission of the Eisenhower Center is the study of the causes, conduct, and consequences of American national security policy and the use of force as an instrument of policy in the twenty-first century." The Center's first efforts, which Ambrose initiated, involved the collection of oral histories from World War II veterans about their experiences, particularly any participation in D-Day. By the time of publication of Ambrose's D-Day, June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II, in 1994, the Center had collected more than 1,200 oral histories. Ambrose donated $150,000 to the Center in 1998 to foster additional efforts to collect oral histories from World War II veterans.

Writings

Ambrose's earliest works concerned the Civil War. He wrote biographies of the generals Emory Upton and Henry Halleck, the first of which was based on his dissertation. Early in his career, Ambrose was mentored by World War II historian Forrest Pogue. In 1964, Ambrose took a position at Johns Hopkins as the Associate Editor of the Eisenhower Papers, a project aimed at organizing, cataloging and publishing Eisenhower's principal papers. From this work and discussions with Eisenhower emerged an article critical of Cornelius Ryan's The Last Battle, which had depicted Eisenhower as politically naive, when at the end of World War II he allowed Soviet forces to take Berlin, thus shaping the Cold War that followed. Ambrose expanded this into a book, Eisenhower and Berlin, 1945: The Decision to Halt at the Elbe (1967). Ambrose was aided in the book's writing by comments and notes provided by Eisenhower, who read a draft of the book.

In 1964 Ambrose was commissioned to write the official biography of the former president and five-star general Dwight D. Eisenhower. This resulted in a book on Eisenhower's war years, The Supreme Commander (1970) and a two-volume full biography (published 1983 and 1984), which are considered "the standard" on the subject. Regarding the first volume, Gordon Harrison, writing for the New York Times, proclaimed, "It is Mr. Ambrose's special triumph that he has been able to fight through the memoranda, the directives, plans, reports, and official self-serving pies of the World War II establishment to uncover the idiocentric people at its center." Ambrose also wrote a three-volume biography of Richard Nixon, although Ambrose was a strong critic of Nixon, the biography was considered fair and just regarding Nixon's presidency.

A visit to a reunion of Easy Company veterans in 1988 prompted Ambrose to collect their stories, turning it into Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne: From Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest (1992). D-Day (1984), built upon additional oral histories, presented the battle from the view points of individual soldiers and became his first best seller. A reviewer for the Journal of Military History commended D-Day as "the most comprehensive discussion of the sea, air, and land operations that coalesced on that day."

Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, writing for the New York Times, proclaimed "Reading this history, you can understand why for so many of its participants, despite all the death surrounding them, life revealed itself at that moment in that place." Ambrose's Citizen Soldiers, which describes battles fought in northwest Europe from D-Day through the end of the war, utilized, again, extensive oral histories. Citizen Soldiers became a best seller, appearing on the New York Times best sellers lists for both hardcover and paperback editions in the same week. During the same week, in September 1998, D-Day and Unaudited Courage, Ambrose's 1996 book on Meriwether Lewis and the Corps of Discovery, appeared on the best seller list, also. He also wrote The Victors (1998), a distillation of material from other books detailing Eisenhower's wartime experiences and connections to the common soldier, and The Wild Blue, that looks at World War II aviation largely through the experiences of George McGovern, who commanded a B-24 crew that flew numerous missions over Germany. His other major works include Unaudited Courage about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and Nothing Like It in the World about the construction of the Pacific Railroad. His final book, This Last Land, a historical novel about the Lewis & Clark expedition written for young readers, was published posthumously in 2003.

Ambrose's most popular single work was Unaudited Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West (1996), which stayed on the New York Times best seller list for a combined, hardcover and paperback, 126 weeks. Ambrose consolidated research on the Corps of Discovery's expedition conducted in the previous thirty years and "synthesized it skillfully to enrich our understanding and appreciation of this grand epic," according to Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., who reviewed the book for the New York Times. Ken Burns, who...
Ambrose was the lone historian featured in the 1973-74 ITV television series, *The World at War*, which detailed the history of World War II.

He served as the historical consultant for the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, where he starred in the movie, saying he “pored over D-Day” and *Band of Brothers* in researching his role.

Hanks also credited Ambrose’s books with providing detailed, particularly regarding D-Day landings.

The HBO mini-series, *Band of Brothers* (2001), for which he was an executive producer, helped sustain the fresh interest in World War II that had been stimulated by the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994 and the 60th anniversary in 2004. Ambrose served as executive producer for *Price for Peace*, a documentary concerning the war in the Pacific theater during World War II, and for *Moments of Truth*, a TV documentary containing interviews with World War II veterans.

In addition, Ambrose served as a commentator for *Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*, a documentary by Ken Burns. He provided commentary in twenty-made-for-TV documentaries, covering diverse topics, such as World War II, Lewis & Clark, and America’s prominence in the 20th century. He also appeared as a guest on numerous TV programs or stations, including The Charlie Rose Show, C-SPAN, programming CNN, *NBC’s Today Show*, *CNBC’s Hardball*, and various programming on *The History Channel* and the *National Geographic Channel*. Ambrose’s association with *National Geographic* remained, in part, from his designation as an Explorer-in-Residence by the Society.

In addition to his academic work and publishing, Ambrose operated a historical tour business, acting as a tour guide to European locales of World War II. Also, he served on the board of directors for Americans Rivers and was a member of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial Council.

**National World War II Museum**

Ambrose’s work for the Eisenhower Center, specifically his work with D-Day veterans, inspired him to found the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. Ambrose initiated fundraising by donating $500,000. “He dreamt of a museum that reflected his deep regard for our nation’s citizen soldiers, the workers on the Home Front and the sacrifices and hardships they endured to achieve victory.” He secured large contributions from the federal government, state of Louisiana, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, and many smaller donations from former students, who answered a plea made by Ambrose in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. In 2003, Congress designated the museum as “America’s National World War II Museum,” acknowledging an expanded scope and vision for the museum. “The Stephen E. Ambrose Memorial Fund continues to support the development of the museum’s Center for Study of the American Spirit, its educational programs and oral history and publication initiatives.”

**Awards**

In 1997, Ambrose received the *St. Louis Literary Award* from the *Saint Louis University* Library Associates. In 1998, he received the *National Humanities Medal*. In 1998, he was awarded the *Samuel Eliot Morison Prize* for lifetime achievement given by the *Society for Military History*. In 2000, Ambrose received the *Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service*, the highest honorary award the *Department of Defense* offers to civilians. In 2001, he was awarded the *Theodore Roosevelt Medal* for Distinguished Service from the *Theodore Roosevelt Association*. Ambrose won an *Emmy* as one of the producers for the mini-series *Band of Brothers*. Ambrose also received the *George Marshall Award*, the *Abraham Lincoln Literary Award*, the *Bob Hope Award* from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and the *Will Rogers Memorial Award*.

Upon Ambrose’s death, U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana offered a resolution in the Senate, which received unanimous consent, saluting the “excellence of Stephen Ambrose at capturing the greatness of the American spirit in words.”

**Personal life, final years, and death**

Ambrose married his first wife, Judith Dorfester, in 1957, and they had two children, Stephanie and Barry. Judith died in 1965, when Ambrose was 29. Ambrose married his second wife, Moira Buckley (1939-2009), in 1967 and adopted her three children, Andrew, Grace, and Hugh. Moira was an active assistant in his writing and academic projects. After retiring, he maintained homes in Helena, Montana, and *Bay St. Louis*, Mississippi. A longtime smoker, he was diagnosed with lung cancer in April 2002. His health deteriorated rapidly, and seven months after the diagnosis he died, at the age of 66. *George McClevery*, the primary focus of Ambrose’s *Wild Blue* said, “He probably reached more readers than any other historian in our national history.”

**Legacy**

Ambrose donated $500,000, half the amount needed, to the University of Wisconsin, to endow a chair in the name of William B. Heselton, Ambrose’s mentor. The chair’s position would focus on the teaching of American military history. When the chair became fully endowed, after Ambrose’s death, it was renamed the Ambrose-Heselton Chair.

Each year the *Rutgers University* Living History Society awards the Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award to “an author or artist who has made significant use of oral history.” Past winners include Tom Brokaw, Steven Spielberg, Studs Terkel, Michael Beschloss, and Ken Burns.

**Criticism**

Ambrose was accused of plagiarizing several passages in his book *The Wild Blue*, and *Fox News* reported in *The Weekly Standard* that Ambrose had taken passages from *Wings of Morning: The Story of the Last American Bomber Shot Down over Germany in World War II*, by Thomas Childers, a history professor at the *University of Pennsylvania*. Ambrose had footnoted sources, but had not enclosed in quotation marks numerous passages from Childers’s book.

Ambrose asserted that only a few sentences in all his numerous books were the work of other authors. He offered this defense:

> I tell stories. I don’t discuss my sources. I discuss the story. It almost gets to the point where, how much is the reader going to take? I am not writing a Ph.D. dissertation.

> I wish I had put the quotation marks in, but I didn’t. I am not out there stealing other people’s writings. If I am writing up a passage and it is a story I want to tell and this story fits and a part of it is from other people’s writing, I just type it up that way and put it in a footnote. I just want to know where the hell it came from.

A *Forbes* investigation of his work found cases of plagiarism involving passages in at least six books, with a similar pattern going all the way back to his doctoral dissertation.

**Plagiarism**

A front-page article published in *The Sacramento Bee* on January 1, 2001, entitled “Area Historians Rail Against Inaccuracies in Book”, listed more than sixty instances identified as “significant errors, misstatements, and made-up quotes” in *Nothing Like It in the World, The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869*. Ambrose’s *non-academic* popular history about the construction of the *Pacific Railroad* between *Council Bluffs, Iowa/Omaha, Nebraska*, and the *San Francisco Bay at Alameda/Oakland* via *Sacramento, California*, which was published in August, 2000. The discrepancies were documented in a detailed “fact check” paper compiled in December, 2000 by three Western US railroad historians who are also experienced researchers, consultants, and collectors specializing in the *Pacific Railroad* and related topics.

On January 11, 2001, *Washington Post* columnist, Lloyd Grove reported in his column *The Reliable Source*, that a co-worker had found a “serious historical error” in the same book that “a chastened Ambrose” promised to correct in future editions. A number of journal reviews also sharply criticized the research and fact checking in the book. Reviewer Walter Nugent observed that it contained “annoying slips” such as misplaced maps, inaccurate dates, geographical errors, and misidentified *word origins*, while railroad historian Don L. Hofsommer agreed that the book "confuses facts" and that "The research might best be characterized as ‘once over lightly.’"
In the introduction to Ambrose's biography of Eisenhower, he claims that the former president approached him after having read his previous biography of Henry Halleck. This statement is made in the context of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, which is an organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

After Eisenhower's death in 1969, Ambrose made repeated claims to have had a unique and extraordinarily close relationship with him over the final five years of the former President's life. In his response, Eisenhower stated that "the confidence I have derived from your work by reading your two books--especially the one on Halleck--gives me reasons why should he help out for so far as I can." The Halleck biography "still sits on a shelf" at the Eisenhower National Historic site in Gettysburg.

In an extensive 1998 interview, before a group of high school students, Ambrose stated that he spent "a lot of time with Ike, really a lot, hundreds and hundreds of hours." Ambrose claimed he had been with Eisenhower on a range of subjects, and that he had been with him "on a daily basis for a couple of years" before his death "doing interviews and talking about his life." The former president's diary and telephone records show that the pair met only three times, for a total of less than five hours. Rives discovered, upon further investigation, a "hidden" relationship between the two men.

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- Stephen Ambrose on IMDb
- WorldCat search of works by Stephen Ambrose
- Stephen E. Ambrose at FantasticFiction.co.uk
- Interview with Stephen Ambrose (1998)
- Obituary in The Independent
- Obituary at website of the American Historical Association
- Eisenhower and My Father, Stephen Ambrose, by Hugh Ambrose

• Appearances on C-SPAN
  - Booknotes interview with Ambrose on D-Day, June 6, 1944, June 5, 1994.
  - In Depth interview with Ambrose, November 5, 2000.

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- Amplifiers
- Acoustic Guitars
- Bass Guitars
- Computers
- Cymbals
- Drums
- Electric Guitars
- Electronic Drums
- Microphones
- MIDI Controllers

Music Theory Books

Music Scenes

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- Albuquerque, New Mexico
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- Atlanta, Georgia
- Arlington, Texas
- Aurora, Colorado
- Austin, Texas
- Bakersfield, California
- Baltimore, Maryland
- Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Billings, Montana
- Birmingham, Alabama
- Boise, Idaho
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Charlotte, North Carolina
- Chicago, Illinois
- Cincinnati, Ohio
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Columbia, South Carolina
- Corpus Christi, Texas
- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Columbus, Ohio
- Dallas, Texas
- Des Moines, Iowa
- Denver, Colorado
- Detroit, Michigan
- Durham, North Carolina
- El Paso, Texas
- Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Fort Worth, Texas
- Fresno, California
- Honolulu, Hawaii
- Indianapolis, Indiana
- Irvine, California
- Jacksonville, Florida
- Jersey City, New Jersey
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Lansing, Michigan
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Lexington, Kentucky
- Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Charlotte, North Carolina
- Chicago, Illinois
- Cincinnati, Ohio
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- Columbia, South Carolina
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- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Columbus, Ohio
- Dallas, Texas
- Des Moines, Iowa
- Denver, Colorado
- Detroit, Michigan
- Durham, North Carolina
- El Paso, Texas
- Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Fort Worth, Texas
- Fresno, California
- Honolulu, Hawaii
- Indianapolis, Indiana
- Irvine, California
- Jacksonville, Florida
- Jersey City, New Jersey
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Lansing, Michigan
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Lexington, Kentucky

Popular Artists

- Adele
- Alicia Keys
- Ariana Grande
- Beyonce
- Bruno Mars
- Chris Brown
- Coldplay
- Drake
- Ed Sheeran
- Gorillaz
- Jay-Z
- Justin Bieber
- Katy Perry
- Keith Urban
- Kendrick Lamar
- Lady Antebellum
- Lady Gaga
- Lil Wayne
- Little Mix
- Michael Buble
- Miley Cyrus
- Nicki Minaj
- Rag'n'Bone Man
- Rihanna
Stephen Ambrose is also the author of Eisenhower, the greatest work on Dwight Eisenhower, and one of the editors of the Supreme Allied Commander’s papers. He describes the momentous decisions about how and where the war was fought, and about the strategies and conduct of the generals and officers who led the invasion and the bloody drive across Europe to Berlin. But, as always with Stephen E. Ambrose, it is the ranks, the ordinary boys and men, who command his attention and his awe. Stephen Edward Ambrose (January 10, 1936 – October 13, 2002) was an American historian and biographer of U.S. Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon. He was a longtime professor of history at the University of New Orleans and the author of many best selling volumes of American popular history. Beginning late in his life and continuing after his death, however, evidence and reports have continued to surface documenting longtime patterns of plagiarism, falsification, and inaccuracies in many. All information for Stephen E. Ambrose’s wiki comes from the below links. Any source is valid, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Pictures, videos, biodata, and files relating to Stephen E. Ambrose are also acceptable encyclopedic sources. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_E._Ambrose. The original version of this page is from Wikipedia, you can edit the page right here on Everipedia. Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License.
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