



# Omar Bradley: A Study In Great Leadership



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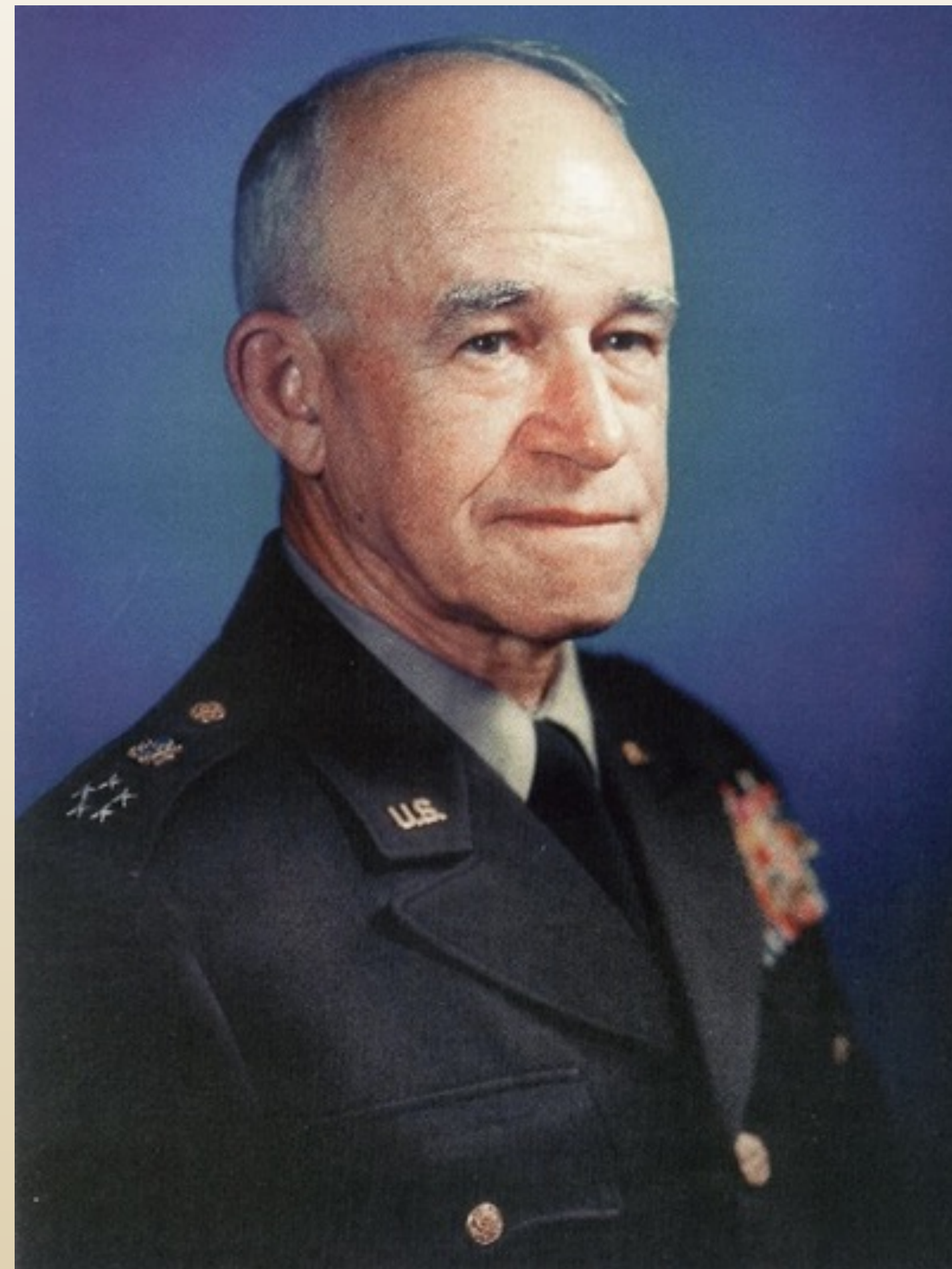
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## Abstract

Omar Bradley was one of the most famous U.S. military leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was known for his success, having achieved the rank of 5-star Army General and the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, but with a quiet nature and democratic leadership style. The research presented herein follows the leadership style employed by General Bradley throughout his life as he progressed from a poor Missouri student who got accepted at West Point to becoming one of the greatest Generals of World War 2. The analysis methods for this research will include leadership style assessments while applying various models such as the Vroom-Jago Contingency Model, Path-Goal Theory, Fiedler's Contingency Model, and Hersey and Blanchard's Situational Theory. Research topics such as leader-follower relationship, trust, types of power, emotional intelligence, and motivation will be reviewed.

The goal of this research is to identify and evaluate Omar Bradley's specific leadership strengths that contributed significantly to the success of his life and career.

Lessons learned from this research are intended to be applied to the student's career as a Systems Engineer.



## Discussion

General Bradley demonstrated that great leadership in very powerful positions need not be loud, flamboyant, or prone to anger. Bradley's desire to improve his knowledge through studying previous Army leaders (such as General Sherman) and working under such leaders as George C Marshall, gave him opportunities to ascend the ranks in the U. S. Army. His tactics helped shape the results of WW2 in Europe. Along the way, Omar Bradley exhibited his signature gentle leadership style in a fairly "hands off" approach. He showed his emotional intelligence and servant style leadership for the lowest ranking Army soldier from basic training to actual fighting on the battlefield. This earned him the nickname of the "G.I. General".

### Conclusion

The student's takeaway from this research is the intent to emulate and incorporate portions of Omar Bradley's leadership style, specifically the self-drive for continued and further education, increased self-confidence, and to be a "servant" type of leader.

## Methods

- 4-D Organization of Leadership Model
- Vroom-Jago Contingency Model
- Path-Goal Theory
- Fiedler's Contingency Model
- Hersey and Blanchard's Situational Theory
- Leadership Assessments

## Results

- "Including/Directing" dimensional leader
- High emotional intelligence
- Self-Confident
- Servant leader
- Used mostly "soft" power



## References

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