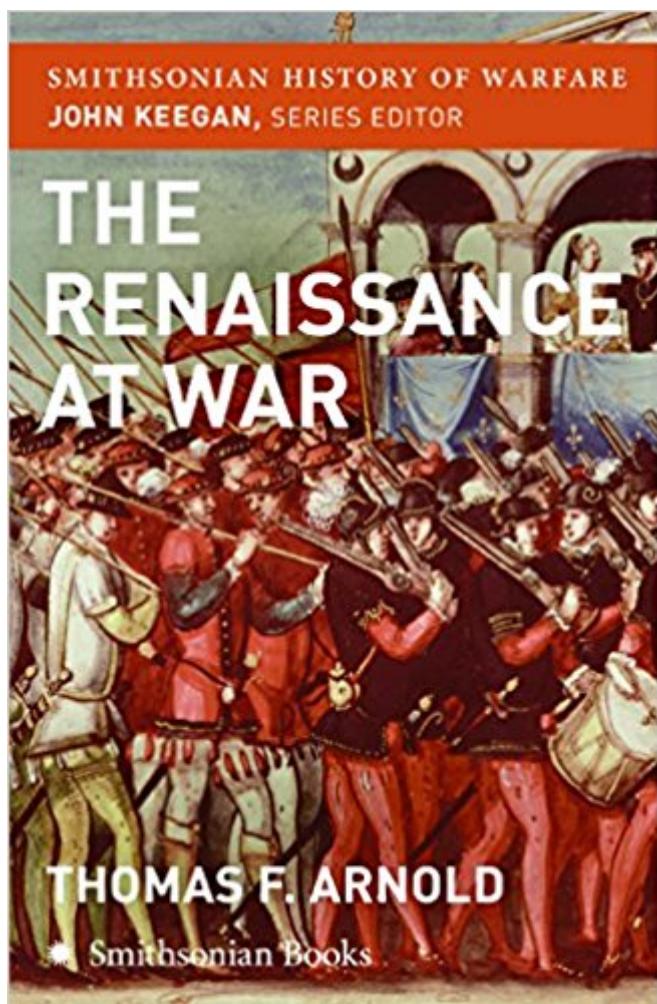


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The Renaissance At War (Smithsonian History Of Warfare)



Synopsis

The Renaissance at WarToward the end of the fifteenth century, modern artillery and portable firearms became the signature weapons of European armies, radically altering the nature of warfare. The new arms transformed society, too, as cities were built and rebuilt to limit the effects of bombardment by cannon. This book follows these far-reaching changes in comprehensive and fascinating detail and demonstrates how the innovations of the Renaissance paved the way to further changes in warfare. An in-depth technical look at the weaponry of the age and the tactical drills that honed the skills of Renaissance soldiers. The epic wars abroad between Western Christians and the Muslim Turks. Civil strife at home between despotic rulers and rebellious forces. Kingly duels that play out on an international stage.

Book Information

Series: Smithsonian History of Warfare

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Harper Perennial (May 2, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060891955

ISBN-13: 978-0060891954

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #331,194 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Conventional > Firearms #888 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Military #6112 in Books > History > Europe

Customer Reviews

Arnold F. Thomas is a professor of history at Yale University, and has written extensively on the military history of the Renaissance era.

Looking for a great introduction to both the history and logistics of Renaissance warfare? Look no further than this eminently readable account. Mr. Arnold's writing is very good, which keeps the subject from becoming dry. The information he gives on developments in warfare are all very interesting, and he also knows how to sprinkle in all sorts of interesting little facts that may not be very useful in and of themselves, but taken together do a wonderful job of giving the reader a sense

of what the mentality of this era's rulers and soldiers was like. (For example, gunnery books included recipes for a gunpowder mix that was useless in battle, but made cannon fire much louder, which was used during celebrations when kings and lords loved to show off their artillery collections.) The book has separate sections looking at the evolution of artillery and fortifications, infantry, and cavalry and commanders, as well as examinations of the wars between Europe and the Turks, France and the Holy Roman Emperors, and Catholics and Protestants following the Reformation. Illustrations and maps made the book pleasing to the eye and show how warfare looked in the period. For anyone interested in this very colorful period of history, I cannot recommend this book enough.

For the hardcore only who want to better understand the 'pike and shot' era of warfare. Details the rise of gunpowder weapons during Renaissance Europe.

Thomas Arnold is a great writer, and having John Keegan as the editor of could only have helped the text. It is very easy to read and still extremely interesting, covering first the technical evolution of warfare from the 15th to the 17th centuries and then covering the major conflicts of the era. Added to the strong writing and editing are many computer generated maps of individual battles and some great illustrations, many taken from period tapestries and paintings. This book is probably the most clear, well-written book available on the subject, while still encompassing many lesser known facets of the Renaissance and even injecting some humor in a couple of passages. Don't judge it by its textbook appearance and odd dimensions...it is anything but textbook-like and will undoubtedly lead you to buy more of the books in the series.

Nice publication, good information.

I Suppose the title says it all. This book IS a bit of a survey book, painting in broad strokes. But what strokes they are! The author covers the period's major conflicts, the evolution of warfare both offensive and defensive, technical and theoretical. Really enjoyed it and recommend it to anyone wanting a good look at the period without being loaded with details. Details are here, but not so many as to put you to sleep or overwhelm. Read it!

the must read on the Italian renaissance wars. thoroughly enjoying it.

Great, short, and concise history of Renaissance warfare.

Loved it.

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