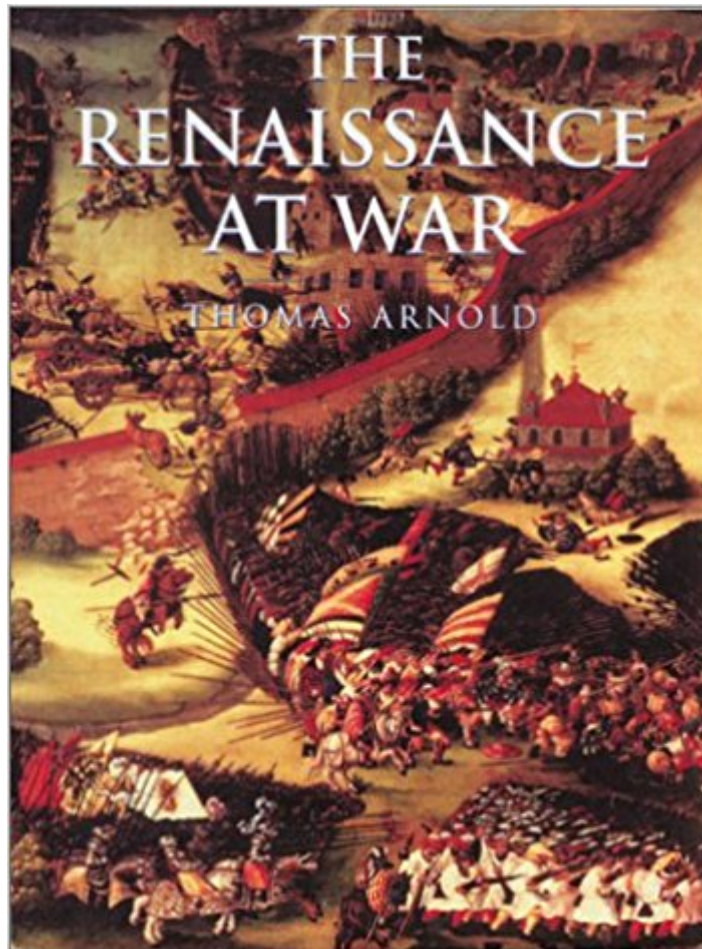




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History Of Warfare: The Renaissance At War



Synopsis

With the dawning of the Renaissance came not only enlightenment in painting and sculpture but also technological and social advances that changed forever the art of warfare. First, firearms replaced bows as the weapons of choice on Western battlefields; then the new skills of literacy, numeracy, and book knowledge became essential to lead men into war. Suddenly, the old order, and the old commanders, were out, and new-style armies were taking the world by storm. Rich with anecdotal detail, a compelling and comprehensive narrative by an expert military historian transports you to the midst of the action as it examines the strategies, campaigns, prominent figures, and key conflicts of the age. From artillery and fortifications to military leadership, from cavalry tactics to the new infantry, from the Crusades to the guerrilla wars in late 16th-century France, penetrating cultural, tactical, and technical analyses plus numerous illustrations, maps, and charts paint a full portrait of war during the Renaissance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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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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