
Henri Troyat

Catherine La Grande



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Description

Quelle irrésistible ascension que celle de la petite princesse allemande Sophie d'Anhalt-Zerbst, née en 1726, et qui, à trente-six ans, accède au trône de Russie sous le nom de Catherine II !

Éprise de la culture française, mais ayant appris le russe pour mieux comprendre son peuple, libérale dans ses amitiés - Voltaire, Diderot, d'Alembert - mais autocrate en son gouvernement, pudibonde en paroles mais d'un insatiable tempérament, travailleuse acharnée mais aimant les enfants, les arbres, les animaux... telle fut Catherine la Grande. « Ce roc de volonté est d'une structure complexe », écrit à son sujet Henri Troyat, et il fallait son acuité d'analyse pour en dévoiler tant d'aspects réconciliés dans un extraordinaire goût de vivre et de régner.

Insightful reviews

Sunny: Absolutely fascinating.

Shannon: This is a good biography of Catherine the Great. My only complaint is that I find the author biased against her at times. The bias is subtle, but there. For a more comprehensive, unbiased biography, I recommend the recent Robert Massie book.

Tracey: I bought this book after perusing an exhibition telling the story of Catherine the Great and exhibiting some of her possessions and period pieces. Since my grandparents came to homestead in Russia/Ukraine because of Catherine's bold invitation (out of her desire to improve the yield of the country's most fertile land), I wanted to know more about her policies and the sweeping changes she made to improve the country. It was a great book; I learned a lot of history.

Lynne King: this can be a impressive e-book on Catherine the nice and that i was once reminded of this writer at the present time via Kalliope, who had written a overview on Tchaikovsky. This a lot acclaimed author, who had moved to France from Russia within the early 20th century wrote a few inspiring biograpies together with among others, Ivan the bad and Dostoyevski. His maximum achievement, I feel, was once being a member of the Academie Française until eventually his dying in 2007. in simple terms those that excel remain there. A hugely suggested book.

Maja: i've got one significant factor with the publication and the is the assets that Troyat uses; memoirs and secondary litterature. To me, as I examine background on the moment, memoirs are titanic no-no's. at the least with no need different resources to match them with, which Troyat doesn't. from time to time i used to be thoroughly confident that what i used to be interpreting was once easily a third individual re-writing of Catherine's personal memoirs. every thing taken from her memoirs and not anything used to be unique paintings or research. the explanation why i'm this type of substantial adversary of using memoirs in historic works is, that the author of a memoir continually have an ulterior intent with every thing they write. They set out with a aim in mind, both to make themselves out to be heroes, victims, God fearing matyrs or anything like that, or to make others out to be the big, undesirable meanies. for this reason

memoirs are a pitfall of lies or no less than re-writings of the truth. One should always be very severe of those works, yet this severe technique can't be sensed in any respect with Troyat. His use of secondary literature isn't, on the base of it, that undesirable if it wasn't for the truth that he prices the fees during this literature, that means that he has no longer himself learn the first source, he simply chooses to think that this secondary individual has either adequately understood the first textual content and properly quoted it. that's one other substantial no-no. And so, to me, this whole publication turns into a major NO-NO!

Krista: This biography of Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia, used to be written via Henri Troyat and released in 1977. I presumed that the tale used to be fascinating. It specific how Princess Sophia, of Anhalt-Zerbst (born in 1729) who at 15 married Peter Ulrich of Holstein, grandson of Peter the good and attainable inheritor to the throne of Russia. Sophia replaced her identify to Catherine and switched over from the Lutheran church to the Russian Orthodox church. Peter did turn into Emperor Peter III, and Catherine ultimately turned Empress Catherine II of Russia, and governed Russia for many years on her own. She grew to become nearly extra Russian than the Russians themselves. Catherine lived from 1729-1796, and was once the main popular and the longest-ruling lady chief of Russia. She governed from 1762-1796. I idea that Troyat's ebook was once a good illustration of Catherine's existence experiences. He additionally did an excellent activity of describing the wider geo-political occasions occurring round her in Europe, Asia and beyond. So I felt like I acquired to grasp Catherine better, yet I additionally greater understood her period and the occasions that prompted her judgements as her reign unfolded. Troyat was once born in Moscow in 1911, yet fled along with his and travelled round Europe and Asia prior to atmosphere in Paris in 1920.

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