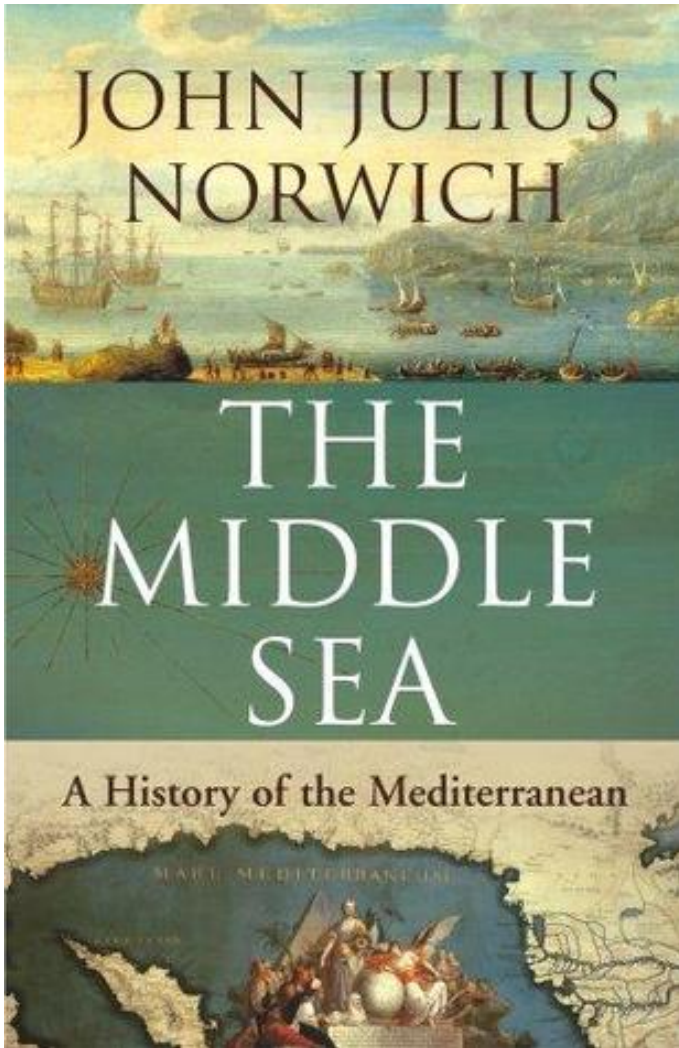

John Julius Norwich

The Middle Sea



Title: The Middle Sea

Author: John Julius Norwich

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Description

A one-volume narrative history of the Mediterranean from Ancient Egypt to 1919. Written in the racy, readable prose for which the author is famous, this is colourful, character-driven history at its most enjoyable.

This magnificent undertaking tackles a vast subject — vast in time (from the oldest surviving pyramid to the First World War); vast in geography (from Gibraltar to Jerusalem); and vast in culture, including as it does the civilizations of the Phoenicians, the Ancient Egyptians, Greece, Carthage, Rome, Byzantium, as well as the Borgias and the Medicis, Mohammed and El Cid, Napoleon and Nelson, Moslems, Jews and Christians.

The Middle Seais not a dry record of facts; it is a racy read about historical figures — dissolute Popes and wily Emperors, noble-hearted Generals and beautiful Princesses. But his greatest strength is naval and military history: from the Crusades to the expulsion of the Moors from Spain; from Trafalgar to Gallipoli. Towns are besieged and sacked, Kingdoms are won and lost. The narrative covers the glories of Constantinople and Venice, and the stirring history of the islands of the Mediterranean — Malta, Sicily, Crete and Cyprus.

The Middle Seais the culmination of John Julius Norwich's long and distinguished career as one of the greatest enthusiasts for anecdotal history, and the highways and byways of scholarship.

Insightful reviews

Pieter: A concise history of the Middle Sea, still counting 666 pages. The book covers a wide range of people (Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans,...), events (Malta, Lepanto, Gallipoli,...) and different dynasties (Bourbons, Hohenstaufen,...). I am not sure I have captured every detail, but it is good to know that I can fall back on it when I lack the level of detail to understand specific historical topics related to the Mediterranean Sea.

Linda: Seems like I need a geo/political lesson to help remember all the significant events of the late middle ages into formation of separate European governments. Allegiances still fluid and unpredictable as some populations do not ascribe to any one authority or rule. Up 1825 and the savagery involved toward Greek independence. Yikes! The names, but will remember Lord Byron and his Newfoundlander dog. Doubt if I read the coverage for WWI; eager to move on to easy reading like another murder mystery.

Peter: Third history I've read by Lord Norwich--filling in the embarrassing gaps of my drug-soaked college years.... If you have this problem, too, I recommend Norwich for his entertaining prose-style, though what he mostly does is make me go back to the sources on the ancients: Herodotus, Thucydides, Suetonius. He moves very quickly, be warned, not like the leisurely pace of his Byzantium volumes.

Joe B.: Writing a background of the Mediterranean and squeezing it right into a single quantity

needed to be a major undertaking. this can be a very commendable attempt and further huge price of my appreciation of the lands ringing the center Sea. it's fresh to learn such an unsterilised account of heritage which, as such, is going rather a lot additional in revealing human nature besides the formative occasions and avid gamers underpinning a lot of what we see today. My simply criticisms are minor and feature to do more often than not with the prose which turns out a section archaic and hence, no longer the main readable. i am happy I learn this publication will surely suggest it.

Tamara: If I keep in mind correctly, this was once truthfully beautiful boring. background as some-dude-did-this, then-some-other-dude-did-that, yet on a beach. Tedious accounting of more and more inbred marriages. No Mameluks. now not approximately adequate Ottomans. did not finish.

Josh: i believe tips on how to learn this e-book is firstly the Greeks and Romans after which pass forward to the 18th century or so. (Page 400) the center a long time are... middling. i believe a part of my unhappiness lies in i used to be hoping for a extra expansive background that may hide a much broader scope than royal succession, pathetic palace intrigues, and the army battles. (Spoiler alert: each siege is sizzling and results in dysentery) i might were attracted to extra on commerce, medicine, paintings etc... however the guy had much to hide even in six hundred pages. That said, Norwich is an outstanding author with components droll wryness that one expects from English authors. i believe his wit is hamstrung by way of the extremely Marathon of masking the entire Med. nations from the Romans to WWI. there's frankly now not loads of time for dawdling in this epic highway journey ("No we won't cease for an ice cream Wally international is 1800 miles away come back within the car!") and that i want there have been simply because the various book's most sensible elements are whilst Norwich has time to take for digression and reflection. Norwich maybe whilst allowed a extra leisurely velocity will be a satisfaction to read. and i am comfortable I learn the e-book total since it dropped at gentle new attention-grabbing matters that i do know dreadfully little approximately from the Knights of St. John, the Knights Templar, the Venetian Empire etc...

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