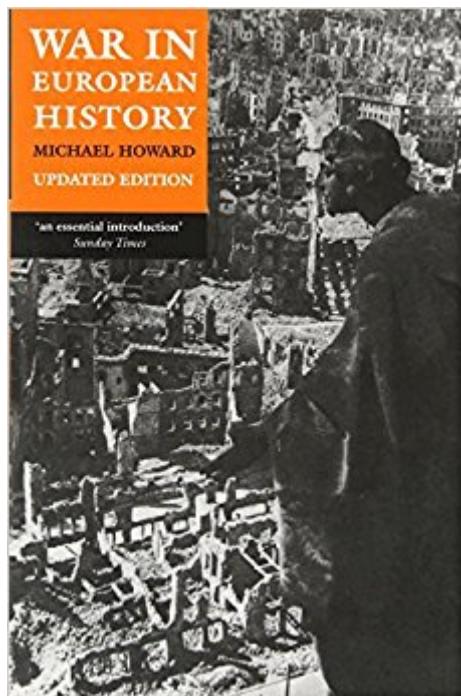


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War In European History



Synopsis

First published over thirty years ago, War in European History is a brilliantly written survey of the changing ways that war has been waged in Europe, from the Norse invasions to the present day. Far more than a simple military history, the book serves as a succinct and enlightening overview of the development of European society as a whole over the last millennium. From the Norsemen and the world of the medieval knights, through to the industrialized mass warfare of the twentieth century, Michael Howard illuminates the way in which warfare has shaped the history of the Continent, its effect on social and political institutions, and the ways in which technological and social change have in turn shaped the way in which wars are fought. This new edition includes a fully updated further reading and a new final chapter bringing the story into the twenty-first century, including the invasion of Iraq and the so-called "War against Terror."

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (April 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199546193

ISBN-13: 978-0199546190

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.5 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,080 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Military Sciences #108 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Military #203 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Europe

Customer Reviews

Howard's chief strength...[is] that he widens the study of warfare to take in economic, political and social factors. * Military Times * I cannot think of a better book to put in the hands of someone setting out on the study of military history. * Military Times *

Sir Michael Howard is Emeritus Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford. He has held the Chair of War Studies at King's College, London, the Chichele Chair of War and the Regius Chair of Modern History at Oxford, and the Robert A. Lovatt Chair of Military and Naval History at Yale.

Good book about the waging of war in the context of society in general.

A friend of mine recommended this book to me. At the time it was required reading at West Point and it very well may still be. No other book displays the history of war in Europe in such a concise and complete way. It also shows how the nations of Europe developed and what gave them their defining characteristics. Anyone with an interest in Western history or military history should own a copy of this book.

Sir Michael Howard has produced an accessible and enlightening overview of the development of war and war fighting in Early Modern European history to today. Howard's review begins briefly at the fall of the Roman Empire before moving quickly to the Renaissance and the beginnings of development of systematic war fighting. Howard's focus for the next seven hundred years or so is the role of central government and the professionalization of armies, conscription (or lack thereof), specialization, and the interaction of economics and the decision of states to go to war. His strongest chapters are on the role politics and ideology from the end of the 18th century and the intensity of fighting and killing. This is an excellent, short overview of an incredibly complicated subject matter. I recommend this book as a great place for those interested in the subject to start.

This book was perfectly phenomenal. In 144 pages, Howard packed in so much, without making it appear over-packed. 1,000 years of warfare, with all the attendant strategies, tactics, and developments, are presented in a readable and thorough fashion, without coming across as simplistic or factoid laden. Howard finished the book in 2001 (I'm thinking in the pre-9/11 2001) and in the last page he nailed some of the major issues the world would be dealing with in the early stages of the 21st century. First, he properly casts doubt on the Revolution in Military Affairs approach (doubt, mind you, and not a complete discard); second, he recognizes the likely rise of terrorism; and third, he points out that troops will be taking on far more than conventional battle missions, which will come to include peacekeeping, counterinsurgency warfare, and a host of other previously difficult to imagine military missions.

This is a good introductory read to the various wars in Europe. I purchased it used, and it must have been an assigned read, as there are paragraphs and sentences either highlighted or underlined. Regardless, this is a good read. Highly recommended.

Concise and very informative. Easy to read. For those with an interest in European history provocative analysis. Very good. Well written

This book is a wonderful overview (much like a grand essay), with insight in abundance. It is for works like this that the Kindle highlight button has great utility. It is a book to be savored, read again, and ruminated on. The "Further Reading" is a trove. I've always doubted the wisdom of WWII's Casablanca edict: "unconditional surrender", and, after this reading experience, even more so. Perhaps, we are all knights errant. Aren't we readers lucky that Michael Howard knows his way around a library?

Very well written with some interesting observations. But it is sometimes unconvincing. The discussion of Medieval and Renaissance warfare seems confused and I found confusing. There are a few glaring, if nonessential, generalizations. E.g., bastions an innovation of the Renaissance, while they actually are known since prehistory; Spaniard and Portuguese Conquistadors won because of fanatical courage and morale, no or little mention of Old World diseases or gunpowder. Most interesting regarding WW I and WW UK.

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