

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This will be a great way to spend your Melbourne Cup winnings :) Only books in this week's edition.

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Books

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## **Books**

### **Ancients and Dark Ages**

#### **Sources for Alexander the Great: An Analysis of Plutarch's 'Life' and Arrian's 'Anabasis Alexandrou'**

By N.G.L. Hammond

\$74.95

Publisher – Cambridge University, 361 pages, ISBN 9780521714716, paperback

Plutarch and Arrian have contributed more than any other ancient authors to our picture of Alexander the Great, but since they wrote four or more centuries after his death the value of what they said depends upon the sources of information on which they themselves drew. In this book the attempt is made to define and to evaluate those sources in a detailed study, analysing the historians' works section by section and comparing them with other accounts of the same episodes.

#### **The Roman Triumph**

By Mary Beard

\$59.95

Publisher – Harvard University, 374 pages, ISBN 9780674026131, hardback

The Roman Triumph, a celebratory parade of raucous soldiers, glamorous prisoners, and statues from the conquered territory, followed every major victory in ancient Rome. A radical re-examination of this most extraordinary of ancient ceremonies, this book explores the magnificence of the Roman triumph – but also its darker side.

#### **An Imperial Possession: Britain in the Roman Empire 54 BC-AD 409**

By David Mattingly

\$29.95

Publisher – Penguin, 640 pages, ISBN 9780140148220, paperback

The centuries under which Britain was under Roman occupation have always had a contradictory reputation. Generations of British readers were brought up to approve of the Roman Empire as the model for their own empire, but equally it was embarrassingly clear that within the Roman Empire Britain itself was merely an unattractive exploitation colony. David Mattingly's major new book draws on a wealth of new research to recreate brilliantly this colonial Britain: a rebellious, disadvantaged place needing heavy garrisoning and highly vulnerable to political change in Rome. The result puts the whole great story in a new and fascinating light.

### **Medieval and Renaissance**

#### **History of Venice, Volume 1: Books I-IV**

By Pietro Bembo, edited and translated by Robert W. Ulery, Jr.

\$49.95

Publisher – Harvard University, 384 pages, ISBN 9780674022836, hardback

Pietro Bembo was the official historian of Venice in 1529 and began to compose in Latin his continuation of the city's history in twelve books, covering the years from 1487 to 1513. Although the work chronicles internal politics and events, much of it is devoted to the external affairs of Venice, principally conflicts with other European states and the Turks in the East.

### **Henry VIII**

By Eric Ives

\$15.95

Publisher – Oxford University, 128 pages, ISBN 9780199217595, paperback

The *Very Interesting People* series is new from Oxford University, which provides an authoritative bite-sized biography of some of Britain's most fascinating historical figures. Each volume covers its subject's life from birth through to death and includes a wealth of extra information including details of related sound, film and paper archives.

## **17th-19th Century**

### **Oliver Cromwell**

By John Morrill

\$15.95

Publisher – Oxford University, 144 pages, ISBN 9780199217533, paperback

The *Very Interesting People* series is new from Oxford University, which provides an authoritative bite-sized biography of some of Britain's most fascinating historical figures. Each volume covers its subject's life from birth through to death and includes a wealth of extra information including details of related sound, film and paper archives.

### **Queen Victoria**

By H.C.G. Matthews & K.D. Reynolds

\$15.95

Publisher – Oxford University, 144 pages, ISBN 9780199217588, paperback

The *Very Interesting People* series is new from Oxford University, which provides an authoritative bite-sized biography of some of Britain's most fascinating historical figures. Each volume covers its subject's life from birth through to death and includes a wealth of extra information including details of related sound, film and paper archives.

## **World War I**

### **World War One: A Short History**

By Norman Stone

\$39.95

Publisher – Allen Lane, 192 pages, ISBN 9781846140136, hardback

In 1914 dynamic, prosperous countries across Europe at last mobilized the vast armies they had spent so many years preparing. Each nation was confident of victory. Instead Europe destroyed itself. The First World War, or Great War, re-mains the fundamental tragedy that still haunts us all nearly a century after its out-break. It was a war that baffled those who fought it: what was meant to be a grab for imperial loot or a lightning settling of scores turned into an unwinnable night-mare with millions of men trapped and killed by hideous technologies. Ultimately almost all the principal states engaged in the war were ruined, with even the notional winners irreparably damaged: the imperial loot proved worthless and the world was doomed to a further, even more terrible settling of scores only twenty years later.

## **World War II**

### **The Wages of Destruction: The Making & Breaking of the Nazi Economy**

By Adam Tooze

\$29.95

Publisher – Penguin, 832 pages, ISBN 9780141003481, paperback

This chilling, fascinating new book is the first fully to get to grips with how Hitler's Nazi empire really functioned. There was no aspect of Nazi power untouched by economics - it was Hitler's obsession and the reason the Nazis came to power in the first place. The Second World War was fought, in Hitler's view, to create a European Empire strong enough to take on the United States - a last chance for Europe to dig itself in before being swept away by the USA's ever greater power. But, as *The Wages of Destruction* makes clear, Hitler was never remotely strong enough to beat either Britain or the Soviet Union - and never even had a serious plan as to how he might defeat the USA. It took years of fighting and the deaths of millions of people to destroy the Third Reich, but effectively World War II in Europe was fought in pursuit of a fantasy: the years in which Western Europe could settle the world's fate were, by 1939, long past. This is a major book by a major author and will provoke an enormous amount of controversy and debate.

### **The Wehrmacht: History, Myth, Reality**

By Wolfram Wette

\$34.95

Publisher – Harvard University, 400 pages, ISBN 9780674025776, paperback

Until very recently, the standard story avowed that the ordinary German soldier in World War II was a good soldier, distinct from Hitler's rapacious SS troops, and not an accomplice to the massacres of civilians. Wolfram Wette, a pre-eminent German military historian, explodes this myth of a "clean" Wehrmacht with devastating clarity.

**Opposing Fascism: Community, Authority and Resistance in Europe**

Edited by Tim Kirk & Anthony McElligott

\$79.95

Publisher – Cambridge University, 264 pages, ISBN 9780521483179, paperback

This innovative volume draws together a series of perspectives on the everyday experience of Europeans in the 'age of fascism'. The contributions go beyond the conventional stereotypes of organised resistance to examine the tensions and ambiguities within the communities, both national and local, that opposed fascism. The authors show that under the pressures of civil conflict, occupation, and even everyday life, motives were rarely as pure and political alignments seldom as straightforward as our reassuring collective memories of fascism and war have led us to believe.

**Winston Churchill**

By Paul Addison

\$15.95

Publisher – Oxford University, 144 pages, ISBN 9780199217571, paperback

The *Very Interesting People* series is new from Oxford University, which provides an authoritative bite-sized biography of some of Britain's most fascinating historical figures. Each volume covers its subject's life from birth through to death and includes a wealth of extra information including details of related sound, film and paper archives.

**The First Day of the Blitz**

By Peter Stansky

\$27.95

Publisher – Scribe, 224 pages, ISBN 9781921215773, paperback

On September 7, 1940, the long-feared and anticipated attack by the German Luftwaffe plunged London into a cauldron of fire and devastation. This compelling book recreates that day in all its horror, using rich archival sources and first-hand accounts, many never before published. In *The First Day of the Blitz* Stansky argues that much of the future of Britain was determined in the first twelve hours of German bombing. The Blitz set in motion a range of responses that contributed to ultimate victory over Germany and to a transformation of British society. The wave of terror, though designed to quash morale, instead inspired stoicism, courage, and a new camaraderie.

**The First Day of the Blitz**

By Peter Stansky

\$49.95

Publisher – Yale University, 224 pages, ISBN 9780300125566, hardback

Hardback version of the above book for those who prefer this format.

**The Few**

By Alex Kershaw

\$49.95

Publisher – Michael Joseph, 320 pages, ISBN 9780718147464, hardback

In the early days of World War Two when Britain stood alone against the terror of Hitler's all-conquering Third Reich, her future hung in the balance; her defence in the hands of the Spitfires and Hurricanes of the Royal Air Force's Fighter Command. They were Churchill's Few. In defiance of their own country's strict neutrality laws, a handful of American adventurers flew with them. This is their story - and a fresh perspective on the greatest air battle the world has ever seen.

**The Last Epic Naval Battle: Voices from Leyte Gulf**

By David Sears

\$29.95

Publisher – Signet PGI, 304 pages, ISBN 9780451221322, paperback

By October, 1944, Japan's once-mighty naval power was almost extinguished. But in one last desperate bid, the Japanese gathered and combined their forces to defeat the Pacific Fleet of the United States Navy. With more ships engaged than there were even in the gargantuan World War I Battle of Jutland and 200,000 men fighting on the sea and in the air- the Battle of Leyte Gulf was a hellish cacophony of cannon fire, murderous strafing airplanes, and deadly explosions. Here, in the words of the men who were there, are the dramatic accounts of what really happened at Leyte. Though often overshadowed by other Pacific War engagements, such as Midway or Guadalcanal, the Battle of Leyte Gulf was, and remains, the largest battle in the history of naval warfare.

**Post World War II**

**The Last Thousand Days of the British Empire**

By Peter Clarke

\$69.95

Publisher – Allen Lane, 576 pages, ISBN 9780713998306, hardback

'I have not become the King's First Minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire' Winston Churchill's famous statement in November 1942, just as the tide of the Second World War was beginning to turn, pugnaciously proclaimed his loyalty to the world-wide institution which he had served devotedly for most of his life.

Yet less than five years after Churchill's trenchant speech, and despite - apparently - winning the war, the British Empire effectively ended with Indian Independence in August 1947 and the end of the British Mandate in Palestine in May 1948. How did this rapid change of fortune come about? Peter Clarke's book is the first to analyse in detail the losing hand which Britain was dealt in the last year of the war, and then to see how that hand was played over the next two years by Churchill's successors.

## **Terrorism**

### **On Nuclear Terrorism**

By Michael Levi

\$49.95

Publisher – Harvard University, 196 pages, ISBN 9780674026490, hardback

Nuclear terrorism – or the threat of nuclear terrorism – is a pervasive shadow in today's world. Surveying the broad universe of plots and defences, this accessible account shows how a wide-ranging defence that integrates the tools of weapon and border security, law enforcement, intelligence, diplomacy, and the military can multiply, intensify, and compound the possibility that nuclear terrorists will fail.

## **Political**

### **Colonialism: A Concise Survey of Colonialism in the Twentieth Century**

By Norrie MacQueen

\$24.95

Publisher – P.Ed UK, 224 pages, ISBN 9781405846301, paperback

Europe's rapacious hunger for other people's lands is one of the key shaping forces of our contemporary world. The character and policies of contemporary international organisations from the United Nations to the European Union have been deeply affected by the colonial inheritance of their members, whether as perpetrators or victims. Weaving together the complex strands of history and politics into one compact narrative, this book addresses the key theories of colonialism, examining them against contemporary realities. It also exposes the moral ambiguities of colonialism and the hypocrisies, which underlay colonial policies in the 19th and 20th centuries.

### **Treacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran, and the United States**

By Trita Parsi

\$54.95

Publisher – Yale University, 352 pages, ISBN 9780300120578, hardback

This book traces the shifting relations among Israel, Iran, and the United States from 1948 to the present, uncovering for the first time the details of secret alliances, treacherous acts, and unsavoury political manoeuvres that have undermined Middle Eastern stability and disrupted US foreign policy initiatives in the region.

### **Summits: Six Meetings That Changed History**

By David Reynolds

\$59.95

Publisher – Allen Lane, 384 pages, ISBN 9780713999174, hardback

'It is not easy to see how matters could be worsened by a parley at the summit.' Winston Churchill coined the term in 1950 but the temptation of summitry has been around for centuries. In this incisive and readable book, David Reynolds takes us from the Babylonians right up to Blair and Bush. But the core of his account is six case studies of modern summitry - made possible by air travel, made necessary by weapons of mass destruction, and made into household news by the mass media. The pioneer of modern summitry was Neville Chamberlain, whose dramatic flights to meet Hitler in September 1938 set patterns and taught lessons for all who followed. Some of the meetings involve a trio of leaders - Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at Yalta in 1945; Jimmy Carter, Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat at Camp David in 1978 - but the heart of the story are three superpower duels that span the Cold War. Drawing on newly-opened archives, Reynolds examines the disastrous face-off between Kennedy and Khrushchev at Vienna in 1961, which helped spark the Cuban missile crisis and America's disastrous war in Vietnam. He looks at the Moscow summit between Nixon and Brezhnev in 1972, which began a promising era of détente but whose Machiavellian negotiation by Nixon and Kissinger also helped ensure détente's decline. By contrast, the Reagan-Gorbachev summit at Geneva in 1985 began a series of summits that brought the Cold War to a peaceful end. From it Reynolds draws larger lessons for successful summitry.

### **The New American Militarism: How Americans are Seduced by War**

By Andrew J. Bacevich

\$34.95

Publisher – Oxford University, 288 pages, ISBN 9780195311983, paperback

The author examines the origins and implications of this style of American foreign policy and shows how American militarism emerged as a reaction to the Vietnam War. Various groups in American society saw the revival of military power and the celebration of military values as the antidote to the consequences of Vietnam and the 1960s. The upshot, acutely evident in the aftermath of 9/11, has been a revival of vast ambitions and certainty, this time married to a pronounced affinity for the sword.

## **General Histories**

### **With Honour: Our Nation, Our Army, Our History**

By Richard Wolfe

\$49.95

Publisher – Viking, 208 pages, ISBN 9780670045655, hardback

The story of New Zealanders at war and in peace – a personal story, the real story, told through the collections and recollections of those men and women who were there, and illustrated from the resources of the QEII Army Museum. The history of New Zealand is intertwined with the history of her army: from the very birth of modern New Zealand at Waitangi, through global conflicts to peacekeeping today in the Pacific.

### **The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia Volume 1**

Edited by Nicholas Tarling

\$39.95

Publisher – Cambridge University, 384 pages, ISBN 9780521663694, paperback

In these four volumes, now published in paperback, 22 scholars of international reputation consider the whole of mainland and island Southeast Asia from Burma to Indonesia. Volume 1 charts Southeast Asia's beginnings, from prehistory to c. 1500. Accounts are given of Southeast Asia's early development, based on archaeological and anthropological evidence; the establishment of kingdoms such as Sri Vijaya, Champa, Angkor, Pagan, and of the Vietnamese state; and the period's economic history, religions and popular beliefs. The volume also includes an essay on the historiography of Southeast Asia.

### **The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia Volume 2**

Edited by Nicholas Tarling

\$39.95

Publisher – Cambridge University, 320 pages, ISBN 9780521663700, paperback

Volume 2 discusses Southeast Asia's interaction with foreign countries during the period c. 1500 to c. 1800. Of specific interest is increased trade with China, India and Europe. The spread of Islam and Christianity in the period is shown to change Southeast Asia dramatically. A concluding chapter deals with the transitional nature of the late eighteenth century.

### **The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia Volume 3**

Edited by Nicholas Tarling

\$39.95

Publisher – Cambridge University, 368 pages, ISBN 9780521663717, paperback

Volume 3 charts the establishment of the colonial régimes during the period c. 1800 to 1930 and the nature of their rule, and defines this period as one of intensified European penetration, political consolidation by the dominant states, and economic transformation. Anti-colonial and nationalist movements are discussed.

### **The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia Volume 4**

Edited by Nicholas Tarling

\$39.95

Publisher – Cambridge University, 384 pages, ISBN 9780521663724, paperback

Volume 4 covers the period from World War II to the present and examines the end of European colonial empires, the political structures of the independent states, economic, social and religious change and Southeast Asia's regionalism. Appended is a list of the major bibliographies of Southeast Asia.

### **Warrior**

By R.G. Grant et al

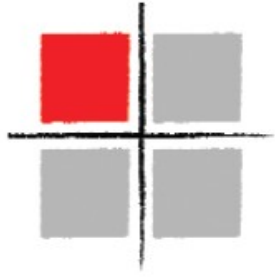
\$69.95

Publisher – Dorling Kindersley, 360 pages, ISBN 9780756632038, hardback

Warrior is the third in a series of illustrated military history books, following the highly successful *Battle* and *Weapon*. The focus of this book is the front-line soldiers from around the world who fought the great campaigns of history, from the hoplites of Ancient Greece to the US Marines in action in the Gulf War. For each of the warriors featured there is a vivid account of their daily life, training, and methods of fighting. There are also special features on the kit they carried and the weapons they used.

Well, that's it for this newsletter, good reading and look forward to another small newsletter next week.

Tony



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