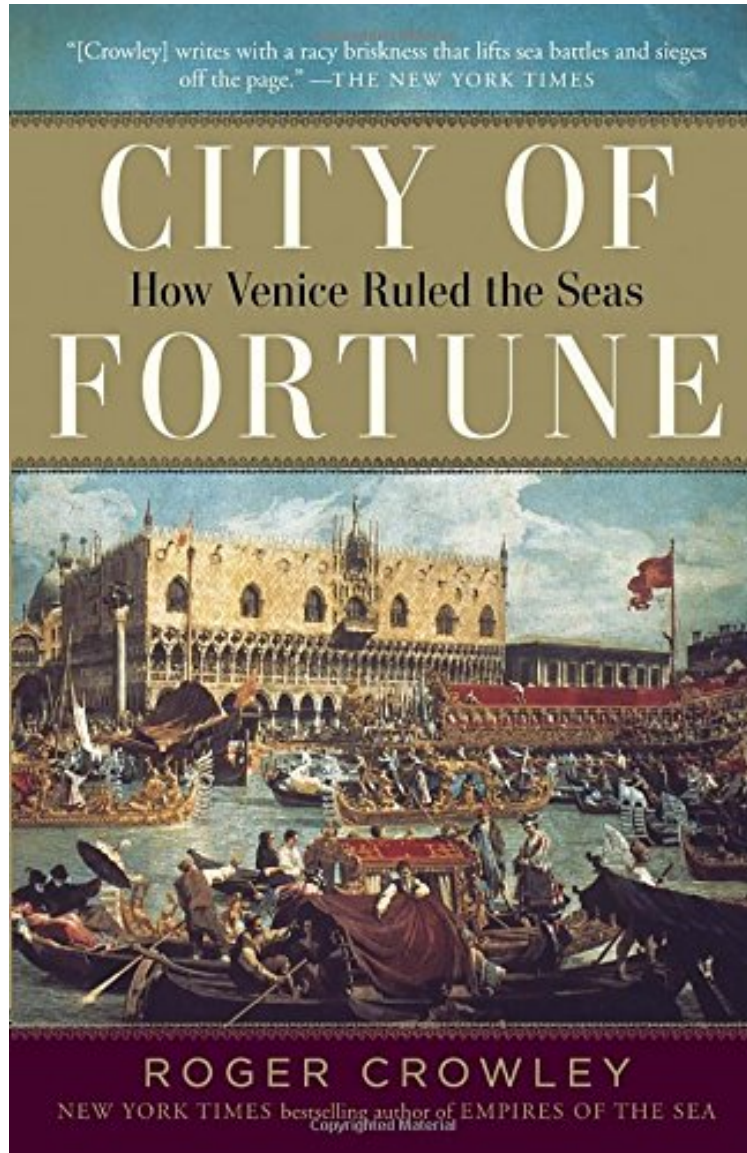


(Free download) City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas

City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas

Roger Crowley

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#83533 in Books Random House Trade 2013-05-21 2013-05-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.10 x 5.20l, .77 #File Name: 0812980220480 pages Random House Trade | File size: 56.Mb

Roger Crowley : City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas:

56 of 59 people found the following review helpful. Europe's First Economic Superpower By H. P. Crowley is entranced by Venice. It has two great lures: the sea, and its status as a very modern state in medieval times. The two led it to become Europe's first economic superpower. Venice was ideally located to provide the sea link between the

great Middle East overland spice routes and continental Europe. In the time of feudalism and a landed aristocracy, Venice was a republic "run by and for entrepreneurs," replacing "the chivalrous medieval knight with a new type of hero: the man of business." The city of merchant-princes understood the value of a rational and stable legal system. The two made the Venetian ducat the dollar of its day and provided a model for later naval empires like the British Empire. City of Fortune has four focal points--the Fourth Crusade, the great struggle for dominance over commerce in the Mediterranean between the Venetians and Genoese, Venice's subsequent rise as the dominant commercial power in the eastern Mediterranean, and the struggle with the Ottoman Empire that led to Venice's decline. The Venetians were never the most pious of people, but the Pope had no one else to go to for the Fourth Crusade. Only the seafaring Venetians had the naval capacity to transport a Crusade by sea. Venice agreed to transport 4,500 knights and horses and 20,000 foot soldiers in 450 transport ships accompanied by 50 war galleys. It was an incredible commitment that required 2 years of effort by the entire city. The Venetians, as always, had their own commercial interests in mind when negotiating the deal. One has to admire the audacity of a people who respond to a request by the pope to transport crusaders by ship by asking permission to trade with the Muslim world in return! The novelty of the Venetian focus on trade is dwarfed only by the novelty of their interest in engaging with the Islamic world. And they were instrumental in both creating an opportunity for the Ottoman Empire in Asia Minor and in decimating the economic importance of the southeast Mediterranean Islamic states. They did the first by playing a role in the sacking of Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade (a long, and fascinating, story told in the first quarter of the book). They did the second by pumping goods from the Islamic world into the West, leading to both the shifting of production across the Mediterranean and to the Portuguese seeking another route to India. The first half of the book is the more interesting. The events of the Fourth Crusade and Venice's wars with Genoa are captivating. Its truth is stranger than fiction stuff. The events of the second half cannot compete on that measure, but if you're both a history and business junky like me, the story of Venice's commercial rise is still compelling. Having spent so much time with the Venetians and seen them accomplish so much, it is almost painful to watch how ineffectual they ultimately were in combating the Ottoman Empire. Crowley has a great subject, and he takes full advantage. I would heartily recommend City of Fortune to anyone with an interest in not only Venetian and Mediterranean history, but also in European, medieval, or Islamic history. Venice played an integral role in each. This review is of the Kindle edition. The illustrations, and there are many, look good on the Kindle. Approximately 20% of the book is devoted to notes and a bibliography. Unlike some Kindle books, the notes (for quotations only) include links that allow the reader to jump from the note to the quote in the main text (without endnotes, however, you cannot jump directly from a quote in the main text to the note). 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Story of Empire and its demise By Khalid Aziz Roger Crowley does a good job explaining the compulsions of Venetian elite to forge the first example of a globalised state based on mercantilism; Venice laid the seeds of future Empires based on extracting value from trade and location. To protect its geographical advantage, Venice began to colonise to protect its lines of communications; but its wealth and its imperial advantage was destroyed by the destruction of Constantinople which was a suicidal move by the 4th Crusade warriors; instead of combating Islam, the greed of the 4th Crusade coalition in emasculating the Byzantine power, ultimately lead to the fall of Venice at the hand of the growing Ottoman power. Roger Crowley has written an absorbing account of this struggle; it is a very good read indeed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exciting read about the rise and decline of Venice By lady with cello This book cleared up quite a few mysteries about Venice. There are frequent descriptions from original sources by contemporary chroniclers that bring the tumultuous history of Venice to life. I did not expect this book to be a page-turner but for me it was. The writing is clear and concise. I've been to Venice several times but this last visit was immeasurably enhanced by the visceral and dramatic knowledge contained herein. You'll never feel quite as casual strolling around Piazza San Marco, or shopping on the Rialto bridge after reading this book. Kudos to the author.

"The rise and fall of Venice's empire is an irresistible story and [Roger] Crowley, with his rousing descriptive gifts and scholarly attention to detail, is its perfect chronicler."—The Financial Times The New York Times bestselling author of Empires of the Sea charts Venice's astounding five-hundred-year voyage to the pinnacle of power in an epic story that stands unrivaled for drama, intrigue, and sheer opulent majesty. City of Fortune traces the full arc of the Venetian imperial saga, from the ill-fated Fourth Crusade, which culminates in the sacking of Constantinople in 1204, to the Ottoman-Venetian War of 1499–1503, which sees the Ottoman Turks supplant the Venetians as the preeminent naval power in the Mediterranean. In between are three centuries of Venetian maritime dominance, during which a tiny city of "lagoon dwellers" grow into the richest place on earth. Drawing on firsthand accounts of pitched sea battles, skillful negotiations, and diplomatic maneuvers, Crowley paints a vivid picture of this avaricious, enterprising people and the bountiful lands that came under their dominion. From the opening of the spice routes to the clash between Christianity and Islam, Venice played a leading role in the defining conflicts of its time—the reverberations of which are still being felt today. "[Crowley] writes with a racy briskness that lifts sea battles and sieges off the page."—The New York Times "Crowley chronicles the peak of Venice's past glory with Wordsworthian sympathy, supplemented by impressive learning and infectious enthusiasm."—The Wall Street Journal

From Booklist Crowley's popular histories—this is his fourth—pivot around power politics of the Mediterranean Sea, circa 1453 (2005). Venice is the player this lively narrative focuses on, specifically during the three centuries, from 1200 to 1500, in which it was at the apex of its sway over maritime trade. Accenting the city-state's mercantile spirit, Crowley supports his narrative of the period's numerous naval wars with explanations of the commerce they were fought to command. Acquiring an imperial archipelago in the process of serving as spice broker between Europe and Asia, Venice reached around Greece to Constantinople and as far as southern Russia. Anchored by fortresses, linked by galleys, Venice's commercial empire faced challenges from Mongols, Genoa, and Ottoman Turks, and the diplomatic and military means by which Venice addressed those threats provide the most vivid passages and personalities in Crowley's account. Had Vittorio Pisano not defeated Genoa in 1380, Venice might not be the tourist attraction of today. A deft writer, Crowley renders the Venetian part in late medieval times interesting indeed to history buffs. --Gilbert Taylor "The rise and fall of Venice's empire is an irresistible story and [Roger] Crowley, with his rousing descriptive gifts and scholarly attention to detail, is its perfect chronicler."—The Financial Times "[Crowley] writes with a racy briskness that lifts sea battles and sieges off the page."—The New York Times "Crowley chronicles the peak of Venice's past glory with Wordsworthian sympathy, supplemented by impressive learning and infectious enthusiasm."—The Wall Street Journal "A pleasure to read . . . a gripping story."—Washington Independent of Books "Fascinating . . . [Crowley writes] absorbingly and accessibly for all readers of history."—Library Journal

About the Author Roger Crowley was born in 1951 and spent part of his childhood in Malta. He read English at Cambridge University and taught English in Istanbul, where he developed a strong interest in the history of Turkey. He has traveled extensively throughout the Mediterranean basin over many years and has a wide-ranging knowledge of its history and culture. He lives in Gloucestershire, England. He is also the author of *1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and The Clash of Islam and the West* and *Empires of the Sea: The Siege of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto, and the Contest for the Center of the World*.