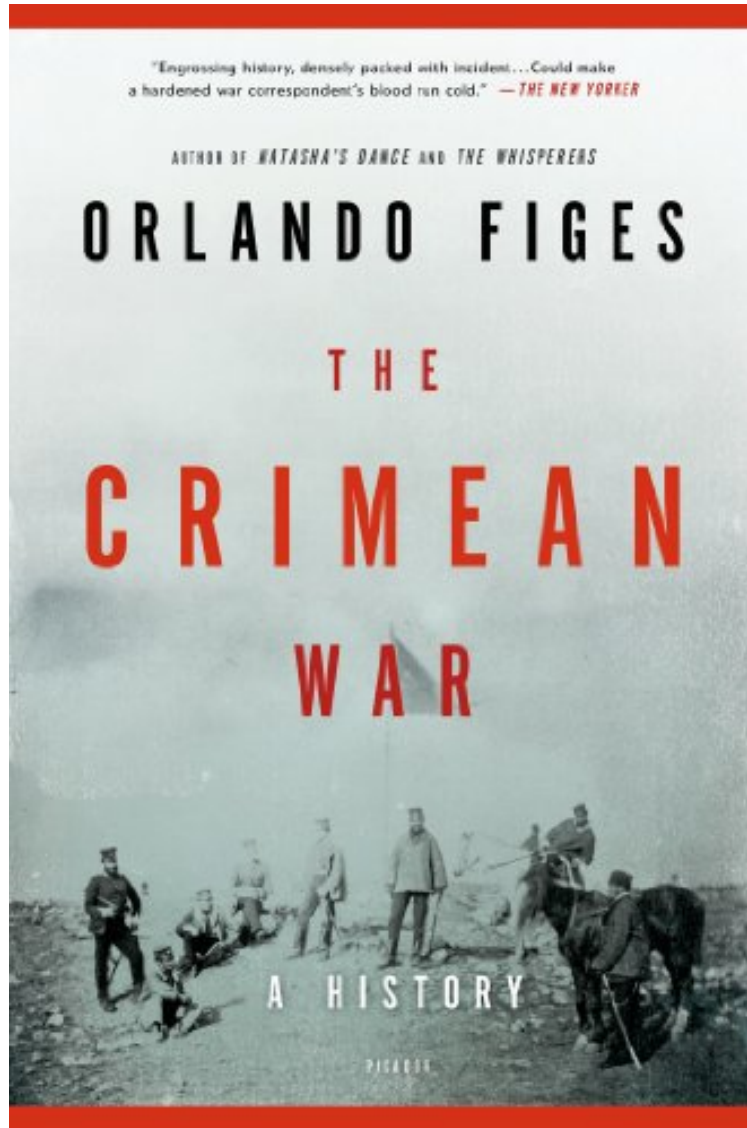


(Mobile pdf) The Crimean War: A History

The Crimean War: A History

Orlando Figes

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#77691 in Books Orlando Figes 2012-02-28 2012-02-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.18 x 1.07 x 6.081, 1.33 #File Name: 1250002524624 pages The Crimean War A History | File size: 62.Mb

Orlando Figes : The Crimean War: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crimean War: A History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. and a good comparative study in the difference in the training and ...By KateAs there will always be wars and rumors of wars, the study of wars and the history and relationships of empires or nations that lead to war is important because the past has much to teach us, if only we could keep our minds open enough to listen to where the clues others past mistakes could lead us. The Crimean War is a near forgotten war,

yet it set the stage for a series of wars and the ending of empires. It was the last war driven by religion and religious disputes, it was the first modern war where weapons and rail and steamship and telegraph had a major impact not only on the carnage but, because it was the first photographed war with war correspondents fired the imaginations of those on the home front who received news with immediacy that was previously unknown. It was also the first war where the common soldier and their plight and their sacrifice was given any acknowledgement. It was a war driven by misunderstandings of each party's intents as was the case of so many wars that had preceded it. It was the first war that saw Christian Europe side with a Muslim nation against another Christian nation. It was a war that saw the implementation of true field hospitals near forward operating bases, it gave birth to Florence Nightingale and the myths that grew around her, of the Siege of Sevastopol, the modernization of logistics, and a good comparative study in the difference in the training and the moral of the soldiers in the field with British and Russian soldiers being the least trained, least provided for and the most miserable, due primarily to the lack of leaders' concerns for their welfare. The French Army had been modernized under Napoleon earlier during the Napoleonic Wars, in ways that would eventually influence other military commands, generations later. This is one of the best texts I have read on this war, as most have been written from a very British and Russophobic point of view. A worthy read for any history buff. I was glad of previously reading about Catherine the Great which gave me the background on the Russian position on the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires and this geographic area that is still being disputed to this day with Putin's incursion and occupation of Crimea, geography and strategic positions always drive wars, and the hubris of those in power. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent...Needs Better Maps By Jeff First and foremost... "The Crimean War: A History" is an incredible read. Figs delves into many aspects of the war, all in tremendous and thoroughly readable detail. The part of the book I liked and appreciated the best is the significant portion he dedicates to the lead-up to the war, describing its many causes, some of which (like the sectarian and religious aspects) being thoroughly explored beyond what other books have done in the past. While the author encourages readers who are only interested in the military campaigns to skip the initial section, I highly discourage that, for in doing so you will miss the best section of the book. He also does a fine job of describing the aftermath and mythology of the Crimean War. There were some significant lessons to be learned, which were substantially glossed over and romanticized in later years - meaning the lessons had to be re-learned. For me, the weakest part of the book (though while by no means inadequate) were about the military campaigns of the war. Most importantly, the maps on the Kindle were lacking in detail, and in some cases were not to be found at all. This is inexcusable for the section on describing military maneuvers. Beyond that one small quibble... the book is thoroughly engaging and enjoyable. Recommended! 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Removing the Romantic Reveals this War's Significance By Jeffrey Swystun The Crimean War has been heavily romanticized by all those who fought it which has overshadowed its ugliness, scale, and elements that foreshadow what would take place in the First World War. Author Orlando Figes' greatest contribution takes place early in the book when he establishes why the conflict took place. It is a complex mix of religion (sowing seeds that grew into the current issues championed by certain Muslim factions), empire pride, and the vacuum that is described as "The Eastern Question". Figes suggests this conflict could be classified a global war given the diversity of people involved. Incredibly, few people today can recollect anything at all to do with the Crimean war, if they do it may be vague references to Florence Nightingale and the Charge of the Light Brigade. So the author is righting a wrong by providing an extremely well-written history. It has elements of an engaging narrative given the first person accounts which are balanced with significant detail. In fact, it is that detail that suggests this is not a pleasure read - it is best consumed by those with more than a passing interest in history. Several aspects resonated and impressed me: - fighting would anticipate the crass, mass method of war to follow while confusingly mixing in quaint codes of chivalry - the book rightfully spends a great deal of time on the siege of Sevastopol. The statistics and lengths of which will amaze: it lasted two weeks shy of a full year and saw 150 million gunshots and 5 million bombs lobbed between the two sides - it was fought with modern technologies, supply chains, and transportation. And extremely interesting are the facts and observations advanced by Figes on the role of media and how it influenced public opinion in Russia, France and England - in starting the war, waging it, and interpreting who won - over 750,000 soldiers lost their lives but this figure is made even more fascinating when it is known that the vast majority died due to disease and poor conditions rather than combat. Figes spends appropriate time describing fighting conditions, medical treatment, and several innovations that became common practice to better care for fighting men. The author's epilogue titled "The Crimean War in Myth and Memory" is an astounding examination of how the conflict has been oversimplified, how it impacted the countries and their militaries who fought it, and how media and propaganda emphasized and inflated innocuous, romantic aspects which, in turn, contributed to war's glorification and ultimate repetition. A thoroughly educational and illuminating history from the author whose superlative "A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924" equally impressed.

From "the great storyteller of modern Russian historians" ("Financial Times") comes the definitive account of the forgotten war that shaped the modern age. The Charge of the Light Brigade, Florence Nightingale--these are the enduring icons of the Crimean War. Less well-known is that this savage war (1853-1856) killed almost a million

soldiers and countless civilians; that it enmeshed four great empires--the British, French, Turkish, and Russian--in a battle over religion as well as territory; that it fixed the fault lines between Russia and the West; that it set in motion the conflicts that would dominate the century to come. In this masterly history, Orlando Figes reconstructs the first full conflagration of modernity, a global industrialized struggle fought with unusual ferocity and incompetence. Drawing on untapped Russian and Ottoman as well as European sources, Figes vividly depicts the world at war, from the palaces of St. Petersburg to the holy sites of Jerusalem; from the young Tolstoy reporting in Sevastopol to Tsar Nicolas, haunted by dreams of religious salvation; from the ordinary soldiers and nurses on the battlefields to the women and children in towns under siege. Original, magisterial, alive with voices of the time, "The Crimean War" is a historical tour de force whose depiction of ethnic cleansing and the West's relations with the Muslim world resonates with contemporary overtones. At once a rigorous, original study and a sweeping, panoramic narrative, "The Crimean War" is the definitive account of the war that mapped the terrain for today's world.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . All most people know of the Crimean War is the charge of the Light Brigade, but this war was both global and modern, insists noted historian and University of London professor Figes (The Whisperers: Private Life in Stalin's Russia) in his magnificent account. It was fought with industrial technology, railways, and steamships; 750,000 soldiers and uncounted numbers of civilians died. After an 1853 religious dispute with Ottoman leaders, Russian armies invaded a disputed area in present-day Romania. Longstanding anti-Russian anger in both Britain and Turkey boiled over into war. French opinion was less enthusiastic, but Napoleon III yearned for military glory. Although Russia soon retreated, Britain's cabinet wanted to inflict serious damage. The result was the massive 1854 British-French Crimean invasion. But the armies dawdled, resulting in a costly siege, bloody battles, and 18 months of legendary heroism and incompetence ending in a treaty that only temporarily restrained Russian advances and the Ottoman Empire's decline. Using French, Russian, and Ottoman as well as British sources, Figes has written a lucid, thoroughly satisfying, definitive history. 16 pages of bw photos; 19 bw photos throughout; maps. (Apr.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. "Engrossing . . . In a book densely packed with incident, Figes highlights the influence of the press and the brutal casualties that the war produced . . . Could make a hardened war correspondent's blood run cold." ?The New Yorker "Important and impressive . . . it is freshly informed by Russian sources, of which [Figes] is a master. . . . [The Crimean War] admirably narrates the saga in its international and religious setting." ?Max Hastings, New York of Books "Meticulously researched . . . Comprehensive and compelling . . . Using a startling array of sources, from government records, news articles, and memoirs, to the letters of barely-literate soldiers, Figes deftly balances political, military, and social history . . . The chapters on the war itself are as gripping as an adventure novel . . . The Crimean War is an evisceration of war, a celebration of scholarship." ?Boston Globe "Fascinating . . . Narrative history at its best, with patient unfolding of events unknown and forgotten--but that have consequences even today. A thoroughly impressive book." ?Kirkus, starred review "A lucid, thoroughly satisfying, definitive history." ?Publishers Weekly, starred review "Narrated in fearsomely vivid detail and with analytical precision . . . Figes restores historical significance and human suffering to the conflict." ?Booklist "A wonderful subject, on every level, and with Orlando Figes it has found the historian worthy of its width and depth." ?Norman Stone, Standpoint "Figes' new work will remind readers of his gifts, keen judgment and mastery of sources." ?Max Hastings, The Sunday Times "This is the only book on the Crimean War anyone could need. It is lucid, well-written, alive and sensitive. Above all, it tells us why this neglected conflict and its forgotten victims deserve our remembrance." ?Oliver Bullough, The Independent "Figes is a first-class historian. . . an excellent guide to the vagaries of the battlefield and the suffering of the ordinary soldiers . . . and the extent to which this was a religious war." ?Dominic Sandbrook, The Daily Telegraph "A fine, stirring account, expertly balancing analysis . . . with an impressive narrative across the vast panoramic sweep of the war." ?Mark Bostridge, Financial Times "Excellent. . . I could not help but marvel at the many parallels with the present." ?Anne Applebaum, The Spectator "A stellar historian. As ever, Figes mixes strong narrative pace, a grand canvas and compelling ideas about current geopolitical tensions." ?Tristram Hunt, The Observer "Entertains as well as enlightens. . . . With its account of combat in the Balkans and conflict in Iran, Afghanistan and Jerusalem, [The Crimean War] makes the modern reader blink with recognition." ?Angus Macqueen, The Guardian "A complex tale, told vividly by Figes." ?The Economist About the Author Orlando Figes is the author of eight books on Russia that have been translated into twenty-seven languages; they include The Whisperers, A People's Tragedy, Natasha's Dance, and Just Send Me Word. A professor of history at Birkbeck, University of London and a frequent contributor to The New York of Books, Figes is the recipient of the Wolfon History Prize, the W. H. Smith Literary Award, the NCR Book Award, and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, among others.