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Islam At The Gates: How Christendom Defeated The Ottoman Turks



Synopsis

Historian Diane Moczar pulls back the curtain on one of the most important acts in the drama of Muslim aggression against the West: the 500-year-long siege of Europe by the Ottoman Turks. Tracing the rise of the Turkish people from wandering Asian tribe to mighty pan-continental empire, Islam at the Gates chronicles the heroes and villains, the battles and atrocities, the tragic errors and timely miracles, that marked the Ottomans incursions from Europe's borders to the very heart of Christendom; and then, by the grace of God, their eventual repulsion and final defeat. In these pages you'll encounter: The bold sultans, timid emperors, and vile traitors who aided the Turkish advance and the popes who tirelessly preached Crusade against it. Brave saints who rallied Christian forces against the invaders including the hardy warrior-monk who died in battle at the age of sixty-one. The island fortress whose rag-tag defenders continually thwarted superior numbers of Ottoman attackers defying even the great sultan Suleiman. The suffering of millions of Christian families in occupied lands their children kidnapped and forced into Muslim armies and harems. Folk heroes from the hills of Hungary and Albania who rose up against their Ottoman overlords and whose guerilla tactics inspired their people. The tragic fall of Constantinople, seat of Eastern Christianity its people slaughtered, its treasures plundered, its sacred places defiled. Europe's pivotal, improbable pair of victories at Lepanto and Vienna, and the defeat of the last great Turkish offensive on September 11, 1697. Solid history and dramatic narrative make Islam at the Gates a moving look at Europe's long struggle against the Turks. But the author's shrewd Catholic outlook also makes it an edifying one. Had these events unfolded just a little differently, Christian civilization might have been conquered by the sword of Allah. If we fail to learn the lessons of history, Dr. Moczar warns, the West may yet fall.

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Customer Reviews

Miss Moczar chronicles the centuries-long duel between Islam and Christianity with both a fair amount of detail, and yet great simplicity. The obvious Catholic angle that she takes in writing this does not take away from this. In fact, I think it adds to the richness in reading it. First off, I'm a history major. There are far too many history books out there where the author clearly has no moral compass whatsoever. To these post-moralist historians, there are no such things as good and bad guys. And frankly, not only does it make for dull reading, it's flat out wrong. Moczar on the other hand makes clear the atrocities committed by the Ottoman Empire against those it conquered. She details the heroes and villains alike, and even a few turncoats. I never fully comprehended just how close Western Civilization came to falling to the Muslims at so many different points in history. If it wasn't for the heroism of many a stubborn Christian, and the sheer incompetence and bungling of several Ottoman leaders, we might all very well be praying towards Mecca five times a day. Now before you all dismiss me as just another ultra-Catholic, I should point out that I am, in fact not religious at all. I'm an agnostic. That being said, I do recognize the threat that the West has been under before, and the one it continues to be under from Islamic radicals to this day. Islam is truly at the gates once more, no matter how much the multi-cultural, tolerant types would try to convince us otherwise. Most of Europe does not have the cajones to stand up against Islamic radicalism, leaving the United States along with only a few other nations to stand up against the next wave of terror from Islam.

Historian and author of: *Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know*, writes an eye opening account of how the Catholic church saved Europe from being swept away by Islamic invasion. European history taught in our schools, and portrayed in Hollywood show the church as cruel, murderers, that held crusades for the sole purpose conquering and destroying foreign lands. *Islam at the Gates*, does not rewrite history but, provides the chronology of events and little known facts of the atrocities committed by Islam, during the Dark and Early Middle Ages, such as: Destruction of places of worship--Forced conversion--Slavery--The book also shows us the heros of our faith: Pope St. Gregory VII, Pope Urban IV, and Pope Urban V. Each attempted to rally Europe to take up arms and defend, Eastern and Western Europe, against Islamic attacks. Despite the lack of response from European national leaders and monarchs of that age, these Popes possessed the courage to become the true protectors of the people and Christian faith. Even as Islam stood at the very gate,

ready to conquer and convert the continent to the Islamic religion and culture. These great men lead our church and the nations of Europe to victory, and safety. Because of the Catholic church, and the brave men that rallied behind the banner of the church in battle, Christianity survived, and lives on today. After reading this book you will come to appreciate the history, leadership, and divine purpose of the Catholic church as defender of the Body of Christ and teacher of all the truths of Christianity.

This book is an excellent historical review of the beginning of Islam; the following of the Quran to the jihadist extreme; the vicious side of slavery, pillage and death resulting from an area being conquered; the reasons why the crusades were called; the jealously and politically partisan Europe during this time; the political problems of the West and the Church; the poor and great leaders of the world during this period; the reasons for the receding borders of the Islamic aggressors; and the lessons learned by history to avoid and be alert for this type of conflict today. It was an excellent read and a very accurate historical presentation of that time period.

This book proves that history can be as interesting and enjoyable to read as any novel. I was already quite familiar with the underlying history, but still learned details I did not know. This is the real story of Ottoman aggression - the one you will not learn from the politically correct crowd or public schools- and it is as relevant today given fundamentalist Islam's resurgence in Turkey and the decline of western civilization. We may not be that far off from a world wherein the Turk's renew their aggression against the fringes of Europe and perhaps even the heart of Europe as well given the great strides into European culture made by migrating Muslims. The Greeks should be particularly alarmed. With their financial woes and general decline of their civilization, they are ripe for eventual renewed Turkish aggression. The best points in this book are the political machinations, lack of a European united front, and treasonous acts by many non Muslims that aided the Ottomans in their aggression. We see the same type of behavior allowing Islam to advance in the modern age. It has often been said that those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it. Read this book so we can avoid as much as is possible the mistakes made by prior generations that were forced to resist Islam. The only downside to the book is that the author is patently pro-Catholic and her opinions about the impact of developing Protestantism on the fight against the Ottomans is, therefore, suspect, but it is a minor flaw in an otherwise outstanding presentation and summary of relevant history.

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