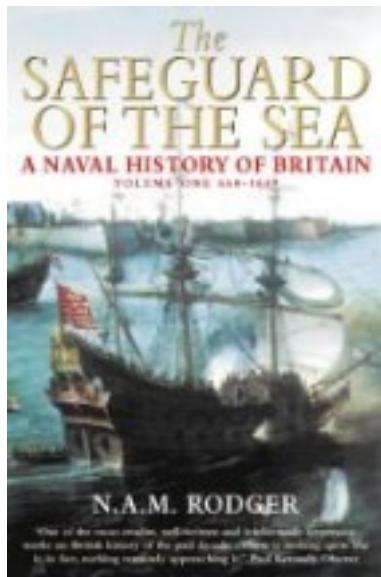


The Safeguard of the Sea



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"[An] awesomely scholarly study. . . . The importance of this book is not only in its intrinsic interest, or its usefulness as a superb resource, but its demonstration that [Britain's] story cannot be told without a thorough knowledge of what happened at sea."—Alan Judd, *Sunday Times* [London] Throughout the chronicle of Britain's history, one factor above all others has determined the fate of kings, the security of trade, and the integrity of the realm. Without its navy, Britain would have been a weakling among the nations of Europe, could never have built or maintained the empire, and in all likelihood would have been overrun by the armies of Napoleon and Hitler. Now, for the first time in nearly a century, a prominent naval historian has undertaken a comprehensive account of the history and traditions of this most essential institution. N. A. M. Rodger has produced a superb work, combining scholarship with narrative, that demonstrates how the political and social history of Britain has been inextricably intertwined with the strength—or weakness—of her

seapower. From the early military campaigns against the Vikings to the defeat of the great Spanish Armada in the reign of Elizabeth I, this volume touches on some of the most colorful characters in British history. It also provides fascinating details on naval construction, logistics, health, diet, and weaponry. "A splendid book. It combines impressively detailed research with breadth of perception....[Rodger] has prepared an admirable historical record that will be read and reread in the years ahead."— Times [London] 24 pages of illustrations

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评论

人们不断了解海权对于不列颠诸岛的重要性，又不断忘记它。对于懂得利用海权的国家而言，海洋才是庇护和通途。对于不懂利用它的国家而言，它只是一种地理障碍。相对于陆军，一支高效的海军需要得到社会的高度认同和参与，因此，“专制政权无法取得海军所需的共识”，“西班牙、法国、德国和俄罗斯先后失败”。这种似乎带有英美“极其自负”制度自信的结论到底是不是真理呢？

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书评

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