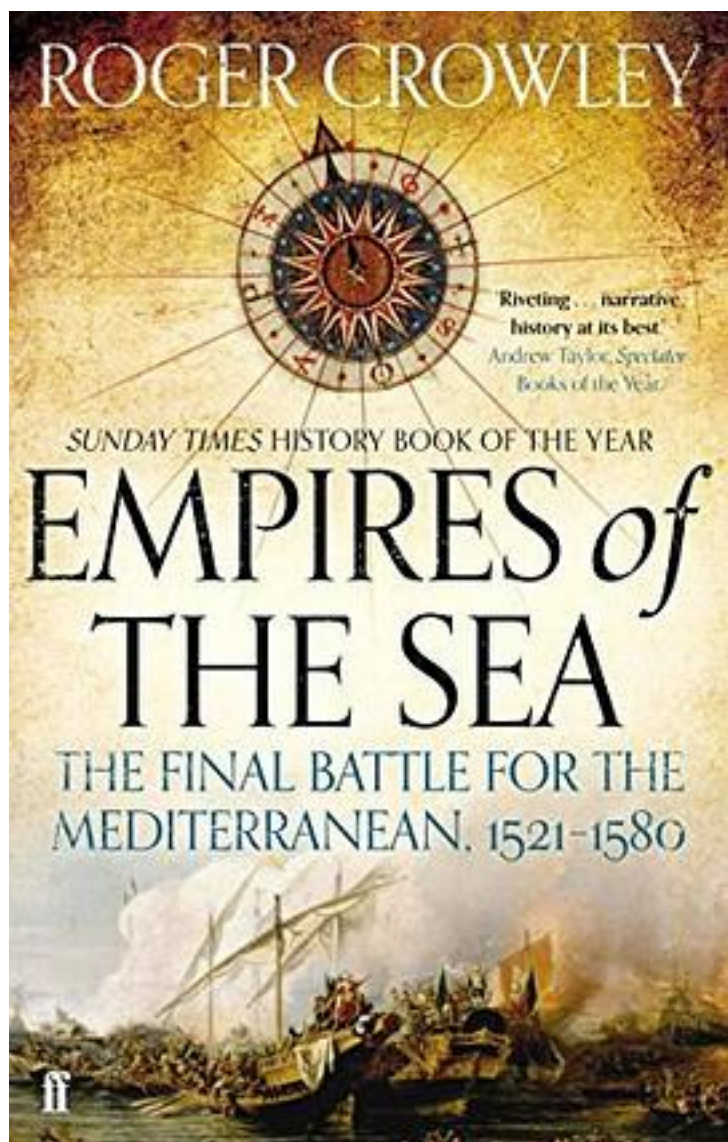


# Empires of the Sea



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著者:Roger Crowley

出版者:Random House

出版时间:2008-07-01

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9781400066247

In 1521, Suleiman the Magnificent, Muslim ruler of the Ottoman Empire at the height of its power, dispatched an invasion fleet to the Christian island of Rhodes. This would prove to be the opening shot in an epic struggle between rival empires and faiths for control of the Mediterranean and the center of the world.

In *Empires of the Sea*, acclaimed historian Roger Crowley has written his most mesmerizing work to date—a thrilling account of this brutal decades-long battle between Christendom and Islam for the soul of Europe, a fast-paced tale of spiraling intensity that ranges from Istanbul to the Gates of Gibraltar and features a cast of extraordinary characters: Barbarossa, “The King of Evil,” the pirate who terrified Europe; the risk-taking Emperor Charles V; the Knights of St. John, the last crusading order after the passing of the Templars; the messianic Pope Pius V; and the brilliant Christian admiral Don Juan of Austria.

This struggle’s brutal climax came between 1565 and 1571, seven years that witnessed a fight to the finish decided in a series of bloody set pieces: the epic siege of Malta, in which a tiny band of Christian defenders defied the might of the Ottoman army; the savage battle for Cyprus; and the apocalyptic last-ditch defense of southern Europe at Lepanto—one of the single most shocking days in world history. At the close of this cataclysmic naval encounter, the carnage was so great that the victors could barely sail away “because of the countless corpses floating in the sea.” Lepanto fixed the frontiers of the Mediterranean world that we know today.

Roger Crowley conjures up a wild cast of pirates, crusaders, and religious warriors struggling for supremacy and survival in a tale of slavery and galley warfare, desperate bravery and utter brutality, technology and Inca gold. *Empires of the Sea* is page-turning narrative history at its best—a story of extraordinary color and incident, rich in detail, full of surprises, and backed by a wealth of eyewitness accounts. It provides a crucial context for our own clash of civilizations.

作者介绍:

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标签

历史

欧洲

英国文学

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穆斯林

的

欧洲史

评论

“THE TREATY OF 1580 RECOGNIZED a stalemate between two empires and two worlds. From this moment, the diagonal frontier that ran the length of the Mediterranean between Istanbul and the Gates of Gibraltar hardened.”

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这本太散了，没有上一本好看

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假设一下：如果没有美洲的金银给西班牙输血，突厥人的旗帜是否会插遍地中海岸？现在的世界将会是什么样子？另外有个疑惑，勒班陀海战的主力舰还都是桨帆船，不以风为主要动力；仅仅十几年后的无敌舰队，却因为风向不利而不得不绕过整个不列颠，几乎全军覆没？看来是需要补一补海军史了。

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五百年前两大巨头的博弈，由罗德岛到马耳他再到勒班陀，大航海时代的经典战役，接着作者前作的《君士坦丁堡之战》食用效果更佳。

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很详尽的16世纪地中海战史。欧洲的动态力量均衡还是维持的很好，哈布斯堡王朝这样的巨型存在也是被各种力量遏制着，即使南美洲的金银再多也是填入战争的无底洞。对战争双方，战争过程的描写引人入胜。遗憾是对各势力缺乏内部的经济/政治分析。通过本书，对医院骑士团、教宗、马耳他、罗德岛、伊斯坦堡、塞浦路斯、马布里、威尼

斯等地的历史多了一个角度的理解。

荒诞与强权从来没有让人类失去信仰，反倒成就了人类的信仰本身，从旧神到新神，从旧世界到新规则，人类之所信仰以此从未枯竭。因为渺小，人类无法不为身边的变化而慨叹，因为平凡，人类从未放弃对美好的留恋。正是人们对生命意义的追求赋予了生命在宇宙虚无中的独特尊严，不论是破浪远征的英雄，还是运筹帷幄的政客，亦或依偎踟伫的妇人。在真诚的生活之中人类无法可循，也没有道貌岸然的先知先觉，真正的独立感恰恰是源于继承性，它使人们并不会无休止的放纵并在不可自拔的虚无中感觉到自负和愉悦。

基督教与伊斯兰教400多年前未了结的恩怨 绵延到今天

Haunting and inspiring, a book full of vivid description of medieval battles among titans.

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书评

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