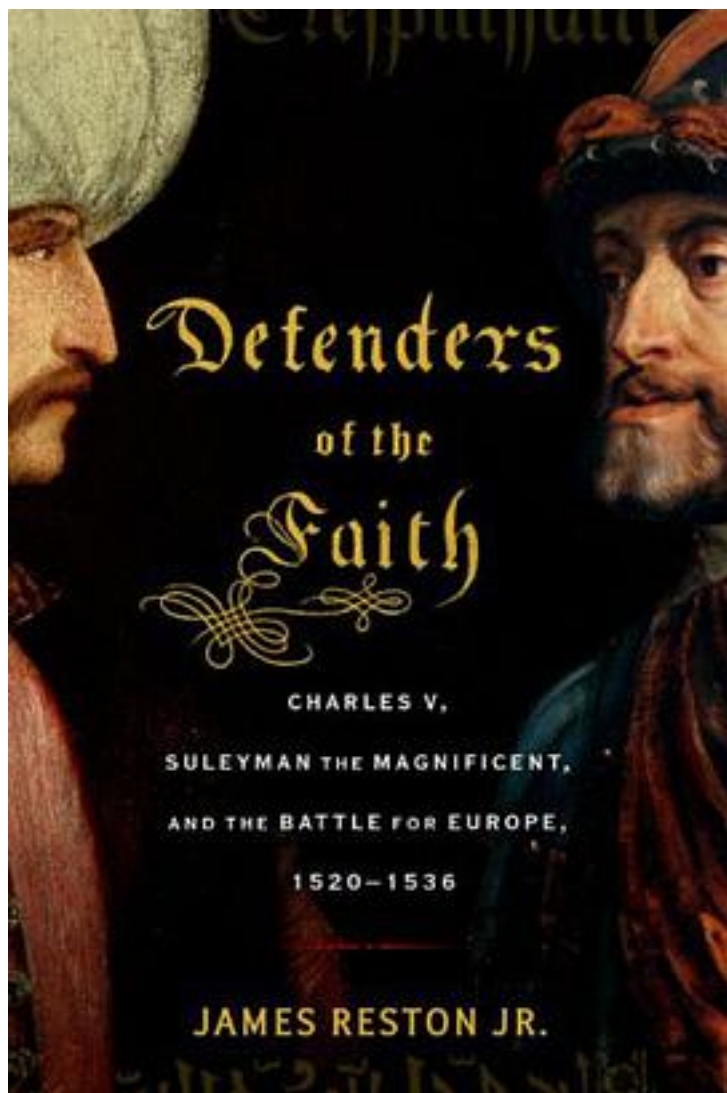


Defenders of the Faith



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著者:James Reston

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In the bestselling *Warriors of God* and *Dogs of God*, James Reston, Jr., limned two epochal conflicts between Islam and Christendom. Here he examines the ultimate battle in that centuries-long war, which found Europe at its most vulnerable and Islam on the attack. This drama was propelled by two astonishing young sovereigns: Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and Turkish sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. Though they represented two colliding worlds, they were remarkably similar. Each was a poet and cultured cosmopolitan; each was the most powerful man on his continent; each was called “Defender of the Faith”; and each faced strident religious rebellion in his domain. Charles was beset by the “heresy” of Martin Luther and his fervid adherents, even while tensions between him and the pope threatened to boil over, and the upstart French king Francis I harried Charles’ realm by land and sea. Suleyman was hardly more comfortable on his throne. He had earned his crown by avoiding the grim Ottoman tradition of royal fratricide. Shiites in the East were fighting off the Sunni Turks’ cruel repression of their “heresy.” The ferocity and skill of Suleyman’s Janissaries had expanded the Ottoman Empire to its greatest extent ever, but these slave soldiers became rebellious when foreign wars did not engage them.

With Europe newly hobbled and the Turks suffused with restless vigor, the stage was set for a drama that unfolded from Hungary to Rhodes and ultimately to Vienna itself, which both sides thought the Turks could win. If that happened, it was generally agreed that Europe would become Muslim as far west as the Rhine.

During these same years, Europe was roiled by constant internal tumult that saw, among other spectacles, the Diet of Worms, the Sack of Rome, and an actual wrestling match between the English and French monarchs in which Henry VIII’s pride was badly hurt. Would—could—this fractious continent be united to repulse a fearsome enemy?

作者介绍:

Author of 13 books, three plays, and numerous articles in national magazines. Winner of Prix Italia and the Dupont-Columbia Award for his 1983 90 minute radio documentary on National Public Radio, "Father Cares: the Last of Jonestown." His last four historical works, *Galileo: A Life*, *The Last Apocalypse*, and *Warriors of God*, and *Dogs of God* have been translated into twelve foreign languages. *Warriors of God* and *Collision at Home Plate* have been optioned by Hollywood.

In 1976-1977, Reston was David Frost's Watergate adviser for the famous Frost/Nixon Interviews, seen by 57 million people world-wide. His narrative of that experience will be published in 2007 and entitled *The Conviction of Richard Nixon: The Untold Story of the Frost/Nixon Interviews*. The manuscript was a considerable inspiration to the British playwright, Peter Morgan, in the making of his hit London play, "Frost/Nixon," in which Reston is a major character.

His articles have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Time*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Smithsonian*, *Esquire*, *American Theatre*, *Playboy*, and *Rolling Stone*.

In recent years he has lectured widely in the United States and overseas on the millennium, the crusades, and the Spanish Inquisition, citing their relevance to modern issues.

He has been a fellow at the American Academy in Rome, a scholar in residence at the Library of Congress, and is currently a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson

International Center for Scholars in Washington.

Born in New York in 1941, he was raised in Washington, D.C. and attended the University of North Carolina on a Morehead Scholarship where he earned his B.A. in philosophy. At UNC he was an All South soccer player and after forty two years still holds the single game scoring record for the university. (5 goals against N.C. State, October 18, 1962.) He attended Oxford University for his junior year.

Reston was an assistant to U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Steward Udall, 1964-65. U.S. Army, 1965-68. Lecturer in Creative Writing, University of North Carolina, 1971-81. Newsweek, PBS, and BBC candidate to be the first writer on the NASA space shuttle.

Married, with three children. Lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

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评论

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书评

1520到1536年间，近东和欧洲各有一个强权皇帝，分别叫做苏莱曼大帝和神圣罗马皇帝查理五世。这也帝国时代天主教国和穆斯林最后的碰撞。这一次，是来自亚洲的土耳其帝国问鼎欧洲，在维也纳城边，高唱着东方的圣歌。书的副标题叫做“查理五世，苏莱曼大帝，为欧洲而战”。但是，...

我们国家的影视剧，小说什么啦，就喜欢鼓吹什么大帝啦，明君啦，圣主什么的。那群相当皇帝都想疯了的主儿们，只有借文艺这虚构的一亩三分地，穿上龙袍，好好yy一下。大帝们一个个人模狗样，高屋建瓴，又都是些多情种子。更兼忧国忧民，动不动就把社稷之福祉，万民之重托挂在bou...

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