

# Richelieu's Army

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It is assumed widely that 'war made the state' in seventeenth-century France. Yet this study of the French army during the ministry of Cardinal Richelieu (1624-42) shows how the expansion of the war effort was not matched by army reform but by a reliance on traditional mechanisms of control. The army imposed a huge burden upon the French population, but far from being an instrument of the emerging absolutist state its demands contributed to weakening Richelieu's hold upon France and heightened levels of political and social tension. This is the first detailed account of the size, organization, recruitment, financing and control of the troops during this formative period of French history. The book also includes a detailed study of foreign policy during Richelieu's ministry, and places the training, deployment and fighting methods of the French army into the context of arguments for military change in early modern Europe. The title was runner up in the History Today Awards 2002.

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I have been a Fellow and Tutor in Early Modern History at New College since 1992, having previously taught at the University of York. My research and publications have been largely concerned with the relationship between war, government and society in early modern Europe. My first book, *Richelieu's Army*, examined the administration of the French army in the first half of the seventeenth century, and the relationship of the military with French politics and society. More recently I have developed an interest in

early modern mercenaries and military contracting, and my most recent book, *The Business of War*, explores these themes. I am happy to supervise graduate students across a range of early modern European topics in political, military, social and cultural history, though focusing above all on France and the Italian states.

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## 标签

欧洲史

军事史

历史

## 评论

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## 书评

- 此书和*The Grand Strategy of Philip II*可以并列我近年入手的历史类书籍之最优，有逻辑、有分析、有事实、有结论，价值不在于证明或灌输某种观点而是尽可能令人信服地还原某个特定时代特定领域的面貌。
- 但还是要说原封不动的法语引文太多了！对我来说这是个很大的阅读障碍...

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用了相当篇幅普及荷兰改革和古斯塔夫·阿道夫的改革。关于荷兰人把方阵改成浅纵深

、小规模编队，此书的解释是为了更有效地利用火枪兵的火力，以前在网络上看到的《西方战争艺术》则认为为了使长矛兵得到更大的发挥。荷兰人声称改革的灵感来自古罗马军事典籍，作者则认为这...

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