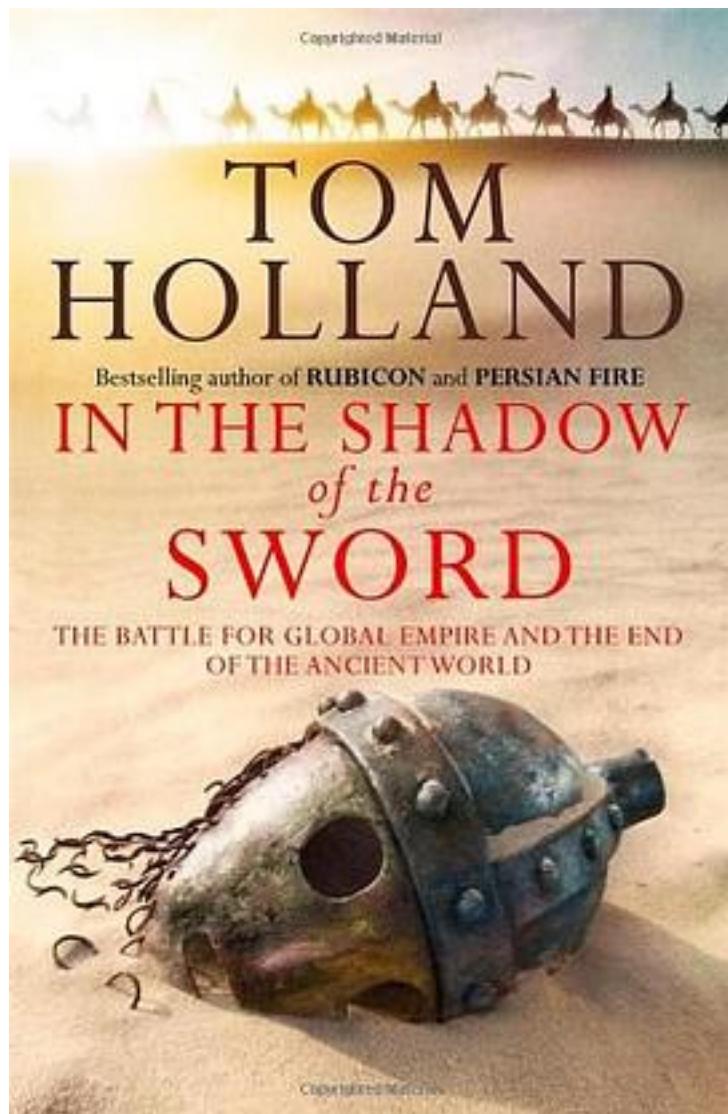


In the Shadow of the Sword



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In the 6th century AD, the Near East was divided between two venerable empires: the Persian and the Roman. A hundred years on, and one had vanished forever, while the other seemed almost finished. Ruling in their place were the Arabs: an upheaval so profound that it spelt, in effect, the end of the ancient world. In *The Shadow of the Sword*, Tom Holland explores how this came about. Spanning Constantinople to the Arabian desert, and starring some of the most remarkable rulers who ever lived, he tells a story vivid with drama, horror and startling achievement.

作者介绍:

Historian Tom Holland is the author of the works of history *Rubicon*, *Persian Fire*, and *The Forge of Christendom*. He reviews regularly for the *TLS*, and has adapted Homer, Herodotus, Thucydides, and Virgil for BBC Radio. *Rubicon* was short-listed for the Samuel Johnson Prize and won the 2004 Hessell-Tiltman Prize for History, and *Persian Fire* won the Anglo-Hellenic League's 2006 Runciman Award.

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