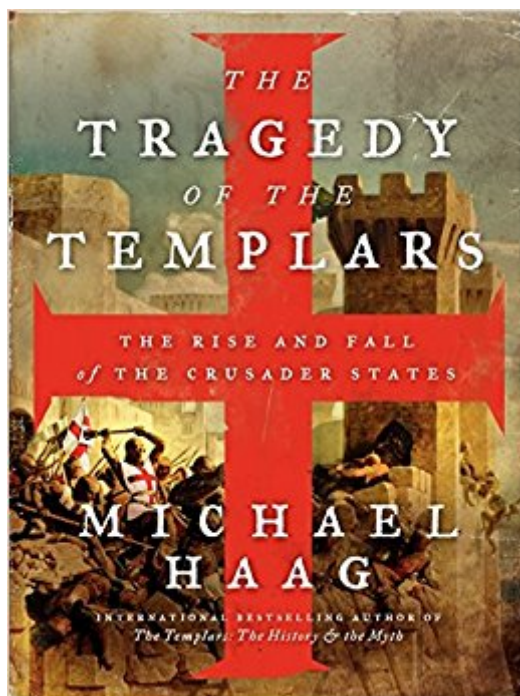


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The Tragedy Of The Templars: The Rise And Fall Of The Crusader States



Synopsis

From Michael Haag, bestselling author of *The Templars: The History and the Myth*, comes *The Tragedy of the Templars*, an exciting new look at the rise of Templar power and the saga of their destruction. Founded on Christmas Day 1119 in Jerusalem, the Knights Templar was a religious order dedicated to defending the Holy Land and its Christian pilgrims in the decades after the First Crusade. Legendary for their bravery and dedication, the Templars became one of the wealthiest and most powerful bodies of the medieval world and the chief defenders of Christian society against growing Muslim forces. In *The Tragedy of the Templars: The Rise and Fall of the Crusader States*, Haag masterfully details the conflicts and betrayals that sent this faction of powerful knights spiraling from domination to condemnation. This stirring and thoroughly researched work of historical investigation includes maps and full-color photographs of important cultural sites, many of which doubled as battlefields during the Crusades.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Romanticized and demonized since the Middle Ages, the legendary Knights Templar devoted their lives to Christ as a military force sanctioned by the papacy to liberate and defend the then-predominantly Christian city of Jerusalem. Haag (*The Templars: The History & the Myth*) explores their evolution from 12th-century protectors of pilgrims trekking to the Holy Land to wealthy Crusaders frequently at war with Islamic forces across the Middle East and the Iberian peninsula. Throughout, the book suffers from one-sidedness: the author consistently characterizes the Muslims as brutal and vengeful, whereas the Templars are given relatively generous treatment as brave

messengers of progress and development. Still, Haag's account sparkles with fascinating ephemera, as when he quotes a 12th-century narrative of the creation of the myth of the Holy Grail, or when he describes the game-changing moves of the bold queen Eleanor of Aquitaine or the greedy, villainous Philip IV. The Templars were eventually defeated by the Muslims, but it was their own religious kin that brought them down: rumors of heresy and bizarre initiation rites were rampant, and Pope Clement IV under the orders of Philip IV finally disbanded the Templars in the 14th century. A dense and entertaining volume especially suited for those already interested in the order. 3 maps. Agent: George Lucas, Inkwell Management. (Aug.)

Their formal name shortened from the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, the Templars were the elite military force of the Christian states established by the Crusades. Haag's history of the Templars prefaces the organization with the origins of the First Crusade, which in 1099 reclaimed Jerusalem for Christianity. Travel to the Holy Land nevertheless remained dangerous, and providing protection to pilgrims was one reason the pope sanctioned the Templars. The order's ensuing growth into a religious army reigns as the theme of Haag's account, which covers the Templars' role in the wars between Christendom and Islam. But beyond spiritual fervor and organizational discipline, landholdings and banking operations underlay the corporate success of the order. Wealth also, Haag recounts, contributed to the Templars' ultimate downfall. Having lost its military justification to exist with the final extinction of the Crusader states in 1291, the order's assets were snatched by the king of France, leaving the pope to abolish the Templars in 1312. In league with *The Crusades* (2010), by Thomas Asbridge, Haag's work will pique the interest of medievalists.

--Gilbert Taylor

Wow! This book includes lots more than just a history of the Knights Templar. Fully the first third is devoted to setting the scene for the rise of the Order by detailing the situation and events in the Levant prior to the First Crusade. The remainder covers the rise of the Templars, their role in the affairs of Outremer, and their suppression by Philip the Fair and Pope Clement. Excellent book; highly recommended.

A real mixed bag. The first several chapters dealing with the history of the Holy Land BEFORE the Crusades was unbelievably informative. This part of the book alone was worth the cost of the book - transformed my view of the Crusades in a way that six poor books on the Crusades had not done.

Also a few interesting tidbits on Eleanor of Aquitaine. The remainder, the actual telling of the Crusades and the Holy Land under the "Franks" and the demise of the Templars, was rather boring and incomplete compared to other accounts. Maybe as a first book on all of these topics it is useful. But there are lots of better books out there on both the Templars, the Crusades, and the Holy Land in the era of the Crusades.

Fantastic read, thoroughly enjoy his writing and research is impeccable.

Well written truth!

Excellent book based on the historical facts. It provides an interesting analysis of the Templars' descent. But it is also a good document of Jerusalem and the nearby. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to go on a time journey. This is a second book of Michael Haag about the Templars I read, and certainly Michael mastered the knowledge about the Templars to perfection.

I appreciated Michael Haag's interpretation of these events, especially after reading several "revisionist history" versions of the Crusades that have been quick to acknowledge the sins and flaws of some of the Christians while downplaying or ignoring the even more deplorable actions of some Muslims. The author may be too quick to portray the Templars in a positive light, however, because there is much to condemn in their behavior as well. Generally an interesting read that is more about the history of the Middle East up to and including the various Crusades than about the Templars themselves, which I found very helpful.

Good review of history and I can see how little has changed in 1,000 years. Jumps between events and could have been more fluid.

A plethora of information!

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