



Saladin: Hero Of Islam

Geoffrey Hindley

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The extraordinary character and career of Saladin are the keys to understanding the Battle of Hattin, the fall of Jerusalem and the failure of the Third Crusade. He united warring Muslim lands, reconquered the bulk of Crusader states and faced the Richard the Lion Heart, king of England, in one of the most famous confrontations in medieval warfare. Geoffrey Hindley's sympathetic and highly readable study of the life and times of this remarkable, many-sided man, who dominated the Middle East in his day, gives a fascinating insight into his achievements and into the Muslim world of his contemporaries.

Saladin: Hero Of Islam Details

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Fahed (Fred) says

Honestly didn't expect this book to be this boring. unfortunately it took me ages to read and finish and I never really got into it found myself wondering about other things....

Mike Wigal says

I preferred "Warriors of God: Richard the Lionheart and Saladin in the Third Crusade" 2001 by James Reston. But this book gave a more in depth background story of Saladin's early years and rise to power.

Hassan Jawaid says

One of the most influential figures in the history of warriors...history of empires...history of medieval warfare..cant imagine the might of such impactful and courageous character when he jumps into the bloody battlegrounds or when he liberates jerruselum and stands tall to look at the minarates of the mosque of aqsa....

Mutia fatimah says

kisah perjalanan hidup sang panglima perang salahuddin al-ayubi. dimana di masanya ketika musuh2nya mendengar namanya saja sudah gentar. penaklukan jerusalem dan cordoba dbawah kepemimpinannya memang mengukir sejarah banget. pantas saja kalau sampai dbuat bukunya.

aku pribadi memang kenal sosok ini, pas nonton film 'kingdom of heaven' (orlando bloom, eva green, edward norton). dan terus terang aja si reidley scott sbg sutradaranya sukses banget menggambarkan sosok panglima ini. sampe 'merinding' nontonnya.

pesan: rekomen banget utk dbaca semua kalangan dan pemeluk agama apapun. krn dbuku ini menjelaskan bagaimana saladin ketika menaklukan jerusalem, beliau tidak sama sekali memaksakan keyakinan siapapun, nasrani dan yahudi mendapatkan perlakuan yg sama spt penduduk beragama islam. bahkan semua rumah ibadah nasrani dan yahudi sama sekali tidak dhancurkan :)

Fahmeed says

You can't just read this book once, the map provided helps to understand the phases in the chapters. Allot of information which I'll probably have to pick up on again in the future.

Couldn't resist not reading it when I saw it. I love reading about ancient warfare and the book is descriptive

when talking about circumstances and how they would make decisions.

Amy Chichi Hsiao says

This book has to come with a big map. Otherwise you get confused or even bored. The theory about jihad makes perfect sense and somehow entertaining. Even though the narration jumped from battle in Hattin to previous decades and thus is a bit hard to follow, it's still highly informing and entertaining if you're a big enough fan of history.

My problems with this book

- 1) I couldn't manage to memorize all the names of Saladin's families and Syrian cities...they're so many and so much alike. Al-Adil, al-Shaubak...damn it, haha.
- 2) The first half of the book would have been more charming had it come with some brief introductions to noted Frankish noblemen around Kingdom of Jerusalem. I had to check Wiki to figure out who they were. But still, the whole process is overall highly entertaining.
- 3) The power struggle among Syrian emirs is very charming but would be easier to understand and envision with a map.

Paul Hammer says

A nice biography of Saladin but it also provides extra background from the death of Mohamed to the second crusade as well as the regional politics and strife surrounding Saladin.

Pablo Rossello says

Haven't finished it yet, but it came across as being a bit too specific and complex for my interests. The messy nature of Syrian politics at the time (with new dynasties arising every fortnight) doesn't help make it an easy read. Will get back to it sometime... I hope.

The chapters on Saladin's upbringing in Baalbek and Damascus are quite entertaining though, and the section on 'the quadrilateral of power' (i.e. the rivalry between Mosul, Aleppo, Baghdad, and Damascus), is illuminating on the Syrian/Abbasid political status quo in the early first millennium.

More maps in the appendix section and a couple of more images (especially portraits of the numerous characters) would have certainly helped.

Beorn says

Rather misleadingly, with the title and the introductory blurb on the inside flap, I took this to be a biography. As it turns out, it is far more of a generic retelling of the history of the Third Crusade from a Muslim (ie non-Frankish) perspective than actually being an interesting focus on the personal life of one of the most famous warriors in history.

So on that front, it's quite disappointing as you're led to believe you're going to get some sort of profound insight into what motivated the man or what he was like as a person, beyond the usual assumptions and such.

In other words, this is no biography, it's a history of the Third Crusade and one that doesn't particularly set your mind aflame. If anything, the detail is a little indecipherable at times, though it deserves credit for filling me on more details about the disunity between the Syrians which prolonged the conflict with the Frankish invaders in the long run.

Okay.

John says

Good book - biography of Saladin. He was a remarkable man. I am surprised at the impact he has had on today's middle east.

Ilhamsyah Hutasuhut says

Great person from islamic history

Felix Siau says

as expected from Geoffrey Hindley! :D
very recommended..

David Yu says

Highly recommended

This book was very well written . the narrative was very good and yes I would recommend this book to anyone

René says

A well-written and balanced biography, in its historical context, of one of the great leaders of history. The world lack such great individuals who do what needs to be done to obtain the desired outcome, all the while keeping their sense of humanity.

Price says

One of my favorite films is Ridley Scott's the Kingdom of Heaven with such notable actors as Orlando Bloom, Eva Green, and Ghassan Massoud as Saladin. It is an engaging story which I viewed as a loose interpretation of historical events.

The character Saladin intrigued me. His portrayal as a brilliant military tactician, a man of honor, and a man of wisdom prompted further research into this unique personalicty. It was a pleasure to read this biography of such an honorable man and warrior.

I was surprised to read that a great deal of the story in the film was indeed based on historical accounts. It gave me a deeper appreciation of the film and Saladin's character. It has prompted me to pursue further research in the history of this man. He stands out as one of the great leaders in history.
