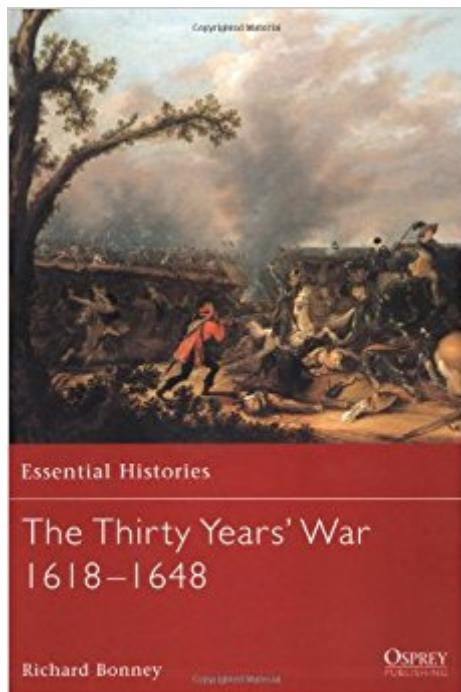


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The Thirty Years' War 1618-1648



Synopsis

More than three and a half centuries have passed since the Peace of Westphalia ended the Thirty Years' War (1618-48); but this most devastating of wars in the early modern period continues to capture the imagination of readers: this book reveals why. It was one of the first wars where contemporaries stressed the importance of atrocities, the horrors of the fighting and also the sufferings of the civilian population. The Thirty Years' War remains a conflict of key importance in the history of the development of warfare and the 'military revolution'.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This unique series studies every major war in history looking at all the aspects of war, from how it felt to be a soldier to the lasting impact of the conflict on the world around it.

The Revd Professor Richard Bonney is Professor of Modern History and Head of the Department of History at the University of Leicester, UK.

I have always been intrigued by the Thirty Years War without knowing much about it. It is considered pivotal to modern European history, but except for one of my history professors' enthusiasm for Sweden's Gustavus Adolphus many years ago, I have had no individuals to anchor it in my mind. Prof. Bonney has fixed this. For one thing, he has provided a very complete chronology of the war itself as well as the diplomatic events which shaped it. Further, he has

provided some short discussion sections on the soldiers who fought it, the impact on the populace caught in its path, eyewitness accounts, and the long-term effects of the Peace of Westphalia, which (more or less) ended it. Among other things it marked the end of the age of wars based on religious confession, and determined the political geography of Europe for nearly two centuries, until the advent of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna. The book is a slog (as was the war) in places, but will ultimately reward the persistent.

The Thirty Years War is a difficult topic to tackle. The politics are obscure, the geographic landscape unfamiliar, and the personalities, with just a couple of exceptions are largely unknown. I was expecting the Osprey book to provide me with an informative and concise overview which would help me unravel this dense era. I have found several other books in the series VERY enlightening and interesting. Unfortunately, although I have a somewhat better understanding for this period of history, I was a little disappointed. The author, try as he might, failed to convey the same straightforward understanding that I achieved by reading other books in the series. The politics and the times are still pretty murky to me and although I know more now than I did before I read the book, I didn't get the level of understanding and enjoyment that I was seeking. In addition, although there are excellent maps which depict several important battles, this volume is hurt by the failure to include larger maps of the European landscape. This omission is particularly fateful because so much of the geography, cities, and political entities of the time is unfamiliar to the reader,

The book is a good summary and you can tell the author is doing his best with the page restriction, but it's simply asking too much of him. There is simply no way that any author can cram 30 years of European military history in least than 100 pages. As I said in my French revolutionary Wars review Osprey needs to create a new series like this but with a much bigger page count. I understand that this will mean a higher price and a slower publishing rate, but I think it will be worth it. I hope at least they'll create new campaign titles based on the battles mentioned in the book. This book could also use the space for more maps because the text will often refer to very obscure European cities or German minor States that no longer exist. One major positive of the book was that the personal accounts were very interesting. If you want something to serve as an introduction to the 30 years war. just don't treat this book as your final stop in your research.

Good overview of the thirty years war.

Osprey's usual great work of showing the complexities and underpinnings of a conflict, woven in with clear, concise description of many key battles. The war at the beginning in 1618 was an entirely different animal than what it looked like in 1648, and the personalities of the leaders are made familiar to the reader, as well.

This is a well written, engaging, short history of the Thirty Years War. Enough military detail to satisfy military buffs, but including several good maps, and a clear summary of the diplomatic and social framework of the conflict.

Finally this huge war has been given some coverage! keep it up Osprey! the huge war in Germany and other parts of Europe between Catholics and Protestants which eventually became a power struggle between several strong European powers. this is only around 90 pages but good ones for all the money I spent on it!

Item arrived on time and in manner promised. The book is a concise and well illustrated narrative of the series of religious and nationalistic wars that essentially shaped Europe. The illustrations and narrative to much to simplify a very complex set of critical events. Recommended for history buffs.

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