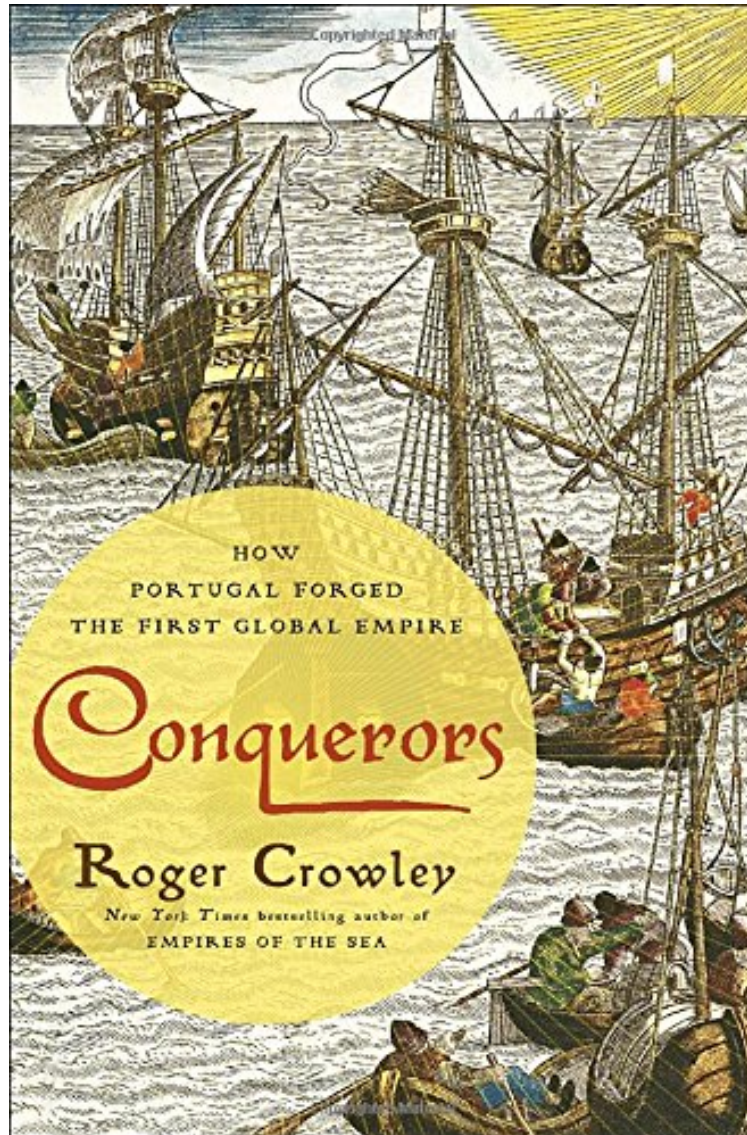


(Get free) Conquerors: How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire

Conquerors: How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire

Roger Crowley

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#169807 in Books Roger Crowley 2015-12-01 2015-12-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.56 x 1.47 x 6.44l, 1.53 #File Name: 0812994000400 pagesConquerors How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire | File size: 73.Mb

Roger Crowley : Conquerors: How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conquerors: How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire:

56 of 57 people found the following review helpful. There are many histories of this but Crowley brings it alive, particularly the remarkable career of Afonso de Albuquerque.By lyndonbrechtThe Portuguese maritime empire has

been written about many times, but many of the histories are academic or just not much read. Crowley's book may remedy that, for two reasons. One, he has a large following from previous books and two, this is a rollicking, gory and fascinating tale. Warning: these Portuguese are wonderful soldiers but they are overbearing, and often vicious, in breaking into the Indian Ocean world almost like Vandals breaking into the Roman world. It's not really the Portuguese empire, which lasted until Goa was taken over by India in the 1960s. It tells the story of early Portuguese exploration, the first few ventures to India and then the book is largely concerned with the quite remarkable career of Afonso de Albuquerque, whose steely determination and ruthlessness (some of his method was simply inflicting terror) was primarily responsible for the consolidation of the empire. Albuquerque conquered Goa, Malacca and Ormuz, with Goa being most important. There's a lot of background information as well, on trade, navigating the monsoons, the effective rule of two Portuguese kings, the royal dream of destroying Islam and taking back Jerusalem, the accidental discovery of Brazil, the Egyptian Mamluks and more. Look at a map of the Red Sea, and see where Mecca and Medina are; the Portuguese knocked at the door of the Red Sea and threatened those holy cities. The Mamluks mounted a naval expedition to India, another quite remarkable story well told in this book. In the background, the gathering storm of the Ottomans ominously arises--they took Egypt just after the years in which this book closes (with Albuquerque's death), and would soon after prove to be powerful enemies, mounting naval challenges as far as India. Crowley has a gift for making the historical personage into a living character, even with all the warts and flaws. Albuquerque and his king come through quite powerfully, but so do dozens of more minor players. The Portuguese come through as ruthless, proud, judgment often clouded by honor, extremely formidable soldiers and extremely fractious, and sometimes quite murderous. Their most formidable enemies were Muslim, and the wars take on the characteristics of Crusade. Crowley also describes at length the arduous and often deadly voyages from Portugal to India and back--the ocean killed more Portuguese than the Muslims did. The men (mostly men) aboard ranged from aristocrats of ancient family to scum culled from jails. There are other situations. The horse trade from Ormuz to India, for example, or the Ethiopian emperor, about to be wiped out by Muslim forces from the Horn of Africa--that is a somewhat later story but a few hundred Portuguese stiffened the Ethiopians and helped them survive, a story I'd love to see Crowley undertake.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A review by SarraillBy Sat railAn excellent, popular history of the Portuguese exploration, conquest, and exploitation of the Indian Ocean region from 1498 to 1550. A well-written and enlightening work. Do not expect an academic history; this book is for the average, interested reader. All in all, a good read.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must and fun read: better than a season of Game of Thrones!!!By Paul Chihara, UCLA Visual Media FounderWhat an important, and almost unknown epic of history and discovery! And an incredibly prophetic vision of our contemporary world of East West conflict: religious, military, economic. It is also a fun read, written with the pacing and drama of a novel, while never losing its historic accuracy and perspective.

In *Empires of the Sea and City of Fortune*, New York Times bestselling author Roger Crowley established himself as our generation's preeminent historian of the great European seafaring empires, and the go-to author for post-Crusade clashes of East and West. Now, in *Conquerors*, Crowley gives us the epic story of the emergence of Portugal, a small, poor nation that enjoyed a century of maritime supremacy thanks to the daring and navigational skill of its explorers—a tactical advantage no other country could match. Portugal's discovery of a sea route to India, campaign of imperial conquest over Muslim rulers, and domination of the spice trade would forever disrupt the Mediterranean and build the first global economy. Crowley relies on letters and eyewitness testimony to tell the story of tiny Portugal's rapid and breathtaking rise to power. *Conquerors* reveals the Imperial Portugal in all of its splendor and ferocity, bringing to life the personalities of the enterprising and fanatical house of Aviz. Figures such as King Manuel the Fortunate, João II the Perfect Prince, marauding governor Afonso de Albuquerque, and explorer Vasco da Gama juggled their private ambitions and the public aims of the empire, often suffering astonishing losses in pursuit of a global fortune. Also central to the story of Portugal's ascent was its drive to eradicate Islamic culture and establish a Christian empire in the Indian Ocean. Portuguese explorers pushed deep into the African continent in search of the mythical Christian king Prester John, and they ruthlessly besieged Indian port cities in their attempts to monopolize trade. The discovery of a route to India around the horn of Africa was not only a brilliant breakthrough in navigation but heralded a complete upset of the world order. For the next century, no European empire was more ambitious, no rulers more rapacious than the kings of Portugal. In the process they created the first long-range maritime empire and set in motion the forces of globalization that now shape our world. At Crowley's hand, the complete story of the Portuguese empire and the human cost of its ambition can finally be told.

Praise for *Conquerors* Excellent . . . Crowley's interpretations are nuanced and fair. *The Christian Science Monitor* In a riveting narrative, Crowley chronicles Portugal's horrifically violent trajectory from impoverished, marginal nation to European power, vying with Spain and Venice to dominate the spice trade. *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review) Brings to life the Portuguese explorers . . . perfect for anyone who likes a high seas tale. *Publishers Weekly* Readers of Crowley's previous books will not be disappointed by this exciting tale of sea battles, land campaigns and shipwrecks. . . . Crowley makes a good case for reclaiming Portugal's significance as forger of the first global empire. *The Daily Telegraph* Crowley has shown a rare gift for combining

compelling narrative with lightly worn academic thoroughness as well as for balancing the human with the geopolitical qualities on display here. The story he has to tell may be a thrilling one but not every historian could tell it so thrillingly. Michael Prodger, Financial Times A fast-moving and highly readable narrative . . . [Crowley's] detailed reconstruction of events is based on a close reading of the works of the chroniclers, notably Barros and Correa, whose accounts were written in the tradition of the chronicles of chivalry. History Today

Praise for Conquerors Excellent . . . [Roger] Crowley's interpretations are nuanced and fair. The Christian Science Monitor In a riveting narrative, Crowley chronicles Portugal's horrifically violent trajectory from impoverished, marginal nation to European power, vying with Spain and Venice to dominate the spice trade. Kirkus's (starred review) Brings to life the Portuguese explorers . . . perfect for anyone who likes a high seas tale. Publishers Weekly Readers of Crowley's previous books will not be disappointed by this exciting tale of sea battles, land campaigns and shipwrecks. . . Crowley makes a good case for reclaiming Portugal's significance as forger of the first global empire. The Daily Telegraph In his previous studies of the fifteenth- and sixteenth-century struggles between Christians and Ottomans for control of the Mediterranean, Crowley has shown a rare gift for combining compelling narrative with lightly worn academic thoroughness as well as for balancing the human with the geopolitical qualities on display here. The story he has to tell may be a thrilling one but not every historian could tell it so thrillingly. Michael Prodger, Financial Times A fast-moving and highly readable narrative, which covers the voyages of Dias and da Gama and the battles and conquests of Almeida and Albuquerque . . . [Crowley's] detailed reconstruction of events is based on a close reading of the works of the chroniclers, notably Barros and Correa, whose accounts were written in the tradition of the chronicles of chivalry. History Today Praise for Roger Crowley's Empires of the Sea Crowley has an astonishing gift for narration; his account is as exciting as any thriller. The Wall Street Journal Crowley's page-turner history . . . deserves to be this [seasons] most recommended nonfiction book. . . . Rich in character, action, surprise, what transpired in those few desperate weeks is one of history's best and most thrilling stories. The Dallas Morning News [Crowley] offers exquisitely delicate insights and undulating descriptive passages. Yet in his descriptions of the battles, his prose is so taut and tense, it is impossible not to be caught up in the harrowing action. The Christian Science Monitor City of Fortune [Crowley] writes with a racy briskness that lifts sea battles and sieges off the page. The New York Times The rise and fall of Venice's empire is an irresistible story, and Crowley, with his rousing descriptive gifts and scholarly attention to detail, is its perfect chronicler. Financial Times A pleasure to read . . . a gripping story. Washington Independent of Books About the Author Roger Crowley read English at Cambridge University and taught English in Istanbul. He has traveled extensively throughout the Mediterranean basin over many years and has a wide-ranging interest in its past and culture, as well as in seafaring and eyewitness history. He is also the author of 1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West, Empires of the Sea: The Siege of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto, and the Contest for the Center of the World, and City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas. He lives in Gloucestershire, England.