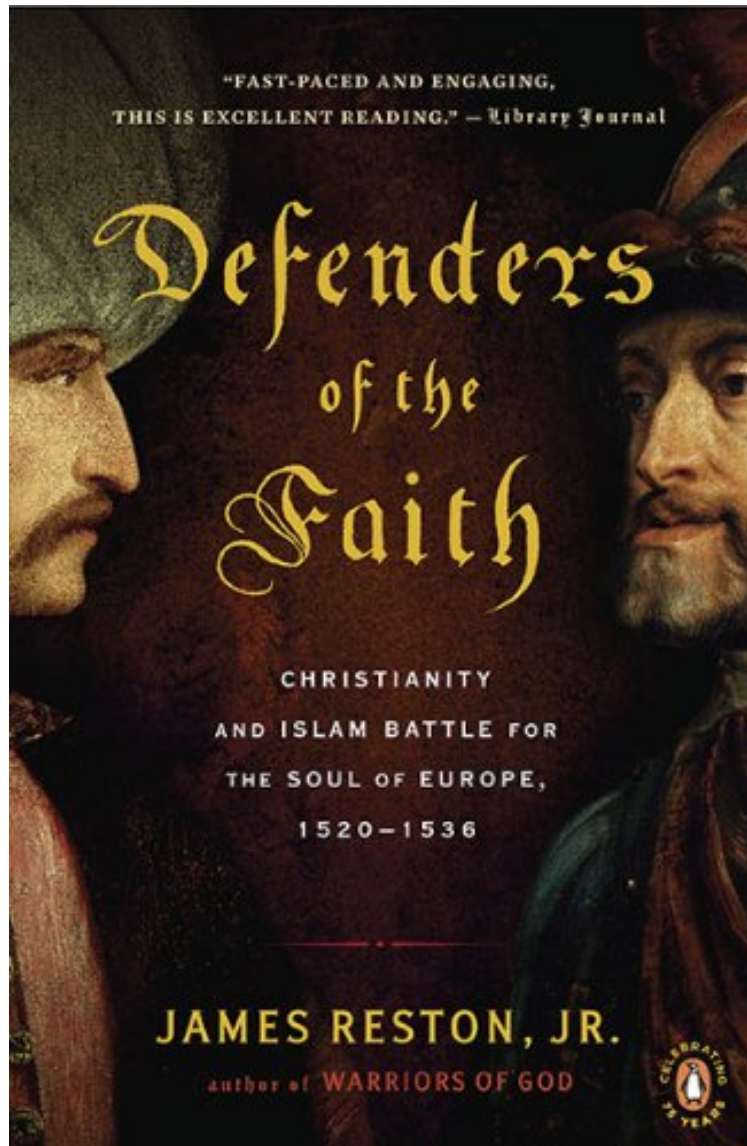


[FREE] Defenders of the Faith: Christianity and Islam Battle for the Soul of Europe, 1520-1536

Defenders of the Faith: Christianity and Islam Battle for the Soul of Europe, 1520-1536

James Reston Jr.

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James Reston Jr. : Defenders of the Faith: Christianity and Islam Battle for the Soul of Europe, 1520-1536 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Defenders of the Faith: Christianity and Islam Battle for the Soul of Europe, 1520-1536:

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with its internal affairs. By HARALD HARDRAAD This is an amazing book that delves into the history of not only the Muslim invasions of Eastern Europe, but the Reformation, the peasant wars, the subterfuge occurring between the Vatican, Charles V, Francis I and Henry VIII and the European proclivity of all of those factions battling one another, instead of concentrating on the looming Islamic threat on Europe's eastern doorstep. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating History - Easy to Read By George Staples This is excellent history and easy to read! Almost like a novel. Helped me to really understand this critical period of European history (1520 - 1536) when Martin Luther launched his well known split from the Catholic church. Prior to this book, I had no idea how much the Lutheran success was intertwined with Ottoman power, Charles V (Holy Roman emperor), Henry VIII, Francis I (France), and 3 Popes. Required reading for anyone who wants to understand how today's western world came to be. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good By Jeffrey A. Gross Great 'flip side of the coin' to religious studies of the Reformation Era. He's too apologetic when portraying the dark side of Islam, and too hostile toward Lutheranism, but overall does a great job showing the political, military, economic, and social conflicts between East and West as manifest in the Moslem failure to take Vienna, but having much success elsewhere. He tells many fascinating stories about individuals who pop back up over and over again to shape history.

A bestselling historian recounts the epic clash that ended the Renaissance and pushed Islam to the gates of Vienna In *Warriors of God and Dogs of God*, James Reston, Jr., brought two epochal events in the struggle between Islam and Christendom to readers eager to understand the roots of the present-day conflict. With his unwavering eye for detail, Reston now weaves a captivating narrative that examines a pivotal period in that centuries-long war, which found Europe at its most vulnerable and Islam on the attack. This saga of colliding worlds is propelled by two astonishing young sovereigns—the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and the Turkish sultan Suleyman the Magnificent—and is supported by a wide range of larger-than-life characters, who lend this meticulously researched history a novel's worth of suspense and brio.

From Publishers Weekly In this vibrant piece of intellectual history, Reston completes the saga of the relationship between East and West he began with *Warriors of God*. Combining a historian's attention to detail and a novelist's narrative flair, Reston focuses on the period when the Ottoman Empire came within a hair's breadth of conquering Europe. The Sultan Suleyman swore to accomplish what his father and grandfather had not conquer the Holy Roman Empire. Standing in his way was an equally ambitious leader, the young Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. As Reston observes, each faced rebellion and fractiousness within his own empire. Although Charles defeated Suleyman at Gns, now in Hungary, the Turks had spread terror through Europe by moving farther into Christian lands than ever before. By examining this short but crucial span of years, Reston not only brings to life two Olympian figures who believed they were carrying out the will of God; he also offers a lucid window onto Renaissance Europe and the foundations of contemporary debates between the West and Islam. (May 18) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist From the *Third Crusade (Warriors of God, 2001)* and the Christian reconquest of Spain (*Dogs of War, 2005*), Reston turns to Ottoman sultan Suleyman the Magnificent's attempted Islamic conquest of Austria and Hungary, which culminated in battles at Vienna in 1529 and 1532. He imposes narrative clarity on a kaleidoscopic array of historical events by concentrating on Suleyman and the principal potentates of Latin Christendom involved in the onset of the Reformation: Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, Pope Clement VII, Francis I, and Henry VIII. Reston enlivens his chosen principals' movements on the political and religious chessboard and evaluates how they worked out (e.g., badly for the pope, whose authority Martin Luther fractured and whose see Charles sacked). Given the disunity of the Christian monarchs, readers wondering why Suleyman did not prevail may depend on Reston's interesting display of fact, description, and narrative to elucidate a pivotal point in history. --Gilbert Taylor About the Author James Reston, Jr., is the author of thirteen books, including *Warriors of God*, *The Last Apocalypse*, and *Galileo: A Life*. He has written articles for *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Vanity Fair*, *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, and many other publications; three plays; and the scripts for three Frontline documentaries. He lives with his family in the suburbs of Washington, DC.