"This well-illustrated, solidly researched, articulately written volume is a major contribution to the field of military history." — School Library Journal

Introduction

Why were the Wars of the Roses called, well, the Wars of the Roses? What were the ten greatest military disasters? How did the weather affect the Battle of Waterloo? Who was involved in the Battle of Midway? Is there any archeological evidence providing proof of the myth of the Amazon women? Do you have any idea what the seventeenth-century Spartan's uniform was? And what does one do with the war dead?

With nearly six hundred articles chronicling warfare, The Reader's Companion to Military History is sure to provide the answers to these questions, along with essential information on major events and battles, commanders, theorists, weaponry and technology, and strategy and tactics. With surprising anecdotes, little-known facts, and rare illustrations, the Reader's Companion is the first major reference work on military history to present a global perspective.

The Reader's Companion to Military History combines the articles of more than one hundred and fifty distinguished military historians, biographers, and journalists. In addition to these scholarly contributions, this volume includes editors' lists seeded throughout the book, offering surprising perspectives on topics such as history's best and worst generals, the best movies and novels...
about war, and the most important military innovations.

About the Editors

Robert Cowley is the cofounder and editor of *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History* and the editor of the anthology *Experience of War*, described by *Kirkus Reviews* as "a bonanza for military history buffs."

Geoffrey Parker is Robert A. Lovett Professor of Military and Naval History at Yale University and the author or editor of more than twenty books, including *The Dutch Revolt*, *Phillip II*, *The Military Revolution*, *The Spanish Armada*, and *The Times Atlas of World History*, fourth edition. He teaches at Ohio State University.

Editors' Lists

The Ten Best Works of Historical Fiction About War

- *The Iliad* (Greece, ninth century B.C.) by Homer
- *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* (China, 1330?–1400?) by Lo Kuan-Chung
- *Henry V* (England, 1599) by William Shakespeare
- *Simplicissimus* (Germany, 1668, 1670, 1672) by Hans Grimmelshausen
- *The History of Henry Esmond, Esquire* (England, 1852) by William Makepeace Thackeray
- *War and Peace* (Russia, 1864–1869) by Leo Tolstoy
- *The Red Badge of Courage* (United States, 1895) by Stephen Crane
- *Good Soldier Schweik* (Czechoslovakia, 1921–1923) by Jaroslav Hasek
- *A Farewell to Arms* (United States, 1929) by Ernest Hemingway
- *The Cruel Sea* (England, 1952) by Nicholas Montserrat

The Ten Greatest Sieges

- Jericho by the Israelites (1350?): The first recorded siege in history
- Troy by the Greeks (1190?–1180? B.C.): The longest recorded siege in history
- Constantinople by the Turks (1453): An early example of gunpowder artillery causing a fortress to fall
- Tenochtitlan by the Spaniards (1520–1521): The first full-dress siege in the Americas
Yang-chou by the Manchus (1645): The bloodiest sack in history
Vicksburg by the Union army of Ulysses S. Grant (1863): A turning point in the American Civil War
Verdun by Germany (1916): The costliest siege of the twentieth century
Leningrad by Germany (1941–1944): The longest siege of the twentieth century (900 days)
Stalingrad by Germany (1942–1943): The turning point of World War II in Europe
Dien Bien Phu by the Viet Minh (1954): Its fall marked the end of French colonial rule in Southeast Asia

The Ten Greatest Military Disasters

Sicilian expedition (Italy, 415 B.C.)
Cannae (Italy, August 216 B.C.)
Teutoburg Forest (Germany, A.D. 9)
Kosovo (Kosovo, June 28, 1389)
Mohacs (Hungary, August 29, 1526)
Poltava (Russia, June 27, 1709)
Sedan (France, August–September 1870)
The Somme, first day (France, July 1, 1916)
Singapore (Singapore, February 1942)
Stalingrad (Russia, September 1942–February 1943)

Praise

Praise for The Reader's Companion to Military History

"One hundred fifty journalists, historians, scholars, and biographers contributed more than 590 entries to this polished one-volume encyclopedia of war. Although Western-oriented . . . it offers more than just a routine listing of people, places, and events in the history of war. The editors have skillfully added well-written pieces on the art and science of war, including entries on deception, strategy, discipline, espionage, logistics, geography, laws of war, origins of war, weather, and treachery." — Library Journal

"Working with 150 other military historians, they have produced a companion to military history that manages to stand out in an overcrowded field of reference sources." — Booklist
"This well-illustrated, solidly researched, articulately written volume is a major contribution to the field of military history." — School Library Journal

Praise for What If?: The World's Foremost Military Historians Imagine What Might Have Been (edited by Robert Cowley)

"This is fascinating and provocative stuff." — New York Times Book Review

"Taken individually, all are small gems of history; brought together in a single book, they offer an outstanding overview of the fragile happenstances on which history turns. The book of the year for any history lover." — Kirkus Reviews

"Since chance, error, and the weather deserve as much credit as humans for the mess known as history, it's fair to ask historians for a retake. What if? Imagine the narrowly missed possibilities of a Muslim Europe, a Mongol Europe, a permanently Confederate South, a twentieth century in which names Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, and Mao mean nothing, or a triumphant Nazi Reich or Japanese Empire. You'll have the vertigo-inducing sense that everything, you and me included, could have been very, very different." — Entertainment Weekly