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*Malta is one of the most*  
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*beautiful and undiscovered  
places in the world.*

*Actually three islands, this  
jewel of the Mediterranean  
was transformed by the  
Knights of St. John in the  
sixteenth century into a  
fantasy of splendid*

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*Renaissance and Baroque  
palaces, opulent villas and  
gardens, and private estates  
and magnificent churches  
filled with priceless art.  
This lavish all color book  
presents Malta in all of its  
spectacular glory, showing*

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*the palaces of the grand master, the inquisitor, and the bishop, and the equally majestic auberges (knights' quarters). The world-renowned hospital and the monumental forts and bastions are featured as*

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*well. Intertwined amidst this panoramic grandeur is a detailed and informative history of the knights' migrations from the holy land, to Rhodes, and finally to Malta, and the long wars they waged with the Ottoman*

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the American Civil War,  
World War 1, World War 2,*

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*the Cold War, and beyond.  
Maps, paintings, and  
photographs reveal the  
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of the most important  
battles ever to take place,  
and show how fateful  
decisions led to glorious*



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*victories and crushing  
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campaigns are illustrated  
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weapons, the soldiers, and*

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*the military strategy.*

*Famous military leaders are  
profiled, including*

*Alexander the Great,*

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*crucial arms, armour, and  
equipment are explained.*

*Whether at Marathon,*

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*Agincourt, Gettysburg, or  
Stalingrad, Battles that  
Changed History takes you  
into the thick of combat and  
shows how kingdoms and  
empires have been won and  
lost on the battlefield.  
Situated midway between*

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*Europe and Africa, Malta played a central role in the battles for the mastery of North Africa. The island was the vital supply base for British and Imperial troops in the to-and-fro desert campaigns against, first,*

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*Italy and then Germany and Rommel's Afrika Korps. The three-year siege of Malta was one of the longest in history. In this thrilling account the author, who first came to know and love Malta whilst serving with*

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*the Royal Navy during the  
Second World War, paints a  
vivid picture of the  
suffering of the island and  
its population. He draws on  
personal accounts and  
reminiscences of the  
participants; he tells of*

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*the occasional despair that turned to joy when the convoys got through with much-needed supplies and of the bravery of both the civilians and the armed forces stationed there that uniquely won for Malta the*

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*George Cross. Ernle Bradford was born in Norfolk in 1922 and joined the Royal Navy at eighteen. He served with distinction throughout the Second World War. After the war he based himself in Malta, sailing the*



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*Mediterranean in a number of small boats and writing prolifically about its history. Among his other books are The Great Siege: Malta 1565, Ulysses Found, Mediterranean: Portrait of a Sea, Cleopatra, Hannibal,*

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*The Shield and the Sword and  
Christopher Columbus. He  
died in 1986.*

*It also changed the way the  
British Army fought, using  
concentrated artillery on a  
scale not seen since 1918 to  
break through Axis defences*

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*built in depth."--BOOK  
JACKET.*

*Siege Malta 1940-1943*

*Histoire des chevaliers  
hospitaliers de S. Jean de  
Jérusalem, appelez depuis  
chevaliers de Rhodes et  
aujourd'hui chevaliers de*

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*Malte*

*Faith and Sword*

*The Epic Battle between the  
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Knights of St. John*

*The Last English Crusader  
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for the Centre of the World*

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Packed with historical and archaeological facts from the Stone Age to the Romans, the Knights Hospitaller to World War II, it also showcases the islands' wildlife (and bird-watching opportunities), summer festas, and the less

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commercialised islands of Gozo  
and Comino.

Istanbul has always been a place  
where stories and histories collide  
and crackle, where the idea is as  
potent as the historical fact. From  
the Qu'ran to Shakespeare, this city

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with three names - Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul - resonates as an idea and a place, and overflows its boundaries - real and imagined. Standing as the gateway between the East and West, it has served as the capital of

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the Roman, Byzantine, Latin and Ottoman Empires. For much of its history it was known simply as The City, but, as Bettany Hughes reveals, Istanbul is not just a city, but a story. In this epic new biography, Hughes takes us on a



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dazzling historical journey through the many incarnations of one of the world's greatest cities. As the longest-lived political entity in Europe, over the last 6,000 years Istanbul has absorbed a mosaic of micro-cities and cultures all

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gathering around the core. At the latest count archaeologists have measured forty-two human habitation layers. Phoenicians, Genoese, Venetians, Jews, Vikings, Azeris all called a patch of this earth their home. Based on

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meticulous research and new archaeological evidence, this captivating portrait of the momentous life of Istanbul is visceral, immediate and scholarly narrative history at its finest.

"The story of one of the greatest-

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ever battles, a few men under the Knights of St John against a huge Turkish armada, written as witnessed by a participating soldier"--Provided by publisher.

In 1521, Suleiman the Magnificent, Muslim ruler of the Ottoman Empire

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at the height of its power,  
dispatched an invasion fleet to the  
Christian island of Rhodes. This  
would prove to be the opening shot  
in an epic struggle between rival  
empires and faiths for control of the  
Mediterranean and the center of the

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world. In *Empires of the Sea*, acclaimed historian Roger Crowley has written his most mesmerizing work to date—a thrilling account of this brutal decades-long battle between Christendom and Islam for the soul of Europe, a fast-paced

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tale of spiraling intensity that ranges from Istanbul to the Gates of Gibraltar and features a cast of extraordinary characters: Barbarossa, "The King of Evil," the pirate who terrified Europe; the risk-taking Emperor Charles V; the

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Knights of St. John, the last crusading order after the passing of the Templars; the messianic Pope Pius V; and the brilliant Christian admiral Don Juan of Austria. This struggle's brutal climax came between 1565 and 1571, seven



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years that witnessed a fight to the finish decided in a series of bloody set pieces: the epic siege of Malta, in which a tiny band of Christian defenders defied the might of the Ottoman army; the savage battle for Cyprus; and the apocalyptic last-

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ditch defense of southern Europe at Lepanto—one of the single most shocking days in world history. At the close of this cataclysmic naval encounter, the carnage was so great that the victors could barely sail away —because of the countless

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corpses floating in the sea.□

Lepanto fixed the frontiers of the Mediterranean world that we know today. Roger Crowley conjures up a wild cast of pirates, crusaders, and religious warriors struggling for supremacy and survival in a tale of

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slavery and galley warfare, desperate bravery and utter brutality, technology and Inca gold. Empires of the Sea is page-turning narrative history at its best—a story of extraordinary color and incident, rich in detail, full of surprises, and

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backed by a wealth of eyewitness accounts. It provides a crucial context for our own clash of civilizations.

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Three

American Book Publishing Record  
The Great Siege of Malta

*In its revised and updated fourth  
edition, this exhaustive encyclopedia  
provides a record of casualties of war*

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*from the last five centuries through 2015, with new statistical and analytical information. Figures include casualties from global terrorism, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the fight against the Islamic State. New entries cover an additional 20 armed*

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*conflicts between 1492 and 2007 not included in previous editions. Arranged roughly by century and subdivided by world region, chronological entries include the name and dates of the conflict, precursor events, strategies and details, the outcome and its*



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*\*Includes pictures \*Includes a  
bibliography for further reading "The  
darkness of the night then became as  
bright as day, due to the vast quantity  
of artificial fires. So bright was it  
indeed that we could see St Elmo quite*

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*clearly. The gunners of St Angelo...  
were able to lay and train their pieces  
upon the advancing Turks, who were  
picked out in the light of the fires." -  
Francisco Balbi, a Spanish soldier at  
the siege For centuries, Christians and  
Muslims were embroiled in one of the*

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*most infamous territorial disputes of all time, viciously and relentlessly battling one another for the Holy Land. In the heart of Jerusalem sat one of the shining jewels of the Christian faith, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Legend has it that this was where their*

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*Savior had been buried before his fabled resurrection. What was more, it was said to house the very cross Jesus Christ had died upon. It was for precisely these reasons that fearless pilgrims, near and far, risked their lives and made the treacherous trek to*

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*Jerusalem. Like other secretive groups, the mystery surrounding the Catholic military orders that sprung up in the wake of the First Crusade helped their legacies endure. While some conspiracy theorists attempt to tie the groups to other alleged secret societies*

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*like the Illuminati, other groups have tried to assert connections with them to bolster their own credentials. Who they were and what they had in their possession continue to be a source of great intrigue. After being forced out of Rhodes by the Ottomans in the early*

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*16th century, the Knights Hospitaller spent seven years residing in Sicily without an official home or garrison, but around 1530, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V decided to gift the order the islands of Malta and Gozo, as well as the port city of Tripoli in*

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*North Africa, as a fiefdom. The emperor's motivations varied, but most historians believe he granted the knights the territory partially out of religious devotion and mainly to protect those regions from the looming Ottoman threat. Both Malta and Gozo*



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*were between Sicily and the North African coast and were prime locations for the Ottoman Empire to try to make their next move to gain inroads into Europe. In 1565, the Knights Hospitaller were attacked by Suleiman, who sent 40,000 soldiers to attempt to*

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*wrest control of Malta from them. This would become known as the Great Siege of Malta, lasting from May 18-September 11. The first two months of the siege were devastating for the Hospitallers, who lost most of their cities and half of their 8,000 knights.*

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*Resources were scarce and supplies were running low, resulting in starvation and disease. By August 18, the lines were ready to crumble, especially since the series of fortifications were spread out and difficult to defend. No help was*

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*forthcoming from the Viceroy of Sicily, who was under no obligation to assist because of the vague wording of the orders he received from King Philip II of Spain. Indeed, it could have been disastrous for Sicily since sacrificing their own troops would have left Sicily*

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*and Naples open to Ottoman invasion. When told to withdraw to spare the rest of the order, Grand Master Jean Parisot de Valette refused and held his ground, and finally, after months of ignoring the issue, the Viceroy of Sicily sent aid to the Knights Hospitaller*

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*after being badgered by his outraged officers. On August 23, the Ottomans launched their last assault upon Malta. The fighting was intense, and even wounded knights participated. The Ottoman army was unable to break through the Order's fortifications, as*

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*the garrison had repaired the worst of the damages and any breakages to avoid giving the Ottomans an advantage. After the Great Siege of Malta, the Knights Hospitaller would have no more decisive victories against their enemies, which should come as no*

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*surprise given that by the time the Ottomans left, the order only had 600 men capable of fighting.*

*Medical services have been associated with the military since the days of Ancient Greece. This relationship was essential not only in ensuring the front-*



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*line treatment of injuries sustained by soldiers but also to treat the diseases that accompany the disruption in the social circumstances brought on by warfare. The expectation of a military conflict requires the commanders in the field to draw up a military operation*

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*plan. This war plan varied according to the defined objectives, often being differently viewed by the combatants on either side of the conflict. There was in addition the aspect of using biological agents as weapons of warfare. There are numerous records of the use of*

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*biological weapons in antiquity. It is therefore not surprising that medical personnel played a very important role in battle plans and were generally highly regarded by the commanders and troops these medics serviced. The Great Siege of Malta in 1565 is*

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*regarded as the last battle in history in which a force consisting mainly of Knights won a decisive victory. The Knights of St. John were the last remnants of a once great medieval army. Their mission, to protect Christian pilgrims. From their base in*

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*Malta they were so successful in repelling marauders that they crippled the Arab economy, built upon Christian slaves. As a result, Suleiman Soleyman the Magnificent, Emperor of the Ottoman Empire, assembled the world's greatest army to eliminate*

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*these protectors of Christianity. In the ensuing battles, Sir Oliver Starkey, the last English Knight, found himself at the centre of the conflict. The future of Europe rode on his shoulders.*

*The Final Battle for the  
Mediterranean, 1521-1580*

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**history, government,  
economy, people, religion,  
language, leisure, festivals,  
and food of Malta.**

**Connecting Europe, Asia, and  
Africa, the Mediterranean Sea  
has been for millennia the  
place where religions,**



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**economies, and political systems met, clashed, influenced and absorbed one another. In this brilliant and expansive book, David Abulafia offers a fresh perspective by focusing on the sea itself: its practical**

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**competition in the  
Mediterranean created both  
rivalries and partnerships,  
with merchants acting as  
intermediaries between  
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were as exotic on one side of  
the sea as they were**

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**Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman sultan, had expanded his empire from western Asia to southeastern Europe and North Africa. To secure control of the Mediterranean between these territories and launch an**

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**offensive into western Europe, Suleiman needed the small but strategically crucial island of Malta. But Suleiman's attempt to take the island from the Holy Roman Empire's Knights of St. John would emerge as one of**

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**the most famous and brutal military defeats in history. Forty-two years earlier, Suleiman had been victorious against the Knights of St. John when he drove them out of their island fortress at Rhodes. Believing he would**

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**repeat this victory, the sultan sent an armada to Malta. When they captured Fort St. Elmo, the Ottoman forces ruthlessly took no prisoners. The Roman grand master La Vallette responded by having his Ottoman captives**

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**beheaded. Then the battle for Malta began in earnest: no quarter asked, none given. Ernle Bradford's compelling and thoroughly researched account of the Great Siege of Malta recalls not just an epic battle, but a clash of**

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novel with a sentimental  
feeling about the land of  
his ancestors, the Maltese  
people. A people who have***



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***shown remarkable courage and faith on many occasions in the history of the Mediterranean. The story of this book tells of their courage during the Great Siege of 1565, just as***

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***Voltaire said, "No siege is better known than that of the Great Siege of Malta." The five-century-old religious fight between Christians and Muslims, known as the battle***

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***between the Cross and the Koran, drifted to the shores of Malta where the Order of St. John of Jerusalem had their headquarters. It produced many heroes and tyrants, several of these***

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***are the subject of our novel. The great Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, unchallenged emperor of the Great Ottoman Empire, tries to impose Islam over Christian Europe. During***

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***five centuries, the Christian Crusaders were slowly expelled from the Holy Land, and now the great Sultan drives out the Order of St. John of Jerusalem from their last stronghold,***

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***the fortress in the island of Rhodes. Then the battle shifts to the brave Island of Malta where its people play an important role in helping La Valette and the Order fight the Turks. Jean De La***

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***Valette, commander of the  
Order's Christian navy,  
knight-adventurer, and  
defender of the faith,  
engages famous Muslim  
pirates, like Barbarossa and  
Dragut Reis, and harasses***

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***on the huge Turkish navy.  
He seeks to recover the  
Holy Cross taken by the  
Saracens. The secret of a  
forbidden romance in the  
paradise island of Rhodes  
haunts this warrior monk of***



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***eighty-four battles--a  
unique man enslaved by  
the Saracens and then  
escapes. He is later  
elevated to the position of  
grand master of the Order  
of St. John of Jerusalem and***

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***Rhodes. He was considered by his peers to be "the man for the moment" restoring the order to its former glory. One man, Jean De La Valette, the greatest of the grand masters, "the rarest***

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***of human beings," defeats the Sultan's Ottoman army in the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. La Valette became known as the Scourge of Africa and Asia, the Shield of Europe, fearless and***

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***indomitable, by his Holy  
Arms. With only seven  
hundred Knights and  
several thousand Spanish,  
Italian, Portuguese soldiers  
and fifteen thousand  
Maltese civilians (men,***

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**women, and children alike),  
he repels the great Turkish  
army of over forty  
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man and a valiant and  
victorious people, the**

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***people of Malta.***

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***for fans of Conn Iggulden  
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between the divided  
nations of Europe and the  
relentlessly expanding  
Ottoman Empire. Faced***

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***with ferocious attack by a vast Turkish fleet, the knights of the Order of St John fear annihilation. Amongst those called to assist is disgraced veteran Sir Thomas Barrett. Loyalty***



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***and instinct compel him to put the Order above all other concerns, yet his allegiance is divided. At Queen Elizabeth's command, he must search for a hidden scroll, guarded***

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***by the knights, that threatens her reign. As Sir Thomas confronts the past that cost him his honour and a secret that has long lain buried, a vast enemy army arrives to lay siege to***

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***the island...***

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resonance of the Crusades  
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period as a productive,***

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Narratives are from one of  
possible several "typical"  
points of view of the  
related country and present  
an international  
comparison of the***

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***dominant image of each  
respective historical culture  
and cultures of  
remembrance. Bringing  
together 'victim  
perspectives' and  
'perpetrator perspectives',***



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essential guide for getting  
beneath the surface of this  
island nation and  
discovering what lies  
beyond the beaches. Sun,  
sand and sea there may be,***

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***but Malta boasts so much more, and this new edition is packed with historical and archaeological insights, from the Stone Age to the Romans, the Knights Hospitaller to World War II.***

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***It also showcases the islands' wildlife and bird-watching opportunities, summer festas, and the less commercialised islands of Gozo and Comino. Malta has been changing at the***



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***rate of knots, with  
Valletta's year as European  
Capital of Culture  
accelerating restoration  
and renovation. Copious  
openings - of historic  
sights, key fortresses, a***

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***new national gallery and boutique accommodation, particularly in Valletta - are covered, while the culinary scene continues to thrive, with notably greater choice for vegetarians and vegans.***

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***Malta has recently become much more socially accepting and is now considered one of the top places for LGBT travellers, while the offering for younger travellers has***

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***expanded, too. The Isle of  
MTV festival is going  
strong, Annie Mac now has  
a spring festival in Malta  
and a host of bars and  
clubs has sprung up. There  
is also lots on offer***

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***culturally, with festivals,  
concerts, exhibitions,  
theatre and opera all  
contributing to a full  
programme. Bradt's Malta  
contains all the information  
needed for a successful***

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***trip. Whatever your budget, it is the ideal guide for everyone from culture aficionados to history and archaeology buffs, foodies, war veterans, families and couples escaping for a***

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***romantic break.***

***The True Story of Sir Oliver  
Starkey and the Final Battle  
Between Christianity and  
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The Siege of Malta 1565  
Malta, 1565***



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Four hundred years after his death, Philip II remains one of the most controversial figures in history, admired and reviled in equal measure. This new study traces the development of the 16th-century spanish king and of a kingship that

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lay at the heart of European political, religious, and cultural evolution. It looks at the government that evolved during his reign as well as the pressures of his tortured private life, exploring the paradox of a man who as a

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young ruler was deeply prudent but who became extraordinarily aggressive in old age and who reshaped the world through his successes and failures.

The Island of Malta occupies a pivotal position in the

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Mediterranean, forming an outpost between North Africa and the soft underbelly of Europe. Such has been its strategic importance throughout the years that it has become one of the most fortified places in the world. Following the

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successful defence of the island during the Great Siege of 1565, the Knights Hospitaller built new walls and fortifications. These defences failed when Napoleon occupied Malta in 1798, and the island was retaken by the British in 1800.

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From this point onwards, Malta's defences were modernised throughout the 19th century and the island's final test came during World War II. This book examines all these different styles of fortification from the 16th to the

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The epic siege of the Hospitaller's island fortress by the army of the Emperor Suliman is one of the most compelling stories in western history. The Turks amassed 30,000 men, a number that swelled

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further: aligned against them were 500 knights backed by 10,000 other troops.

In the spring of 1565, a massive fleet of Ottoman ships descended on Malta, a small island centrally located between North Africa and



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Sicily, home and headquarters of the crusading Knights of St. John and their charismatic Grand Master, Jean de Valette. The Knights had been expelled from Rhodes by the Ottoman sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, and

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now stood as the last bastion against a Muslim invasion of Sicily, southern Italy, and beyond. The siege force of Turks, Arabs, and Barbary corsairs from across the Muslim world outnumbered the defenders of Malta many times

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over, and its arrival began a long hot summer of bloody combat, often hand to hand, embroiling knights and mercenaries, civilians and slaves, in a desperate struggle for this pivotal point in the Mediterranean. Bruce Ware Allen's

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The Great Siege of Malta describes the siege's geopolitical context, explains its strategies and tactics, and reveals how the all-too-human personalities of both Muslim and Christian leaders shaped the course of events. The siege of

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Malta was the Ottoman empire's high-water mark in the war between the Christian West and the Muslim East for control of the Mediterranean. Drawing on copious research and new source material, Allen stirringly recreates

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the two factions' heroism and chivalry, while simultaneously tracing the barbarism, severity, and indifference to suffering of sixteenth-century warfare. The Great Siege of Malta is a fresh, vivid retelling of one of the most

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famous battles of the early modern world - a battle whose echoes are still felt today.

Historical Dictionary of Malta

The Fortifications of Malta

1530–1945

The Great Siege, Malta 1565

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***This second edition of the***



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***Historical Dictionary of  
Malta compiles the  
unusually rich and long  
history of the islands  
comprising the country of  
Malta. This is done through  
a chronology, an***

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***introductory essay, a  
bibliography, and hundreds  
of cross-reference dictionary  
entries describing all of the  
major places, persons,  
institutions, and events that  
have shaped the history of***

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***the archipelago.***

***In 1521, Suleiman the  
Magnificent, ruler of the  
Ottoman Empire at the  
height of its power,  
despatched an invasion fleet  
to the island of Rhodes. This***

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***was the opening shot in an epic struggle between rival empires and faiths, and the ensuing battle for control of the Mediterranean would last sixty years. Empires of the Sea tells the story of***

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***terrified Europe; the risk-taking Emperor Charles V; the Knights of St John, last survivors of the crusading spirit; and the brilliant Christian admiral Don Juan of Austria. Its brutal climax***

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***came between 1565 and 1571, six years that witnessed a fight to the finish, decided in a series of bloody set pieces: the epic siege of Malta; the battle for Cyprus; and the apocalyptic***

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***last-ditch defence of  
southern Europe at Lepanto  
- one of the single most  
shocking days in world  
history that fixed the  
frontiers of the  
Mediterranean world we***



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***know today. Empires of the  
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***extraordinary colour and  
incident, rich in detail, full  
of surprises and backed by a  
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accounts.***

***Oost-Europa, 1540. De  
twaalfjarige Mattias***

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***Tannhauser is aan het werk  
in de smederij van zijn  
vader, wanneer zijn dorp  
wordt overvallen door de  
Turken, die zijn zusje en zijn  
moeder vermoorden.  
Mattias aarzelt geen***

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***moment en gebruikt het  
zwaard dat hij aan het  
maken is tegen zijn  
aanvallers. Hiermee maakt  
hij grote indruk op de  
Turkse legeraanvoerder, die  
zijn leven spaart en hem in***

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***hun midden opneemt. Malta,  
1565. De sjah van de  
Ottomanen heeft een heilige  
oorlog uitgeroepen tegen de  
christelijke ridders van de  
Maltezer Orde. Een Franse  
gravin is op dat moment op***

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***weg naar Malta om haar  
verloren zoon te zoeken. De  
enige man met genoeg  
ervaring om haar te helpen  
is Tannhauser. Te midden  
van een van de meest  
spectaculaire belegeringen***

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***uit de geschiedenis  
beginnen ze aan hun  
zoektocht. Algauw zit de  
inquisitie hen echter op de  
hielen. De man die gewend  
is te strijden met een  
zwaard moet erkennen dat***

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***er vijanden zijn die  
machtiger zijn dan de  
wapens van een heel leger  
bij elkaar. Met dit magistrale  
epos over het het laatste  
middeleeuwse conflict  
tussen oost en west, bijbel***



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***en koran, Rome en Mekka,  
schreef Tim Willocks de  
ultieme historische roman in  
de traditie van Umberto Eco  
en Ken Follett.***

***With the recent surge in  
terrorist acts and military***

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***confrontations, as well as  
ever-strengthening  
fundamentalist ideologies,  
the Christian-Muslim divide  
is perhaps more visible than  
ever—but it is not new. Alan  
G. Jamieson explores here***

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***the long and bloody history  
of the Christian-Muslim  
conflict, revealing in his  
concise yet comprehensive  
study how deeply this  
ancient divide is interwoven  
with crucial events in world***

*Page 155/201*

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***history. Faith and Sword  
opens with the tumultuous  
first centuries of the  
conflict, examining the  
religious precepts that  
framed clashes between  
Christians and Muslims and***

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***that ultimately fueled the  
legendary Crusades.***

***Traversing the full breadth  
of the Arab lands and  
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chronicles the turbulent  
saga from the Arab***

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***in the twentieth century, as  
Christendom was  
transformed into the secular  
West and Islamic nations  
overthrew European  
colonialism to establish  
governments straddling***

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The Renaissance was a revolution of ideas, arts and sciences alike, with

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Italy at its center. Venice was among the first states to embrace new concepts in fortification, which would dominate military architecture for centuries. In the age of large galley fleets and an expanding Ottoman Empire, the

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mighty defenses of the Republic of Venice protected faraway territories in the Mediterranean, and some of the largest and best preserved Renaissance fortifications are found on the former Venetian islands. This book illustrates in detail the

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impressive defenses of Cyprus, Crete and Corfu, their design and their war record. Walled towns and fortresses were constructed to the latest standards of military technology, with walls capable of withstanding the largest armies and

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the longest sieges, including the longest in history—22 years. From the acclaimed author of Empires of Sand comes a mesmerizing new adventure that Jean Auel cites as “crowded with events that both forecast and mirror

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the conflicts of today." Sweeping from the drawing rooms of Paris to the palace of Suleiman the Magnificent to the dark hold of a slave ship racing across the sea, here is a dazzling story of love and valor, innocence and identity, an



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epic novel of the clash of civilizations on a barren island where the future was forged. The Mediterranean, the sixteenth century: Lying squarely in the midst of the vital sea lanes between the Christian West and the Ottoman

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Empire in the East, and ruled by the ancient Order of the Knights of St. John, Malta will become the stage upon which the fate of the world turns. For one of its sons, the hand of violence strikes swiftly, when young Nicolo Borg is seized by

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Barbary slavers and launched on a remarkable journey to the court of the supreme ruler of the Muslim world. Renamed Asha, plotting his escape even as he swears allegiance to the god of his masters and is schooled in the arts of culture and

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war, the innocent boy will be transformed into one of the Sultan's deadliest commanders. For Nico's beloved sister, Maria, his loss fires her hatred for the knights who did nothing to save him and her dreams of escape from her stifling home. As

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the headstrong girl grows into a fierce beauty, she will capture the attention of one man in particular, Christien de Vries, a surgeon-knight torn between duty and desire, caught up in Malta's frantic preparations against the coming

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Ottoman storm. Around Nico and Maria are men and women who will share their destinies: Dragut Raïs, a brilliant corsair, arch-rival of the knights...Giulio Salvago, a priest in full flight from his carnal nature...Alisa, a young beauty hidden

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away in a harem...Jean de La Valette, the master knight who is Malta's only hope for survival. As the mighty Ottoman fleet bears down on the tiny island, as Nico Borg makes his way back to his homeland at the helm of a warship,

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nature of the fighting.  
Confrontations, therefore,  
have essentially been  
decided by an army's  
ability to adapt to  
geographical features,  
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A Turk army of 30,000 men  
believed the 500 knights  
would be easily crushed.  
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and appalling suffering,  
the knights held.

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The indispensable account of the Ottoman Empire's Siege of Malta from the author of Hannibal and Gibraltar. In the first half of the sixteenth century, the Ottoman

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Empire was thought to be invincible. Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman sultan, had expanded his empire from western Asia to southeastern Europe and North Africa. To secure



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control of the  
Mediterranean between  
these territories and  
launch an offensive into  
western Europe, Suleiman  
needed the small but  
strategically crucial

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island of Malta. But Suleiman's attempt to take the island from the Holy Roman Empire's Knights of St. John would emerge as one of the most famous and brutal military defeats in

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history. Forty-two years earlier, Suleiman had been victorious against the Knights of St. John when he drove them out of their island fortress at Rhodes. Believing he would repeat

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this victory, the sultan sent an armada to Malta. When they captured Fort St. Elmo, the Ottoman forces ruthlessly took no prisoners. The Roman grand master La Vallette

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responded by having his Ottoman captives beheaded. Then the battle for Malta began in earnest: no quarter asked, none given. Ernle Bradford's compelling and thoroughly

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