

Jerusalem Biography Simon Sebag Montefiore

new edition featuring updated introduction and new chapters the giant characters of history from mozart to michelangelo shakespeare to einstein henry viii to hitler catherine the great to margaret thatcher jesus christ to genghis khan lived lives of astonishing drama and adventure debauchery and slaughter but they also formed our world and will shape our future in this eclectic and surprising collection of short and entertaining life stories simon sebag montefiore introduces his choice of kings empresses sultans and conquerors as well as prophets explorers artists actresses courtesans and psychopaths from the ancient times via crusades and world wars up to the 21st century this accessible

history introduces readers to the titans who changed the world the characters we should all know and the stories we should never forget

thoroughly updated and revised for 2024 jerusalem the biography is the history of the middle east through the lens of the holy city and the holy land from king david to the wars and chaos of today the history of jerusalem is the story of the world jerusalem is the universal city the capital of two peoples the shrine of three faiths the holy city and holy land are the battlefields for today s multifaceted conflicts and for believers the setting for judgement day and the apocalypse how did this small remote town become the holy city the centre of the world and now the key to peace in the middle east why is the holy land so important not just to the region and its many new players but to the wider world too drawing on new archives and a lifetime s study montefiore reveals this ever changing city and turbulent region through the wars love affairs and revelations of the kings empresses amirs sultans caliphs presidents autocrats imperialists and warlords poets prophets saints and rabbis conquerors and whores who created destroyed chronicled and believed in jerusalem and the holy land a classic of modern literature this is not only the epic story of 3 000 years of faith slaughter fanaticism co existence power and myth but also a freshly updated carefully balanced history of the middle east from king david to the new players and powers of the twenty first century from the birth of judaism christianity and islam to the israel palestine conflict and the mayhem of today this is how today s middle east was forged how the holy land became sacred and how jerusalem became jerusalem the only city that exists twice in heaven and on earth

winner of the costa biography award what makes a stalin was he a tsarist agent or lenin s bandit was he to blame for his wife s death when did the killing start based on revelatory research here is the thrilling story of how a charismatic cobbler s son became a student priest romantic poet prolific lover gangster mastermind and murderous revolutionary culminating in the 1917 revolution simon sebag montefiore s bestselling biography radically alters our understanding of the gifted politician and fanatical marxist who shaped the soviet empire in his own brutal image this is the story of how stalin became stalin

the times history book of the year one of the economist s best books of the year a sunday times bestseller from the master storyteller and internationally bestselling author the story of humanity from prehistory to the present day told through the one thing all humans have in common family we begin with the footsteps of a family walking along a beach 950 000 years ago from here montefiore takes us on an exhilarating epic journey through the families that

have shaped our world the caesars medicis and incas ottomans and mughals bonapartes habsburgs and zulus rothschilds rockefellers and krupps churchills kennedys castros nehrus pahlavis and kenyattas saudis kims and assads a rich cast of complex characters form the beating heart of the story some are well known leaders from alexander the great attila ivan the terrible and genghis khan to hitler thatcher obama putin and zelensky some are creative from socrates michelangelo and shakespeare to newton mozart balzac freud bowie and tim bernes lee others are lesser known hongwu who began life as a beggar and founded the ming dynasty kamehameha conqueror of hawaii zenobia arab empress who defied rome king henry of haiti lady murasaki first female novelist sayyida al hurra moroccan pirate queen here are not just conquerors and queens but prophets charlatans actors gangsters artists scientists doctors tycoons lovers wives husbands and children this is world history on the most grand and intimate scale spanning centuries continents and cultures and linking grand themes of war migration plague religion medicine and technology to the people at the centre of the human drama as spellbinding as fiction the world captures the story of humankind in all its joy sorrow romance ingenuity and cruelty in a ground breaking single narrative that will forever shift the boundaries of what history can achieve

the acclaimed author of young stalin and jerusalem gives readers an accessible lively account based in part on new archival material of the extraordinary men and women who ruled russia for three centuries novelist

the preferred method of torture of vlad dracul 15th century prince of wallachia was to attach a horse to each of the victim s legs as a sharpened stake was gradually forced into his body vlad also enjoyed scalping skinning and boiling alive the 14th century mongol warlord tamerlane once ordered the building of a pyramid of 70 000 human skulls from those that his army had beheaded in 101 world heroes simon sebag montefiore selected his ultimate heroes and heroines now he offers his readers the other darker side of the coin monsters presents in chronological order grimly fascinating profiles of 101 notorious and profoundly sinister individuals whose actions have one thing in common they have had a baleful and blood soaked impact on the annals of world history from attila the hun to basil the bulgar slayer from pedro the cruel to ivan the terrible and from richard iii to saddam hussein monsters is a devilishly compelling gallery of history s greatest ghouls including caligula richard iii adolf eichmann joseph stalin pol pot charles manson herman cortes adolf hitler al capone laventi beria lucrezia borgia nicolae ceausescu vlad the impaler saddam hussein simon de montfort pablo escobar ivan the terrible genghis khan idi amin attila josef mengele heinrich

himmler mao zedong osama bin laden kim il sung slobodan milosevic empress cixi tomas de torquemeda

winner of the british book awards history book of the year longlisted for the samuel johnson prize this thrilling biography of stalin and his entourage during the terrifying decades of his supreme power transforms our understanding of stalin as soviet dictator marxist leader and russian tsar based on groundbreaking research simon sebag montefiore reveals in captivating detail the fear and betrayal privilege and debauchery family life and murderous cruelty of this secret world written with extraordinary narrative verve this magnificent feat of scholarly research has become a classic of modern history writing showing how stalin's triumphs and crimes were the product of his fanatical marxism and his gifted but flawed character this is an intimate portrait of a man as complicated and human as he was brutal and chilling

how did one extraordinary prince create saudi arabia why were a million armenians killed during wwi how did an elderly cleric overthrow the shah and become ruler of iran why did the arab spring fail could trump's peace deal lead to a new middle east the essential guide to the making of today's middle east a spellbinding history from the bestselling prizewinning historian and master storyteller simon sebag montefiore the middle east has forever been the source of religions prize of empires spark wheel of conflicts well of radicalism and epicentre of our tumultuous world no other region has such a hold on our imagination nor such a propensity to unleash mayhem yet few know its real history fewer still understand its variety and cosmopolitanism its complexity and interconnectedness in the cauldron simon sebag montefiore delivers a fresh and unique history of the entire region in all its diversity from 1900 up to the present day taking the reader on a spectacular journey from the ottoman sultanate to the trump presidency from morocco to iran this is a dazzling panorama of faith and fanaticism creativity and tolerance dictatorship and democracy brought to life by an extraordinary cast of kings warriors poets terrorists and peacemakers this is the essential story of how the middle east of 1900 became the middle east of today and tomorrow who was the last great ottoman sultan why did faisal become king of both syria and iraq how did britain and france carve up the middle east why did the kurds never get a state how did ataturk create turkey was nasser the greatest arab hero why was algeria's war of independence so violent who killed sadat and rabin could a two state solution in israel palestine ever work how did hezbollah dominate lebanon is uae the most successful arab state why did bin laden attack the usa why did the usa destroy saddam who created a caliphate in the twenty first century what happened to the christians

of iraq will israeli democracy survive why is the sudanese civil war so brutal is erdogan keen to recreate an ottoman empire

heroes is a selection of the ultimate heroes and heroines from world history informing entertaining and inspiring these are texts that are suitable for readers of all ages a treasure trove of the greatest stories of courage and achievement ever recorded a collection of lives deeds and events that everyone should know and no one should forget back cover

winner of the political fiction book of the year 2014 by the author of the world wide bestsellers jerusalem and stalin the court of the red tsar and based on a true story a heart breaking addictively readable love story set in stalin s russia if your children were forced to testify against you what terrible secrets would they reveal moscow 1945 as stalin and his courtiers celebrate victory over hitler shots ring out on a nearby bridge a teenage boy and girl lie dead but this is no ordinary tragedy and these are no ordinary teenagers but the children of russia s most important leaders who attend the most exclusive school in moscow is it murder a suicide pact or a conspiracy against the state directed by stalin himself an investigation begins as children are arrested and forced to testify against their friends and their parents this terrifying witch hunt soon unveils illicit love affairs and family secrets in a hidden world where the smallest mistakes will be punished with death

packed with fun fantasy and the sort of adventure guaranteed to have sticky little fingers hungrily turning the pages the mail on sunday the royal rabbits of london is sweet funny and beautifully illustrated the times the adventure continues for shylo and his royal rabbit friends in this charming series from bestselling authors santa montefiore and simon sebag montefiore and illustrator kate hindley which shows that even the smallest rabbit can be the biggest hero life is an adventure anything in the world is possible by will and by luck with a moist carrot a wet noise and a slice of mad courage now that shylo is a royal rabbit his life is full of adventure and new friends but he still misses his mother and family so he jumps at the chance to visit his home warren as soon as shylo arrives he finds something strange and dark going on a mysterious bunny called harlequin is on the farm attracting many followers with his crazy singing and loopy dancing but harlequin is also digging for the golden carrot which says an ancient legend will give him power over all humans and animals harlequin believes it s buried somewhere on the farm then as more followers flock to the warren shylo wonders if the hunt for the golden carrot is a fun game or if harlequin is plotting world domination and when the quest turns deadly shylo calls

in the royal rabbits can they stop power mad harlequin and who will find the carrot first

in the bestselling tradition of doctor zhivago and sophie s choice a sweeping epic of russia from the last days of the tsars to today s age of oligarchs by the prizewinning author of young stalin winter 1916 st petersburg russia is on the brink of revolution outside the smolny institute for noble girls an english governess is waiting for her young charge to be released from school but so are the tsar s secret police beautiful and headstrong sashenka zeitlin is just sixteen as her mother parties with rasputin and their dissolute friends sashenka slips into the frozen night to play her part in a dangerous game of conspiracy and seduction twenty years on sashenka is married to a powerful rising red leader with whom she has two children around her people are disappearing while in the secret world of the elite her own family is safe but she s about to embark on a forbidden love affair that will have devastating consequences sashenka s story lies hidden for half a century until a young historian goes deep into stalin s private archives and uncovers a heartbreaking tale of betrayal and redemption savage cruelty and unexpected heroism and one woman forced to make an unbearable choice

philip roth meets evelyn waugh in a blackly comic portrayal of prep school adolescence motefiore creates a young anti hero as hilarious as just william as monstrous as stalin himself whose rite of passage shows what happens when a game of power grows into a dangerous obsession

this thrilling biography of stalin and his entourage during the terrifying decades of his supreme power transforms our understanding of stalin as soviet dictator marxist leader and russian tsar based on groundbreaking research simon sebag montefiore reveals in captivating detail the fear and betrayal privilege and debauchery family life and murderous cruelty of this secret world written with extraordinary narrative verve this magnificent feat of scholarly research has become a classic of modern history writing showing how stalin s triumphs and crimes were the product of his fanatical marxism and his gifted but flawed character this is an intimate portrait of a man as complicated and human as he was brutal and chilling

simon sebag montefiore one of our most popular historians and also presenter of bbc television series on istanbul rome and jerusalem selects the essential cast of dramatic characters who built destroyed or changed the three great holy cities the creators of istanbul from the murderous visionary constantine the great to the ultimate power couple justinian and his burlesque dancer turned empress theodora to suleiman the magnificent and his wife roxelana all the way to ataturk

in jerusalem from herod the great who killed his beloved wife and three sons to the great crusader queen melisende and the arab conqueror saladin in rome from psychotic caligula and the philosopher marcus aurelius to the megalomaniacal seductress marozia the borgias and mussolini these are stories and characters that everyone should know and no one should forget

bestselling author and master storyteller simon sebag montefiore's gripping moving and highly acclaimed novels of love and war betrayal espionage and terror gathered here for the first time in one compelling volume sashenka it is winter 1916 in the tsar's wartime capital st petersburg and the beautiful and headstrong sashenka zeitlin plays a dangerous game of conspiracy and seduction twenty years on she is a perfect communist wife and mother who risks everything for a forbidden love affair with a pleasure loving writer which will have devastating consequences sashenka's story lies hidden for half a century until a young historian goes deep into stalin's private archives and uncovers a heartbreaking story of passion betrayal and unexpected heroism red sky at noon imprisoned for a crime he did not commit benya golden joins a penal battalion to fight the invading nazis and enrolls in a cavalry unit of criminals and cossacks sent on a desperate ride across the sweltering grasslands of southern russia switching between the cruel war and stalin's secrets in the kremlin benya's affair with an italian nurse is the heart of this epic story of passion bravery and survival where betrayal and death are constant companions and love however fleeting and doomed offers a glimmer of redemption one night in winter as stalin and his courtiers celebrate victory over hitler the teenage children of two of russia's top leaders are found dead an investigation begins in their elite school teenagers and children are arrested and forced to testify against their friends and their parents the terrifying inquiry soon unveils illicit love affairs and family secrets in a world where the smallest mistakes can be punished by death

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a new updated edition including new speeches from queen elizabeth ii and john boyega in the year 2020 this collection of extraordinary speeches ranges from ancient times to the twenty first century some are heroic and inspiring some diabolical and atrocious some are exquisite and poignant others cruel and chilling among others we hear from martin luther king michelle obama donald trump lincoln emmeline pankhurst chimamanda ngozi adichie alexander the great greta thunberg elizabeth i cromwell churchill jfk boudicca muhammad ali and malala voices of history shows how these unique speeches enlighten our past enrich our present and inspire and hold warnings for our future

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