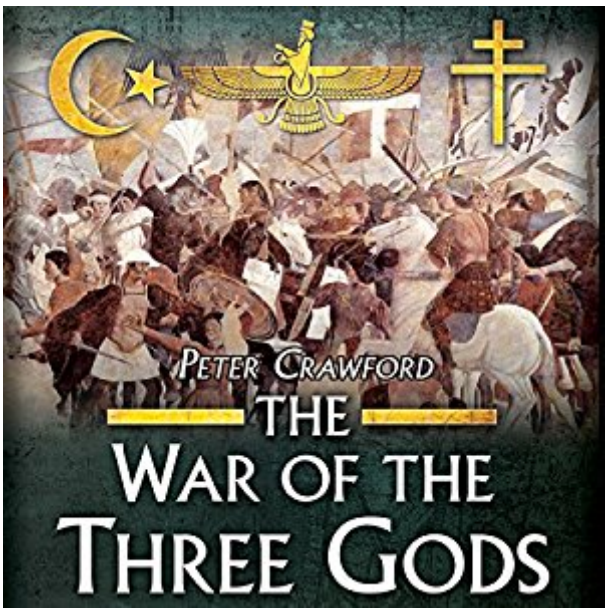
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The War Of The Three Gods: Romans, Persians, And The Rise Of Islam



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Synopsis

The War of the Three Gods is a military history of the Near and Middle East in the seventh century - with its chief focus on the reign of the Eastern Roman Emperor Heraclius (AD 610-641) - a pivotal and dramatic time in world history. The Eastern Roman Empire was brought to the very brink of extinction by the Sassanid Persians before Heraclius managed to inflict a crushing defeat on the Sassanids with a desperate, final gambit. His conquests were shortlived, however, for the newly converted adherents of Islam burst upon the region, administering the coup de grace to Sassanid power and laying siege to Constantinople itself, ushering in a new era. Peter Crawford skillfully explains the threeway struggle between the Christian Roman, Zoroastrian Persian, and Islamic Arab empires, a period of conflict peopled with fascinating characters, including Heraclius, Khusro II, and the Prophet Muhammad himself. Many of the epic battles of the period - Nineveh, Yarmuk, Qadisiyyah, and Nahavand - and sieges such as those of Jerusalem and Constantinople are described in as rich detail. The strategies and tactics of these very different armies are discussed and analyzed, while plentiful maps allow the listener to follow the events and varying fortunes of the contending empires. This is an exciting and important study of a conflict that reshaped the map of the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The rest of the story regarding the end of the Roman and Persian empires and rise of the Islamists. I think the author did a good job explaining where there were poor records available during periods when no one was keeping reliable records. The reconstructions seemed plausible and we know the

forces and the outcomes. If you love history I think this book is a good read.

Knowing the history of this time period helps understand where we are in today's world. Although not a particularly religious book, since much of this time period revolves around religion the author does a good job of weaving it into the narrative. Sometimes the details of each and every battle can become a bit tedious at times, the author's research on the topic is outstanding.

Most of the book is a detailed battle by battle and movement by movement description of the wars between the three sides. I just got tired of it, started skimming and then just stopped.There's an amazing amount of detail here it must have been a lot of work to research it all. But it seemed like a tree by tree description of a forest.

I thoroughly enjoyed this compelling and not widely understood history, but could have done with less emphasis on the endless listing of battles and battle tactics, and more emphasis on the consequences of these developments.

Great subject matter. But, a tedious read. Many guesses about what happened. I would not recommend to casual historian reader.

An excellent book on the Clash of Civilizations 7th century style. Fills in a lot of gaps on the history of Islam's beginnigns.

Not enough attention is paid to this period. The Western-centric focus sees the decline of the Roman Empire as the "end" of worthy history until the Renaissance, but the rise of Islam is not only history, it preserved much of Western history. Crawford weaves the stories of the three empires with excellent fluidity, keeping the overall narrative in context.

Why is not the question. Rather why did God suffuse these people with the theology we are arguing to this day.

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