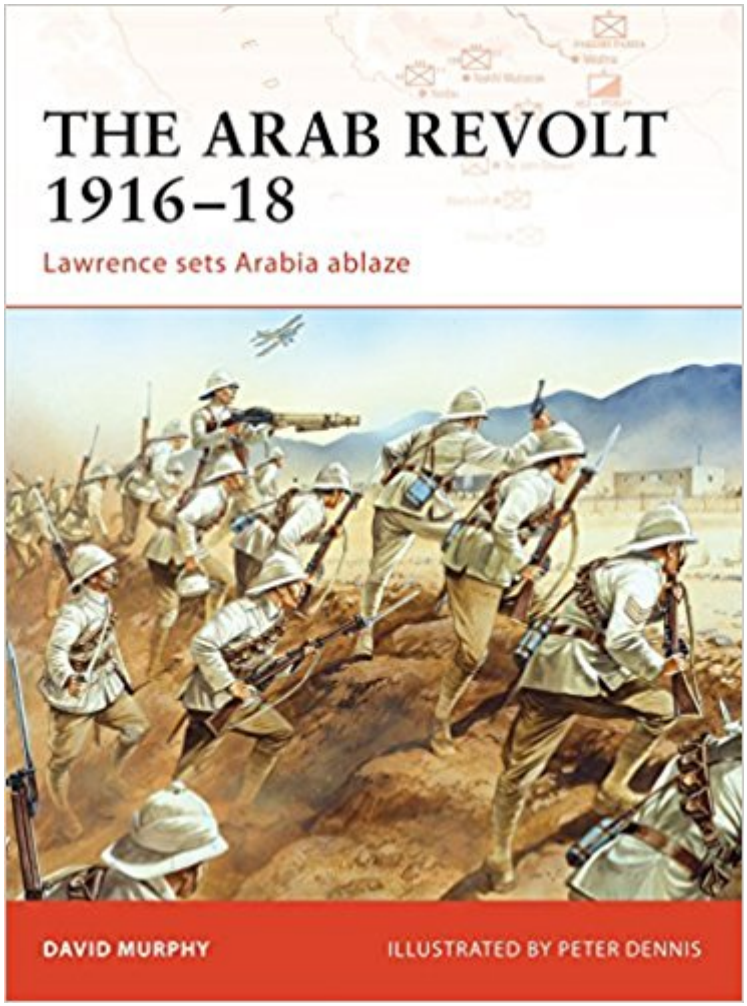
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The Arab Revolt 1916Ã¢â‚¬â€œ18: Lawrence Sets Arabia Ablaze (Campaign)



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Synopsis

The Arab Revolt of 1916-18 was one of the most dramatic events of World War I (1914-1918). It resulted in the birth of the modern Middle East and also created one of the most enduring myths of the war, the story of "Lawrence of Arabia". In fact, it could be argued that the wider importance of the Arab Revolt has been forgotten in the rush to focus on Lawrence myth and that later generations have lost sight of the immense changes that this rebellion represented in Arab affairs.This book examines the revolt without this prejudice, describing and analyzing the background and events of the revolt. Breaking the process into several broad phases, the author examines the initial capture of coastal towns like Jeddah, which secured and this allowed for the re-supply and support of the Arab Army by the Royal Navy. Then, the main focus of the revolt became the Hijaz Railway. The raids on this vital route are described in detail, as is the seizure of Aqaba in 1917 and the northward push of the Arab Army at Gaza, Jerusalem, Megiddo and Damascas. Finally, this book describes how a local Arab rebellion grew to form a major part of Allied operations in the Middle East, as Arab tribesman developed from being troublesome raiders into a force which could oppose brigade-sized Turkish columns by 1918.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Murphy provides an excellent narrative of how the British and French supplanted the Ottoman Turks as the rulers of the Middle East (and how this caused a large rift between the Arabs and the British and French once the Arabs realized what was going on). He also shows how some

the most influential Arab players in the Middle East came to be so important -- many were involved in the Arab Revolt -- families such as the Husseins (Syria) and the Sauds (this is provided in a section entitled 'Legacy of the Arab Revolt' which is divided into parts about Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and the Hejaz (mainly Saudi Arabia). Finally, Murphy discusses the fate of the most famous man from the Revolt -- Lawrence of Arabia -- it is quite a sad story. This book is an excellent resource for any person interested in the Arab Revolt in World War I.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Jeff Grim, www.collectedmiscellany.com

Dr David Murphy was born in Dublin in 1968 and is a graduate of both University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. He is a contributor to the Dictionary of Irish Biography, and has published two books and numerous articles. His previous publication for Osprey Publishing was Elite 147 Irish Regiments in the World Wars. The author lives in Ireland.

In 1916, as the First World War reached the Middle East, the Arab tribes in what is now Saudi Arabia revolted against the governing Ottoman Empire. Great Britain, anxious for support to its own campaign against the Ottoman Armies, sent troops and supplies to facilitate the success of the rebels. Among the British officers was former archeologist T.E. Lawrence, seconded to intelligence to assess the revolt and its leaders, and soon to become the iconic "Lawrence of Arabia", a leader of the Arab armies that changed everything.The popular image of the Arab revolt has been warped for generations, first by Lawrence's literary epic "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom", then by David Lean's cinematic masterpiece "Lawrence of Arabia. This Osprey Campaign Series entry, "The Arab Revolt 1916-1918" is an introduction to what really happened. In less than 100 pages, author David Murphy sketches the background to the revolt, the principal leaders on both sides and their plans, and what happened. Lawrence was only one of many British and French officers and soldiers who helped the Arab tribal armies achieve military success. It also turns out that Britain and France had their vision of a postwar Middle East, one that did not include Arab autonomy.The narrative does a decent job of placing Lawrence in context, and of recognizing that his version of events was just that. The text is very nicely supplemented by period photographs, maps, diagrams and illustrations. The bibliography is worth perusing for further information about the conflict. Recommended.

David Murphy's book is written in an orderly manner that provides an excellent synopsis of this desert campaign. He ties the Arab revolt to the overall British mission in a way that is easy to follow. This is noteworthy as many of the people and places are probably unfamiliar to the average

reader.The book has an extensive four page chronology and a detailed Order of Battle. Both of these are helpful in allowing the reader to keep track of various events. It has five 2D maps and two 3D Birds Eye View maps. Each map is concise and presents a clear picture. The 2D tactical maps are extremely helpful in following the progress of the campaign. The book has an outstanding assortment of photos. They include everything from individuals like T.E. Lawrence and Emir Feisal ibn Hussein, to action scenes, and war material such as aircraft and Talbot armored cars. These photos do a great job of bringing this campaign to life.The book does have some editorial shortcomings. On page 73, a sentence reads as follows; "The Ma'an garrison was now be cut off in the same way as the Medina garrison was further south." The word "be" should obviously have been deleted. In addition, some graphics are out of sync with the text. The color battle scene for the attack on Mudawwarah Station is located ahead of the applicable narrative. Although not significant, these shortcomings could have been avoided.The book has a chapter on the legacy of the revolt that outlines the origin of modern Middle Eastern countries. It also describes the history of T.E. Lawrence and how he became known as Lawrence of Arabia. Of particular interest are the possible fabrications in his memoir and rumors that atrocities may have occurred under his watch.Bottom line: This is an easy to read and concise overview of the entire campaign. The photos are particularly interesting. Despite the editorial shortcomings, this is an excellent book.

Another Great Osprey WW1 Book. I remember seeing the movie . and loving it and the book is great of all my Osprey books.I can't remember one i don't like

I ordered this book as a pre-read for T.E. Lawrence's "7 Pillars of Wisdom". It definitely helped put Lawrences' book into context for me.

Another of many books about Lawrence of Arabia.

Like the reader below, I expected this to be all Lawrence, Lawrence, Lawrence. I was nicely surprised. An excellent short account of an important episode in 20th century ME history. It gives due mention to Arab leaders and also other British and French officers. A good selection of photos and maps. I have done some research on this subject and was amazed at the photographs - many of these I had never seen before. Successfully avoids falling into the trap of simply retelling the Lawrence story again.As to some of the criticisms below, I think it was necessary to include that section on the "Lawrence Myth". Having shown us the wider picture, I think it was wise of Murphy to

actually explain how Lawrence came to prominence and why he eventually dwarfed all the others who took part in this campaign. Also, I don’t think he is necessarily taking Hashemite claims at face value. Are there not implicit criticisms of Hussein and his sons in the final section on the aftermath of the revolt? Is Murphy not essentially saying that they kept their armies in the locality of the "main chance" (Mecca and Medina) and thus necessitated the wider involvement of ICC and Indian troops in the Jordan, Palestine theatre?I would have liked some further detail on some aspects of this - such as the French involvement. But given the strictures of this format, this book covers a lot of ground in just 90+ pages and managed to do-in a few sacred cows on the way. Considering it has taken some historians hundreds of pages to cover this subject, I think Murphy has done a good job of distilling this down into a short readable form. The mention of the current excavations is interesting and I see from the GARP website, they are discovering more and more out there. I would recommend this. An excellent introduction to a complex subject and a story that stills seems to have some distance to run.

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