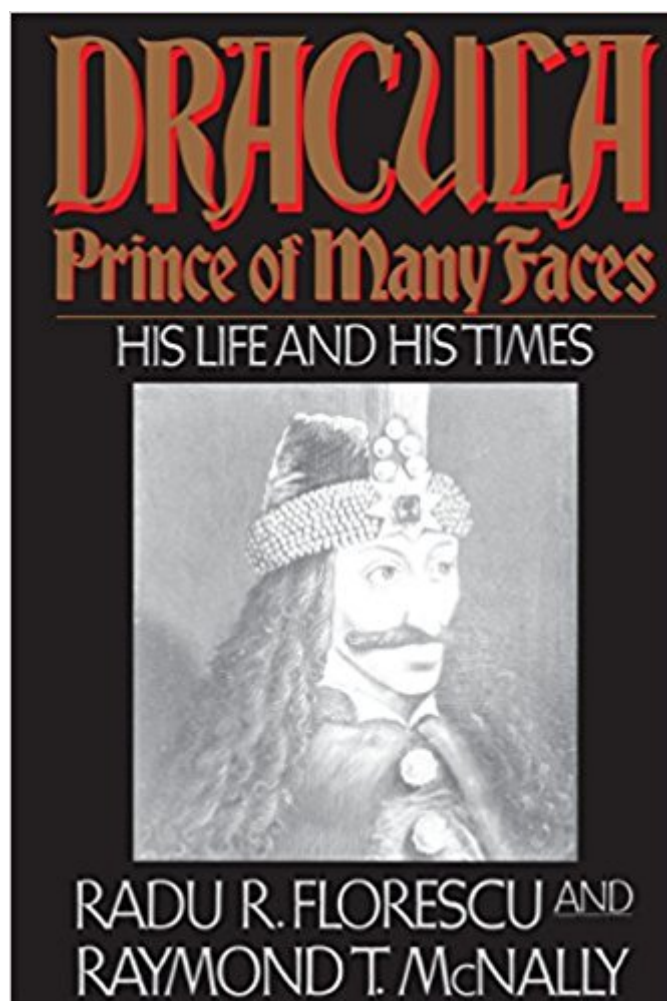


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Dracula, Prince Of Many Faces: His Life And His Times



Synopsis

Dracula, Prince of Many Faces reveals the extraordinary life and times of the infamous Vlad Dracula of Romania (1431 - 1476), nicknamed the Impaler. Dreaded by his enemies, emulated by later rulers like Ivan the Terrible, honored by his countrymen even today, Vlad Dracula was surely one of the most intriguing figures to have stalked the corridors of European and Asian capitals in the fifteenth century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The fictional Dracula of Bram Stoker's novel is better known than the actual Vlad Dracula the Impaler, who ruled as prince of Wallachia for three brief periods in the mid-15th century. This study by two Boston College professors who have written other books about Dracula explores how the legend of the Transylvanian vampire arose. As a ruler, Dracula spread terror far and wide, inflicting appalling tortures on his victims, killing them by impalement, by boiling or skinning them alive. Yet when the time came to defend Europe against Turkish invaders, he led the battle, and the authors view him as "the first modern Renaissance prince of the land." Florescu and McNally offer so much detail about the battles of kings, princes, princelings and claimants to thrones that the book will appeal only to the most ardent Dracula fanatics. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Dracula is the third book that Florescu and McNally, both historians at Boston College, have written about either the real Dracula or the legendary vampire (Dracula: A Historical Biography of the

Impaler, 1431-1476 , Hawthorn, 1973; LJ 2/1/74). This scholarly work focuses almost exclusively upon the "real" Dracula, a 15th-century Romanian prince. The authors present him as a multifaceted figure, a national hero still revered for defending Romania from the Turks, yet also a psychopath who used his power indiscriminately to torture and murder thousands of his enemies and subjects. Because of the constant interest in the occult (especially in the vampire Dracula), public libraries will want this for popular collections. Because of its sound treatment of an important figure in Eastern European history, academic libraries also should consider.- Ann H. Sullivan, Tompkins Cortland Community Coll. Lib., Dryden, Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A book to read if you want to find out about the historical Dracula. It is definately one of the easiest to find. Treptow's Vlad III Dracula and a few others are way out of reach cost-wise, but worth getting through your library's interlibrary loan service if you are interested in pursuing the man, not Stoker's monster. Get it, read it, history buffs. Then wish they could find more information to track him down. Unfortunately, there are not many "unbiased" and unsensationalized records of his life. At least, not available in the U.S. Purchased from LKF Booksellers. I had lost my original copy of this book and now have one in mint condition thanks to LKF Booksellers. It arrived well ahead of schedule which helps with the research for my novel. They also included a personal note and a little mint in the package with their personal logo. Excellent service with a personal touch!

One reviewer has stated that this was one of the scariest books he has ever read, and I would concur with that. For those enjoy all of the legendary (and fictitious) stories of vampires, you are missing something truly evil and scary. This man was real. His actions were brutal, ruthless, and cold. I enjoy a dark and scary story time and again, but I prefer historical accounts, especially if they are true to the original event. After reading other reviews, I believe this book really does try to stay to the facts and paint the picture of the real Dracula. Speculation about Stoker and all that is fine, and probably was necessary to appease a few readers. Nice to know, not need to know. If Dracula had been in his tomb, would we ever have had Stoker's tale? One does wonder. I first heard of this book while watching a History special on Vlad Dracula--that special pulled me away from Sunday Football (American) for the rest of the day, because I hunted this down and read it. Highly recommended, even for a casual reader of history. I think it will open your perspective.

As it goes, I am enjoying reading this book, about a subject I longed to read about, by authors with

gravitas about the subject, EXCEPT for certain (not all) foreign inflected letters which will not reproduce in readable-sized print in my Kindle Fire HD 8.9-Inch version; i.e., in the same size letter printing as all the other letters of the words they are contained in, and words without foreign inflected letters. Certain (not all) foreign inflected letters reproduce in Kindle in tiny (miniscule) print you can only read with a magnifying loupe or glass, no matter what text size you choose to set your Kindle on, even though all the other letters are normal size. That is very distracting. My advice is to buy this book in regular print binding, hardback or paperback, rather than the Kindle version. I wish I had known before I bought the Kindle version. If I had bought the print version, I bet I would have rated it 5 Stars, instead of 3. This review is strictly regarding the Kindle version only. I do not think I found this to be true with other Kindle books I have read with foreign inflected letters. For all I know, this may be peculiar to this particular Kindle book, or to the particular foreign inflected letters. I am curious to know if others have this same problem with this particular book (or other Kindle books). Even reading this book on my computer in the companion Kindle for PC program does not improve the reading by much, except that it is a larger screen size than my Kindle. The affected letters are still tiny and difficult to read.

a comprehensive and detailed of the political state of Europe and not only causes the reader to view the acts and life of Vlad the Impaler under more lenient auspices. He was very cruel, most likely suffered from some mental disorder, but in those times human lives were just disposable assets. Very interesting book. Bought for a project on history my daughter had so I read it also. Had no idea how intricate and interrelated european rulers were and yet how much enmity existed one day just to become allies next day.

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