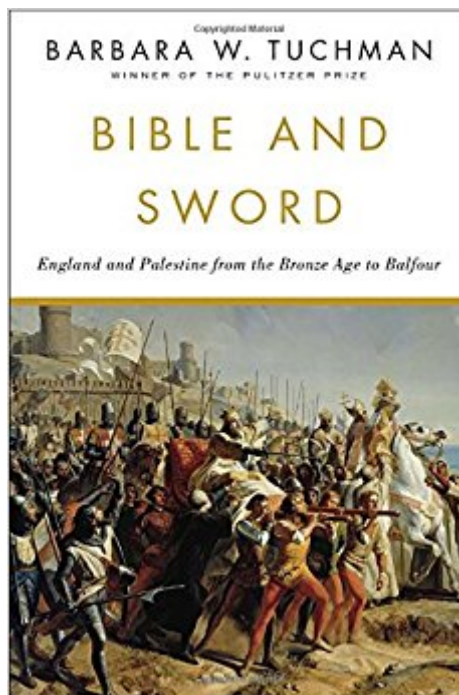




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Bible And Sword: England And Palestine From The Bronze Age To Balfour



Synopsis

From Barbara W. Tuchman, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Guns of August*, comes history through a wide-angle lens: a fascinating chronicle of Britain's long relationship with Palestine and the Middle East, from the ancient world to the twentieth century. Historically, the British were drawn to the Holy Land for two major reasons: first, to translate the Bible into English and, later, to control the road to India and access to the oil of the Middle East. With the lucidity and vividness that characterize all her work, Barbara W. Tuchman follows these twin spiritual and imperial motives—the Bible and the sword—to their seemingly inevitable endpoint, when Britain conquered Palestine at the conclusion of World War I. At that moment, in a gesture of significance and solemnity, the Balfour Declaration of 1917 established a British-sponsored mandate for a national home for the Jewish people. Throughout this characteristically vivid account, Tuchman demonstrates that the seeds of conflict were planted in the Middle East long before the official founding of the modern state of Israel. Praise for *Bible and Sword*—Tuchman is a wise and witty writer, a shrewd observer with a lively command of high drama. The Philadelphia Inquirer—In her master as a narrative popular historical writer, Barbara Tuchman is supreme. Chicago Sun-Times

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Customer Reviews

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With the lucidity and vividness that characterize all her work, two-time Pulitzer Prize winning historian, Barbara Tuchman, explores the complex relationship of Britain to Palestine that led to the founding of the modern Jewish state--and to many of the problems that plague the Middle East today."Barbara Tuchman is a wise and witty writer, a shrewd observer with a lively command of high drama."PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

I am a history buff and reading this history was very illuminating. I had no idea that from Cromwell's time forward so many Englishman were both enchanted and involved in Palestine and the Levant. Some were interested in getting a home for the Jewish people because they felt that had to be what was in the area in order for the second coming of Christ. They also wanted England to be in control of the area from the very beginning. They did not plan for it to become an independent state of Israel. Once they controlled Suez they felt they had to have people in the land and they might as well be some Jewish settlers. It was so interesting when the wealthy Jewish Englishman were not interested for themselves, nor were the same type of people from Germany, but the poor and desperate Jews from Poland and Russia wanted that homeland and the Germans and English did not want them in their countries. The whole history from the Norman invasion of Britain to Henry the VIII's separation from the Pope and the Catholic Church were well recorded. A long but great read.

Who hasn't wondered how the fate of this ancient country has come to bear on nearly every major political decision of this and previous generations. Tuchman's research and synthesis of the facts provide a startling picture of how England's early involvement in the Holy Land shifted much of the focus of Christianity from New to Old Testament. She shows how the early messages of peace and tolerance taught by Jesus were controverted by zealots bent upon recovering the Temple of Solomon. In many ways, the coercive and doctrinaire legacy of the Puritans is still the bedrock upon which extremist Christian sects continue to shape policy today. This is an important work, and should be read by all.

Very Detailed. I learned a lot.

A bottomless treasure trove of information and detail about England and Palestine; Especially interesting is the time covered from 1800 forward. It gives a great overview of the foundations laid

for the current complexities in the Middle East today. Tuchman is a fine historian.

This is the first book published by Barbara Tuchman and it is as good as her later works such as the acclaimed "The Guns of August" bestseller. This book relates the relation between England and Palestine since the early history of Christianity. It is a great historic tour along many centuries, Barbara Tuchman is a great writer and all that history is interesting and entertaining. She doesn't deal with the thorny questions of modern Palestine but her book provides a great background to understand that land and the peoples who claim it as their own. Highly recommended.

Not a page-turner like "The Zimmerman Telegram" by Barbara Tuchman, but consistently interesting. This was her first book, published the year she turned 27. The reader will think, My goodness, this lady will write a Pulitzer prize-winner. It is worth acquiring a Barbara Tuchman library.

Very detailed read. I enjoyed this kind of detail in trying to understand the complexity of the current issue. It showed a lack of understanding and compassion for the people of the region.

Though out of print, this book remains one of the best for understanding the roots of the Israeli/Arab conflict. You cannot understand today's Middle East without first understanding the relationship between Britain and the Jews and how England changed the relationship between the principal players forever... for better and for worse.

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