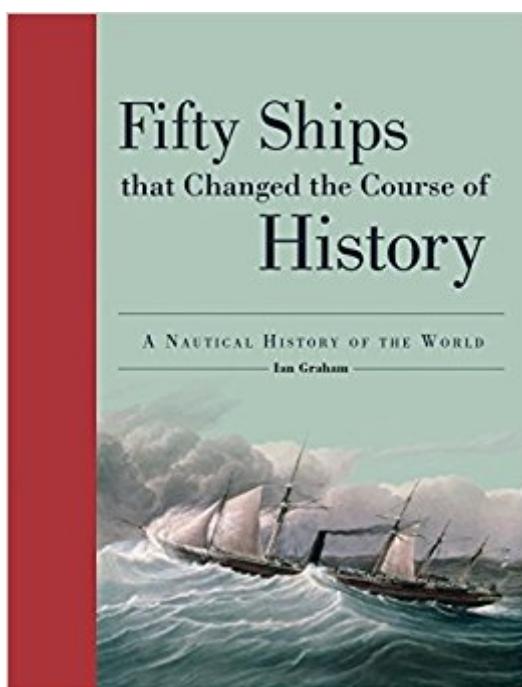


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Fifty Ships That Changed The Course Of History: A Nautical History Of The World (Fifty Things That Changed The Course Of History)



Synopsis

Fifty Ships That Changed the Course of History is a beautiful guide to fifty water vessels that played a key role in world history and had a great impact on human civilization. The book presents the ships chronologically, beginning with Pharaoh Khufu's Solar Barge from about 2566 BCE. The chapter includes a photograph of the reconstructed ship, discovered in 1954 near the Great Pyramid. Religious beliefs held that in the afterlife the pharaoh would need a ship to sail the cosmic waters of the sky with the sun god, Ra. The book closes with another sun-seeking ship four thousand years later. The epitome of an ocean cruise ship, the MS Allure of the Seas is the biggest passenger ship ever built. An Oasis-class cruise ship, it is a destination in itself, complete with a Central Park-like oasis, 18 decks, 5,492 passengers, and a crew of 2,384. Between these landmark vessels is a variety of ships used for all of mankind's needs, from hunters searching for food, traders with goods to barter and warriors bent on conquest, to explorers longing to see what lay beyond the horizon. Over time, the first small primitive watercraft evolved into bigger seagoing vessels, shaping our history, culture, and civilization along the way. Some of the fifty ships are: USS Holland, the first successful submersible vehicle, built in 1897. USS Enterprise, the first of the nuclear-powered supercarriers. SS Torrey Canyon, source of the first big oil spill at sea. SS Ideal X, the first container ship, which revolutionized global trade. USS Missouri, the US Navy's last battleship and host to the ceremony that ended World War II. SS Normandie, which set new standards for luxury ocean transport. U-21, Germany's most deadly U-boat and the first to sink a ship and survive. RMS Lusitania, the luxurious ocean liner whose sinking forced America into World War I. Mayflower, whose passengers, the Pilgrim Fathers, sailed to America. Zheng He's Treasure Ships, seven great fleets of ships that reached Africa. The Trireme, a fine example of a pre-Viking Nordic vessel. Amistad, overtaken by its slave passengers. SS Great Britain, the first transoceanic ship. Bismarck, one of the most powerful battleships of World War II, defeated by a biplane. The concise text is highlighted by elegant reproductions, photographs, and sidebars, paintings, ship plans, quotes and photographs. This attractive reference provides an innovative perspective on maritime and world history. It is an excellent selection for all collections.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a beautiful book, replete with illustrations, photos, diagrams, and maps. The text balances technicality with storytelling, scholarly analysis with entertainment. It's a sweeping, fascinating look at barges, battleships, caravels, dhows, submarines, and more, placing them all in context with the battles, countries, discoveries, inventions, and people that surrounded them. Readers interested in history of any kind will enjoy this highly accessible book. (Publishers Weekly 2017-01-16) The visual feast gives each ship about four pages of drawings, photos, particulars, and narrative laying out the role in "war, trade, science and pleasure" that qualified it for this relatively succinct list. (Wooden Boat Magazine 2017-01-01) This is a great volume to introduce readers to ships. Reference may not be its proper home, but general stacks in middle school through undergraduate, plus public libraries, will certainly find it appropriate. (Peter H. McCracken American Reference Books Annual 2017-03-01) A great library addition. (Ann Coombs Annual Holiday Gift Guide List 2016 2016-12-01)

Ian Graham is an author with more than 30 years' experience in popular science, technology and history. He has written extensively for magazines and has written and co-written more than 200 books on a wide range of topics, including space exploration, aviation, transport, energy, communications, inventions and military technology. He has also written crime fiction and graphic novels retelling classic tales. He has a degree in applied physics and a postgraduate diploma in journalism. In 2012 he was the joint winner of the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize and in 2014 he was shortlisted for the Educational Writers' Award.

The book is beautiful and exactly what I wanted. Unfortunately, due to poor packaging it is damaged and I do not have time to return it before my grandfather's birthday.

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