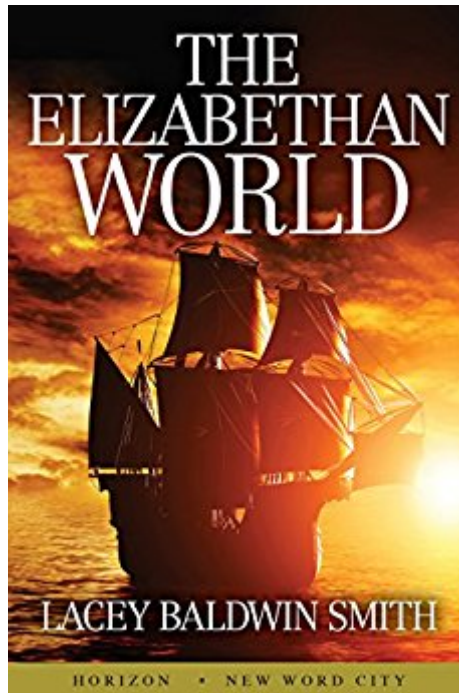




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The Elizabethan World



Synopsis

The Elizabethan World was a world remade. At the dawn of the sixteenth century, Europe was emerging from an age of ignorance and uncertainty. New lands were being discovered and old ones revitalized. People abandoned the ideals of medieval times to make startling advances in technology, science, and art. Here, award-winning historian Lacey Baldwin Smith vividly brings to life the story of Queen Elizabeth - perhaps the most influential sovereign in England's history - and the age she created. During her reign, Queen Elizabeth, last of the Tudor monarchs, presided over developments that still shape and inform our lives and culture today, including her patronage of William Shakespeare, the formation of the Church of England, victory over the Spanish Armada, even the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. Smith's keen eye for detail and sense of how those details have echoed through the centuries make this book essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how history works.

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Customer Reviews

excellent book, entertaining and factual

A text book - novel combined. I read a lot of this period material. This book fills in the blanks and I highly suggest it for both the scholar and to the interested layman.

I love books that tell me more about things I think I know. Usually, as in this case, I find that I didn't "know" what I thought I knew. Sometimes it is because there are different interpretations of the records, and sometimes it's because the "world" I was looking at was really only a small part of the world. This book expands the Elizabethan world beyond the shores of England, and is my first real look at some of the religious and political events taking place at the same time in France, Spain, and the Low Countries. It addressed a lot of questions I had and was very useful in my attempts to understand the world of my ancestors.

I'm not scholar of this or any era in history so I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this book, but I found it to be a compelling read loaded with information on many aspects of of many nations and religions in Great Britain and Europe during this time. Included are overviews of science, politics, intrigues, betrayals, shifting alliances, exploration and of course wars and diplomacy. I admit to getting lost trying to correlate dates since it was necessary to describe, for instance, the events occurring in the sciences up to some particular date but then to jump back in time to outline explorations or changes in religion. There's a lot here. I would recommend it.

This was a very good history read. The author covers the Elizabethan times from several national perspectives. We learn what is occurring in Spain, Italian city states , The Holy Roman Empire , and England. The interaction between these political entities is explained and is also intriguing.

I really liked this book. A nice tight, concise painting, if you will, of Europe in the 17th century with eventual focus onto England and the reign of the Tudors. It was a good page turner, you always wanted to know what was coming next. Not bad for a history book. I like these kind of history books where the author focuses on a particular time and paints a picture not in detail but with broad strokes and gives you a taste for the times. A description you can feel, smell and taste. If you want to know what was going on in Europe in general during the 17th century and then get an interesting portrait of the Tudor dynasty then this is your book.

Well written and broader in scope than I had expected. Europe and Great Britain were hard places to live then and the religious wars were well presented. I can't comment on the historical accuracy of all this but it kept me interested.

This is a well written book or not just England but also France and Spain. The author provides an excellent overview of the political and religious world in Western Europe. The author is primarily concerned with how the schism between Catholicism and Protestantism affected the political world during the times of Elizabeth. While the author covers the important political and religious figures of the age, the book only goes into detail on the most important ones and only gives interesting details and anecdotes on a few. The author spends almost no time going into the economics of the period or talking about the major literary figures of the age with the exception of a few sentences or quotes. Missing is the minutiae that makes these books so much fun to read. It was good but it felt like the textbooks I read in college

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