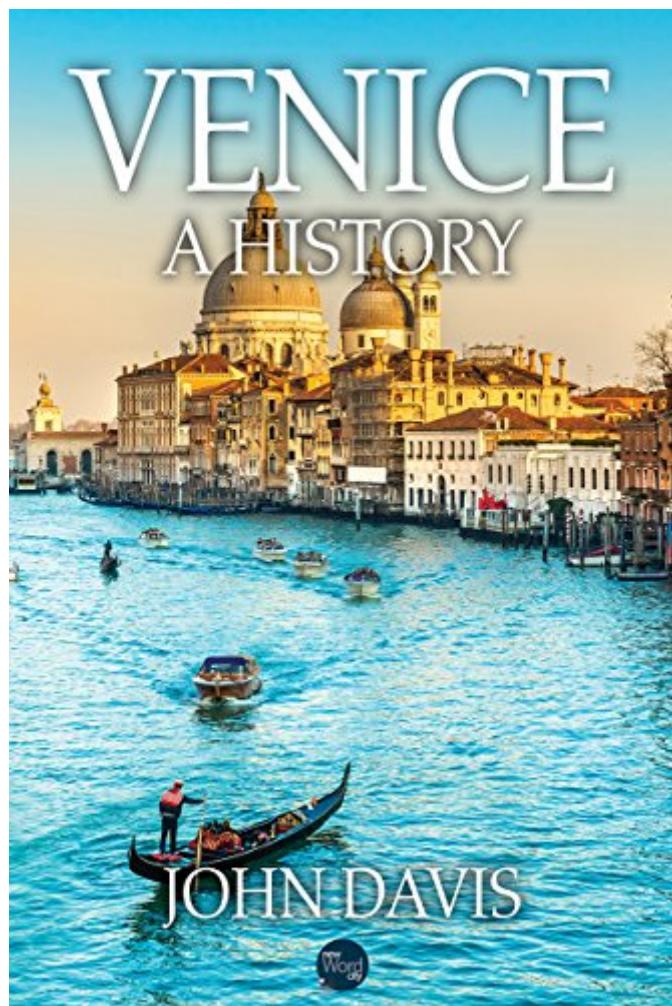


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Venice: A History



Synopsis

Rarely in history has a great city arisen in a less likely place than the islands and mud flats of the Venetian lagoon. But they provided the city's founders with a refuge from the barbarians who had invaded their mainland homes. With energy and ingenuity, these displaced people created a maritime empire of unequaled splendor. At its height, the Republic of Venice was said to encompass "one quarter and one half of one quarter" of the known world. During those years, its merchant princess lived more lavishly than many kings. With the discovery of the New World, however, Venice's trading monopolies were broken. The long, slow decline that followed was protracted and infinitely poignant. Today, the decaying buildings adjoining the Rialto Bridge serve as haunting reminders of the bygone age of La Serenissima, the Most Serene Republic. Here is the dramatic story of the city that was once known as the most beautiful in the world - the bride of the Adriatic and the unchallenged mistress of the Mediterranean.

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Customer Reviews

Going to Venice in Nov and now know history.

Here's a page-turning history of one of my favorite cities in the world. It's extraordinary what the Venetians accomplished against all odds. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the history of the world's great empires or even armchair travelers.

This well-written book charts of the dramatic 500-year history of Venice, one of the world's great cities and perhaps the world's first superpower. The author paints a vivid portrait of an enterprising people and their often ruthless rulers. How they managed to create an empire out of a bunch of marshy islands is a heck of a story. I read every word of this book. Highly recommended.

Very well written, and a fascinating study of what Venitians call the most beautiful city in the world. But historical maps would have helped a lot.

Very cursory history, with a lot of focus on art and architecture. The rise of the empire, its changes and fall is barely dealt with, the why of Venice's greatness is mentioned but not explored. Serious students need to look somewhere else.

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