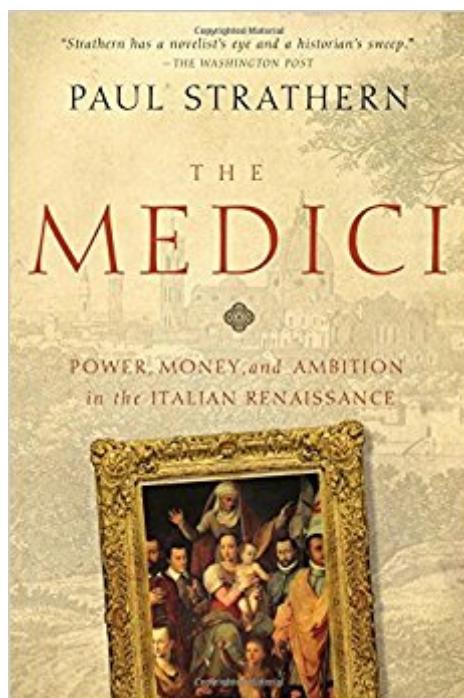


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The Medici: Power, Money, And Ambition In The Italian Renaissance



Synopsis

A vivid, dramatic, and authoritative account of perhaps the most influential family in Italian history: the Medici. A dazzling history of the modest family that rose to become one of the most powerful in Europe, The Medici is a remarkably modern story of power, money, and ambition. Against the background of an age that saw the rebirth of ancient and classical learning Paul Strathern explores the intensely dramatic rise and fall of the Medici family in Florence, as well as the Italian Renaissance which they did so much to sponsor and encourage. Strathern also follows the lives of many of the great Renaissance artists with whom the Medici had dealings, including Leonardo, Michelangelo and Donatello; as well as scientists like Galileo and Pico della Mirandola; and the fortunes of those members of the Medici family who achieved success away from Florence, including the two Medici popes and Catherine de' Medici, who became Queen of France and played a major role in that country through three turbulent reigns. 16 pages of color illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

âœA compelling multigenerational history of the family whose enlightened patronage gave the world that timeless art. Rich in incident and character, this engrossing narrative offers impressive portraits of dynastic figures who usher in a new era aflame with individualistic ambition. Lineal history pulsing with epoch-making energy.â • - Booklistâ œThe prolific author continues to do what he does bestâ •bring history to wondrous lifeâ •with this thorough history of the Medici family. A fantastically comprehensive history covering the breadth of the great learning, art, politics, and religion of the period.â • - Kirkus Reviews (starred review)â œIn this absorbing follow-up to his

beautiful Death in Florence, Strathern chronicles the legendarily farsighted banking family, offering a cautionary tale. This gratifying and comprehensive family saga sheds light on both the internal workings of a remarkable family and on how a singular family irrevocably influenced Western civilization. - Publishers Weekly *œ*The Medici highlights [the family's] literary accomplishments in detail, as well as the story of how the Medici became the Renaissance's most influential family. - The New York Times *œ*An excellent history. An entertaining tale of the rise and fall of an ambitious banking family. - The Sunday Times (London) *œ*What might have been a bewildering string of names, places, and dates is instead a page-turning popular history of an ambitious and influential family. Highly recommended to anyone with an interest in history. - Library Journal *œ*Strathern has done his research thoroughly, and tells a good story well. - The Sunday Telegraph

Paul Strathern is a Somerset Maugham prize-winning novelist, and his nonfiction works include *The Venetians*; *The Artist, the Philosopher and the Warrior*; *Napoleon in Egypt*; and *Mendeleyev's Dream: The Quest for the Elements*. He lives in England.

This is a highly readable book about the history of the Medici family beginning with founding father Cosimo through the last Medici Gian Gastone.

I bought this for my grandma to read and she likes it but it is incredibly heavy. I would say that it is an advanced read. The facts are awesome and you got lots of information. It is incredibly well researched.

Easy to read and informative. Extrapolates to today's climate. Begs the question, have we really evolved significantly from those times?

Excellent

Great great book.

Informative easy read. Only wish the story had continued deeper into the French Medici Queens

I bought this after seeing the Medici series. Let's just say that the series had little to do with the

truth. In fact the truth is far more compelling. A great read, well written. I enjoyed it immensely.

Informative and an easy read. It read very quickly and I learned things I did not know

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