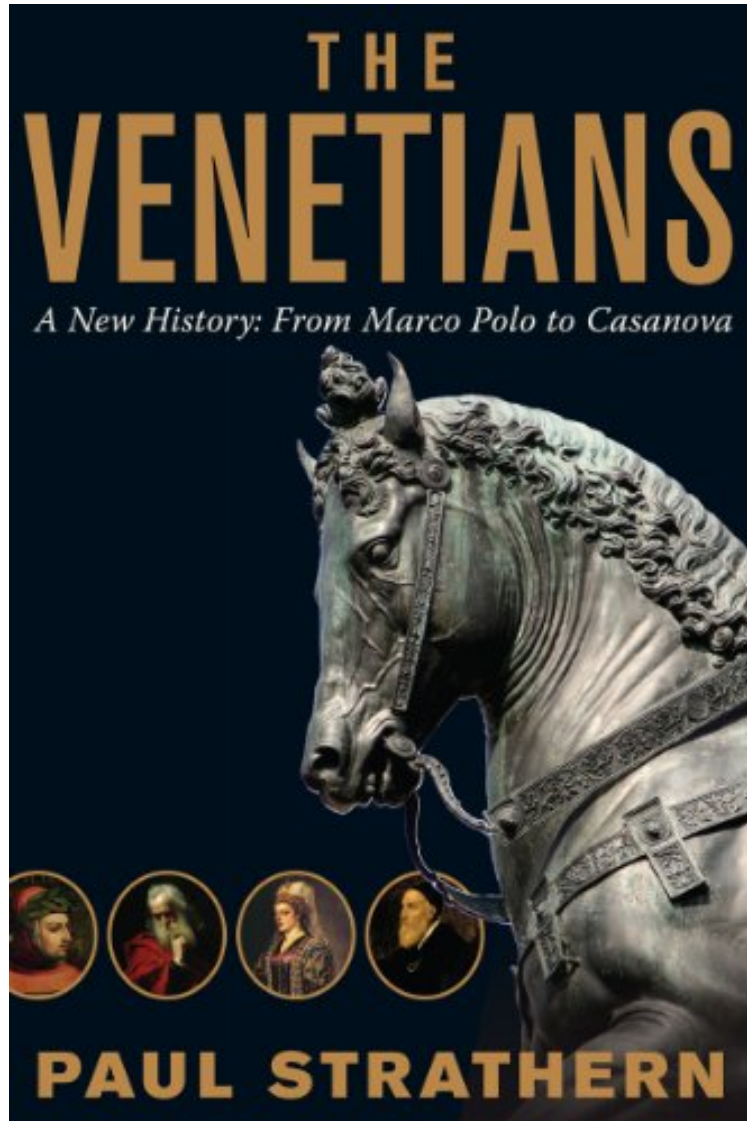


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## The Venetians: A New History: From Marco Polo to Casanova

*Paul Strathern*

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**Paul Strathern : The Venetians: A New History: From Marco Polo to Casanova** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Venetians: A New History: From Marco Polo to Casanova:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Learning the Past with a Modern Voice By joseph carangi Mr Strathern is a gifted storyteller. He breathes life into long-lost people and places. The Venetians gives you biographies of the city's well-known residents throughout time, against the historical backdrop of their lives, in very engaging

prose. If you're interested in the Doges, Marco Polo, or the city's Renaissance artists, I highly recommend this book. In a very magical way, it will leave you feeling as though you've personally met these people. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well-written fascinating story By whoknows This is a very well-written account of the heyday of the Venetian Republic, and shows how a very small republic (the city of Venice) managed to get control of the entire Eastern Mediterranean using cunning, strategic military planning, and adroit diplomacy with the other great powers in the region. I enjoyed it. It is filled with fascinating details, and I have used it to prepare presentations for cruise ship talks that have received very positive reviews. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Venice Flooded by Uneven Writing By P. Harris This tome on Venice is overflowing with facts and figures on wars and conflicts and shallow on lives of important Venetian characters. Too much and frankly, too mind boggling. Recommend highly the author's latest hit on history - THE MEDICIS. Wonderful balance of facts and characterizations

A colorful new history of Venice that illuminates the character of the great city-state by shining a light on some of the most celebrated personalities of European history The Republic of Venice was the first great economic, cultural, and naval power of the modern Western world. After winning the struggle for ascendancy in the late 13th century, the Republic enjoyed centuries of unprecedented glory. This golden period only drew to an end with the Republic's eventual surrender to Napoleon. The Venetians illuminates the character of the Republic during these illustrious years by shining a light on some of the most celebrated personalities of European history Petrarch, Marco Polo, Galileo, Titian, Vivaldi, Casanova. Frequently, though, these emblems of the city found themselves at odds with the Venetian authorities who prized stability above all else and were notoriously suspicious of any cult of personality. Was this very tension perhaps the engine for the Republic's unprecedented rise? Rich with biographies of some of the most exalted characters who have ever lived, The Venetians is a refreshing and authoritative new look at the history of the most evocative of city-states.

From Booklist The city-state of Venice, situated on islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic, maintained its independence for more than a millennium, until the Napoleonic Age. Blessed by its location, it dominated the east-west trade routes that linked the medieval West with the Byzantine Empire and points further east. During the Renaissance, it became one of the glittering cultural jewels of northern Italy. Strathern attempts to explain the growth and magnificence of Venice by concentrating on the lives of some of the historical figures who played prominent roles in its development, from Marco Polo to the famed adventurer, lover, and literary icon Casanova. This is an enjoyable journey filled with interesting tidbits about both well-known and relatively obscure characters who left their mark on the city. Strathern also delves into the often mysterious and confusing manner in which Venice was governed by a small core of elite citizens. As serious history, however, this survey falls short since it fails to link the city with broader historical trends and ignores many aspects of Venetian political and cultural development. Still, this work can serve as a useful and informative introduction for general readers. --Jay Freeman Strathern weaves an engrossing tale replete with intriguing sub-plots, emphasizing the human aspect with great feeling. - Publishers Weekly Looks at the magical city of Venice through historical figures including Marco Polo, Galileo, Titian, Vivaldi and Casanova. - USA Today Entertaining vignettes of a number of colorful Venetians. - Library Journal About the Author 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 Mendeleev's Dream: The Quest for the Elements. He lives in England.