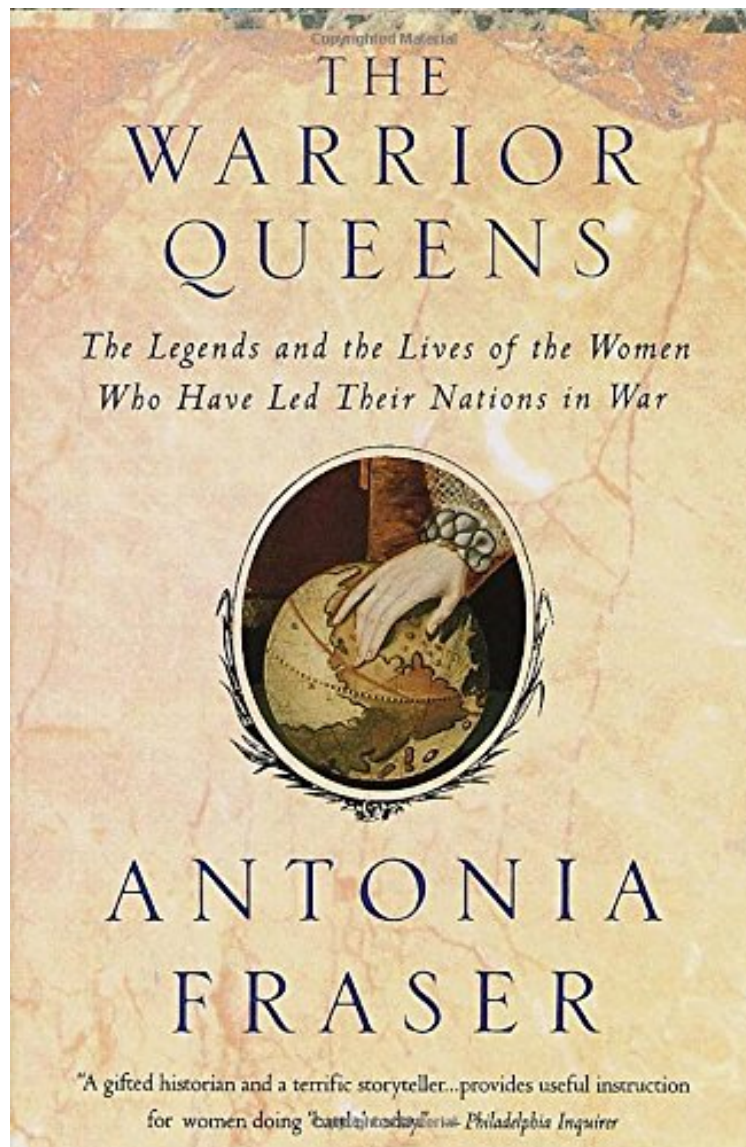


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The Warrior Queens: The Legends and the Lives of the Women Who Have Led Their Nations in War

Antonia Fraser

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In this panoramic work of history, Lady Antonia Fraser looks at women who led armies and empires: Cleopatra, Isabella of Spain, Jinga Mbandi, Margaret Thatcher, and Indira Gandhi, among others.

From Publishers WeeklyIn a series of cleverly linked biographies, Fraser here tells the stories of a long line of history's "warrior queens," at the same time exploring and illuminating the myths, paradoxes and ambiguities that attend their status as aggressive female leaders, and the "mingled awe, horror, and ecstasy" that they inspire. She begins with the British queen Boadicea, who in A.D. 60 led a massive but doomed rebellion against the Roman occupation (and whose spirit haunts the entire book), and ends with the modern trio: Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi and Margaret Thatcher. In between come the likes of Isabella of Spain, Elizabeth I, Catherine the Great and the beautiful Rani of Jhansi, who, wronged by the British, earned herself a permanent place in Indian legend by the heroic role she played against them in the so-called Mutiny of 1857. Fraser (Mary Queen of Scots ; Cromwell) buttresses her book with sound scholarship, while her insights and enthusiasm make it beguiling. Illustrated. 60,000 first printing; BOMC and QPBC alternates. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.From School Library JournalYA-- Using Britain's Queen Boadicea as a focus, Fraser presents a provocative study of exceptional women leaders whose patriotic and military actions are resounding proof that women have made their mark many times over in fields usually dominated by men. Leadership roles of Warrior Queens Boadicea, Elizabeth I, Catherine the Great, Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi, and Margaret Thatcher--and many others--are examined in the context of the paradoxes and politics of their times. This book brings to life historical fact from a feminist viewpoint. A worthwhile addition to the history shelves.- Jenni Elliott, Episcopal High School, Bellaire, TXCopyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIn her justly acclaimed biographies of Oliver Cromwell and Mary, Queen of Scots, Fraser established her rare ability to breathe exciting life into historical figures. In this work she covers 17 women, from Queen Boadicea to Margaret Thatcher, who have ruled, specifically in time of war. Her character vignettes are sharp and incisive, and along the way she offers some intriguing thoughts on how societies through time have reacted to females cast in a role of military leadership. The final chapter, which is an overview of what might be termed the psychology of "warrior queens," ought to be required reading for every student of history. Highly recommended. BOMC and Quality Paperback Book Club alternates.- James A. Casada, Winthrop Coll., Rock Hill, S.C.Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.