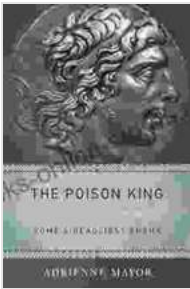


# The Life and Legend of Mithradates: Rome's Deadliest Enemy

Mithradates VI Eupator, King of Pontus, was one of the most formidable enemies the Roman Republic ever faced. He fought against the Romans for decades, leading three major wars and inspiring a fear and respect that few other enemies could match. His life is a tale of ambition, cunning, and tragedy, and his legend has inspired countless stories and works of art.



## The Poison King: The Life and Legend of Mithradates, Rome's Deadliest Enemy by Adrienne Mayor

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6093 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 481 pages



## Early Life and Rise to Power

Mithradates was born in 134 BC in Sinope, Pontus. His father, Mithradates V Euergetes, was a successful king who expanded the kingdom's territory and established close ties with Rome. Mithradates VI received a thorough education, learning Greek, Latin, and Persian. He was also a skilled warrior and hunter.

In 120 BC, Mithradates V was assassinated, and Mithradates VI succeeded him to the throne. He was just 14 years old at the time, but he quickly proved to be a capable ruler. He expanded the kingdom's borders, conquering neighboring territories and establishing a powerful empire that stretched from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea.

## **The Mithridatic Wars**

Mithradates' ambition and expansionism brought him into conflict with the Roman Republic. The First Mithridatic War (89-85 BC) began when Mithradates invaded the Roman province of Asia and massacred thousands of Roman citizens.

The Romans responded by sending an army to Pontus, led by Lucius Cornelius Sulla. Sulla defeated Mithradates and forced him to sign a peace treaty that stripped him of much of his territory. However, Mithradates refused to give up, and he soon began preparing for another war.

The Second Mithridatic War (83-81 BC) was even more bloody than the first. Mithradates allied himself with King Tigranes the Great of Armenia, and together they defeated several Roman armies. However, the Romans eventually regained the upper hand, and Mithradates was forced to flee to Armenia.

The Third Mithridatic War (73-63 BC) was the longest and most devastating of the Mithridatic Wars. Mithradates once again allied himself with Tigranes, but they were defeated by the Roman general Pompey the Great. Mithradates fled to the Bosporan Kingdom, but he was eventually betrayed and killed by his son, Pharnaces II.

## **Poison Resistance and Suicide**

One of the most fascinating aspects of Mithradates' life is his alleged poison resistance. It is said that he developed a resistance to poison by taking small doses of it over a long period of time. This allowed him to survive several assassination attempts.

When Mithradates was eventually captured by Pompey, he tried to commit suicide by taking poison. However, the poison had no effect on him, and he was forced to stab himself to death.

## **Legacy**

Mithradates was one of the most formidable enemies the Roman Republic ever faced. He was a brilliant military strategist, a skilled diplomat, and a ruthless tyrant. He fought against the Romans for decades, and his legend has inspired countless stories and works of art.

Mithradates' legacy is complex and contradictory. He was a cruel and ambitious ruler, but he was also a skilled warrior and a brilliant strategist. He was a formidable enemy, but he was also a fascinating and charismatic figure.

Mithradates' life is a reminder that even the most powerful empires can be brought down by a determined enemy. It is also a reminder that even the most brilliant minds can be consumed by ambition and greed.

## **Image Gallery**



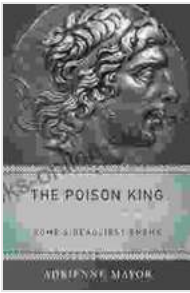


Mithradates VI Eupator coin



### Further Reading

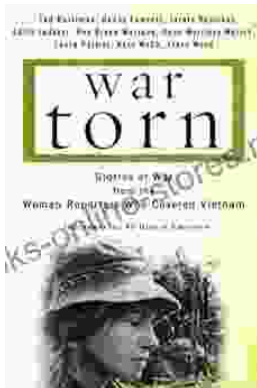
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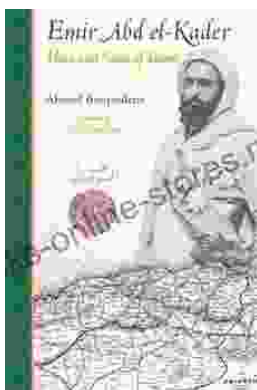
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