

The Merchants of Oran: A Thrilling Historical Adventure by Robert E. Howard



The Merchants of Oran: A Jewish Port at the Dawn of Empire (Stanford Studies in Jewish History and Culture)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4788 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 215 pages



The Merchants of Oran is a historical novel by Robert Ervin Howard, first published in 1932. The novel is set in the 16th century and follows the adventures of Cormac FitzGeoffrey, an Irish mercenary who travels to Oran, Algeria, to seek his fortune.

Cormac is a skilled swordsman and a fearless warrior, but he is also a man of honor and compassion. When he arrives in Oran, he is quickly drawn into a conflict between the local merchants and the corrupt governor of the city. Cormac takes the side of the merchants, and he soon finds himself fighting for justice and freedom.

The Merchants of Oran is a thrilling adventure story that is full of action, intrigue, and romance. Howard's writing is vivid and evocative, and he brings the world of 16th century Oran to life. The novel is also a testament

to the power of courage and honor, and it shows that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope.

The Setting

The Merchants of Oran is set in the 16th century, during a time of great upheaval and change in the Mediterranean world. The Ottoman Empire was expanding rapidly, and the Spanish were struggling to defend their empire from the Turkish onslaught. Oran was a major port city on the North African coast, and it was a key strategic target for both the Ottomans and the Spanish.

The city of Oran was a melting pot of cultures, with Arabs, Berbers, Turks, and Spaniards all living side by side. The city was also home to a large number of merchants, who traded in goods from all over the world. The merchants were a powerful force in Oran, and they often found themselves at odds with the corrupt governor of the city.

The Characters

Cormac FitzGeoffrey is the protagonist of The Merchants of Oran. He is an Irish mercenary who travels to Oran to seek his fortune. Cormac is a skilled swordsman and a fearless warrior, but he is also a man of honor and compassion.

Yussuf ibn Abd al-Rahman is the governor of Oran. He is a corrupt and tyrannical ruler who is hated by the people of Oran. Yussuf is determined to crush the merchants and seize their wealth for himself.

Ayesha is a beautiful young woman who is the daughter of a wealthy merchant. Ayesha is intelligent and resourceful, and she is determined to

help her father fight against Yussuf.

The Plot

The Merchants of Oran begins with Cormac arriving in Oran. He quickly becomes involved in the conflict between the merchants and the governor. Cormac takes the side of the merchants, and he soon finds himself fighting for justice and freedom.

Cormac and his allies must overcome many challenges in their fight against Yussuf. They must battle against the governor's soldiers, and they must also contend with the machinations of the Ottomans and the Spanish. However, Cormac and his allies are determined to prevail, and they will not rest until Yussuf is overthrown.

The Themes

The Merchants of Oran is a story about courage, honor, and freedom. Cormac FitzGeoffrey is a man of courage and honor, and he is determined to fight for justice and freedom, no matter the cost. The novel also shows that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope.

The Historical Context

The Merchants of Oran is set during a time of great upheaval and change in the Mediterranean world. The Ottoman Empire was expanding rapidly, and the Spanish were struggling to defend their empire from the Turkish onslaught. Oran was a major port city on the North African coast, and it was a key strategic target for both the Ottomans and the Spanish.

The novel accurately depicts the historical events of the period. The siege of Oran by the Ottomans in 1563 is a major event in the novel, and

Howard's description of the siege is based on historical accounts.

The Legacy

The Merchants of Oran is a classic historical novel that has been enjoyed by readers for generations. The novel is a testament to the power of courage and honor, and it shows that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope.

The novel has been adapted into several films, including a 1934 film starring Errol Flynn and a 1965 film starring Richard Johnson. The novel has also been translated into several languages.



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