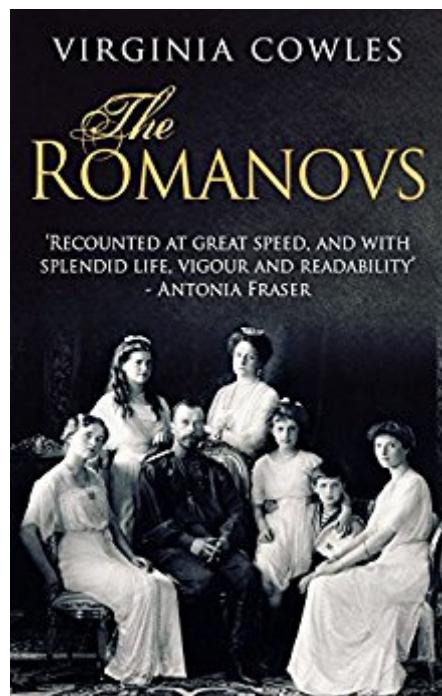


The book was found

The Romanovs



Synopsis

For over 300 years, the Romanov family ruled over Russia. Its glittering Tsars and Tsarinas were autocratic despots, who between them embraced all the vices (and too few of the virtues) of absolute rulers. Their name has become a byword for excess, avarice and cruelty, they have aroused intrigue and horror in equal measure. Virginia Cowles offers a portrait gallery of the outstanding members of this incredible family – from Alexis (a Tartar in his wrath) and Peter the Great (a terrifying giant) to the nymphomaniac Catherine and the doomed Nicholas II, last of the Tsars. Their domination of Russia was brought to an end in March 1917, as a result of the February Revolution. Of the 65 family members, 18 were killed by the Bolsheviks and the remaining 47 were exiled abroad. Delving behind the mass of obscure and unfamiliar historical detail, she reveals the characters and personal ties behind these strange, and often daunting, figures. She looks beyond what is written about them in the history books and explores how their family lives and secrets affected the entirety of Russia and its many citizens.

Recounted at great speed, and with splendid life, vigour and readability

Antonia Fraser, Evening Standard

Virginia Spencer Cowles OBE was a noted American journalist, biographer, and travel writer. During her long career, Cowles went from covering fashion, to covering the Spanish Civil War, the turbulent period in Europe leading up to World War II, and the entire war. After the war, she published a number of critically acclaimed biographies of historical figures.

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Book Information

File Size: 885 KB

Print Length: 208 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1530742846

Publisher: Endeavour Press (July 13, 2015)

Publication Date: July 13, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B011LPQZ4C

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #35,213 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #22 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Russia & Former Soviet Republics #22 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Russia #55 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Presidents & Heads of State

Customer Reviews

This book presents a picture of the Romanov family who ruled Russia for over 300 years. Although the book is a little over 200 pages, the author does a fantastic job of telling the story of each of these multi faceted individuals, with concise insightful prose. I found the portraits that are presented interesting and informative. The cruelty, selfishness, good intentions, assassinations, rebellions, wars and half hearted attempts at reform are depicted with balance and context. The author covers all of these colorful characters, some well known like Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Rasputin and Nicholas II, last of the Tsars. Other less well known individuals like Alexander I, and Anne are covered as well and these I found particularly interesting. Although much of the history is obscure and unfamiliar the author does an excellent job of shedding light on the characters and the historical perspective behind these strange, and unusual, figures. I especially enjoyed how the author explores how their family lives and secrets affected the entirety of Russia and its many citizens. Overall, I really enjoyed this book and learned a lot! Excellent work!

A piece of history that is mostly not well known yet the impact thereof on world history and order can not be denied. One wonders what would have happened if some made different choices.

Enjoyed the interesting life of the Romanovs, amazing how they lived privately and as leaders. Highly recommend for enjoyable reading

Its true interbreeding does make the off spring somewhat paranoid. Interesting read.

I can't say why I gave this book 4 stars. It was readable, appeared to be extensively researched,

though I also had no sense of anything original. Still, it was very useful and while I couldn't give it five, it was good enough to serve the purpose in providing an overview. I was amazed at how much history I didn't know, and it gave me understanding about how modern Russia (and prior to this, the USSR) got to be itself, and why the Romanovs met their end. It is too brutal to make comfortable reading, but it was also too fascinating to easily put down.

The author presents a history which is external and fails to illuminate the inner and complex world of the subjects.

This is a good summary of the period of the Russian Csars from Peter the Great to Nicolas II. Some embraced their role and opportunity, while others shunned it. Often self-serving and sometimes terribly brutal, this family made its mark on history.

Interesting story depicting the lives of the Russian royalty and their serfs.

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