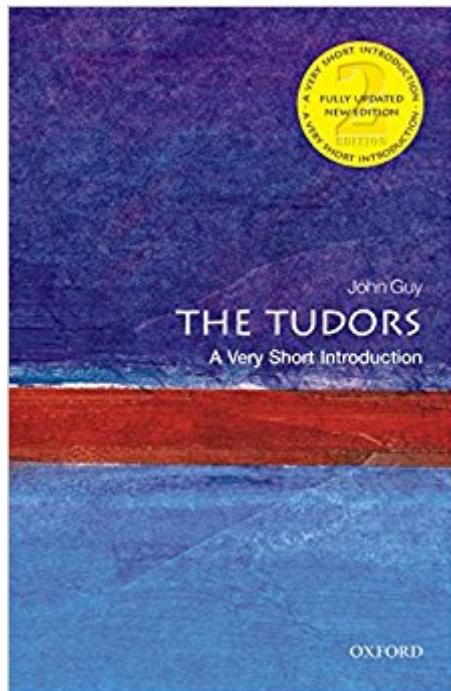


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The Tudors: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

The monarchs of the Tudor period are among some of the most well-known figures in British history. John Guy presents a compelling and fascinating exploration of the Tudors in the new edition of this Very Short Introduction. Looking at all aspects of the period, from beginning to end, he considers Tudor politics, religion, and economics, as well as issues relating to gender and minority rule, and the art, architecture, and social and material culture of the time. Introducing all of the key Tudor monarchs, Guy considers the impact the Tudor period had not only at the time, but also the historical legacy it left behind. **ABOUT THE SERIES:** The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am working my way through the 8 entries in the Very Short Introduction series that were originally

part of The Oxford Illustrated History of Britain, and I have not been disappointed yet. This very worthy entry in the series, covering the reigns of the Tudor monarchs, has been 'substantially revised and updated', as of 2000. Professor Guy introduces the chief protagonists and covers the main events of the period, as you would expect, but also challenges some widely-held views, some cherished myths. History has been especially charitable to Elizabeth I and harshly critical of Mary, and a little reassessment never goes amiss. The Elizabethan age is routinely referred to as a Golden Age. Guy points out that, for working people, an age of rapid population growth and falling real wages may not have seemed quite so golden. He also suggests that Elizabeth's failure to curb government corruption and to maintain tax revenues contributed to the conditions that would ultimately lead to the Civil War of the following century. Mary, on the other hand, being in many ways a victim of ill luck, may not have been as villainous as popular myth often suggests. Needless to say, a very short introduction can only whet your appetite, not satisfy it. This is both a good place to start and a useful source of fresh insights for readers that already have some knowledge of the period. Next stop, the Stuarts.

Love love love this book. A great introduction that's very cut and dry, straight to the facts. It's like cliffnotes for time periods!

I used this text to help me prepare for teaching a graduate course on the Tudors! Guy wrote the go-to text on the Tudors, and this summary has many of the highlights from text. Really, I used it as a quick refresher on the period, a place to start my research on various texts and authors in earnest. After all, it is very very short.

A good, quick introduction to the period. A base line for further inquiry. Made me want to know more and gave directions of how to go about it.

Son needed this for school paper.

the revised ed

I love this series of books, and have several of them. The Showtime series, The Tudors, inspired me to buy this one. But this book assumes that you know a lot about British history and personages, way more than most Americans would ordinarily know. The section, and it's a small one, about all

the wives even begins by saying something like "there's nothing much more to say about the wives that you don't already know". Well, no. I don't know. And I wanted to find out. My bad. The Showtime series was lurid and scandalous, and this book finds that line of inquiry a bit too common for a "very short introduction" to 16th century England. I'm now looking for a "very short history of the Showtime series The Tudors".

The Very Short Introduction series from Oxford University Press began in 1995 and now lists more than 300 titles, according to this book's blurb. I've seen positive (and not so positive) reviews of several of the titles, but this is the first one I've read. I thought that starting with a subject I'm familiar with would give me an opportunity to see how well the book captures the essentials. First off, the book is not only Very Short but also very small - with a very small font. So handy to carry in a pocket or bag, so long as you don't need to tote along your reading lamp and magnifying glass. However, it is well laid out and contains some illustrations to break up the text. The reading material in this one runs to 129 pages, plus a list of further reading, a chronology and an index. Handily it also has a genealogical table and a note explaining the value of currencies. Written by John Guy, one of my favourite historians, I expected the history to be accurate and well-presented, and it is. It's roughly divided into a chapter per monarch (from Henry VII to Elizabeth I, who gets two in recognition of the length of her reign), with a couple of extra chapters on the Reformation and on Arts and Culture. You can tell from the scope that this must therefore be an exceedingly quick romp through the period. It gives the basics, but not much more. I found it pretty unsatisfying in the early parts where I was most familiar with the history - up to about mid-way through Elizabeth's reign. I felt the facts were there, but I didn't get much feel for the personalities or the international picture. However, when we reached the latter part of Elizabeth's reign, about which I knew very little, it seemed much more rewarding. So I concluded that the error was mine - I should probably have read one on a subject about which I know nothing to really find out how effective these little books are. Overall, then, a decently presented little history, well-written by a respected historian, that will give the reader the basic facts, but doesn't add anything new for the reader who may know a little about the subject. I may try another of these at some point in the future. They cover all kinds of topics other than history - philosophy, science, even literature - so it shouldn't be too hard to find something I know nothing about! NB This book was provided for review by Vine UK.

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