

(Read download) Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World

## Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World

*Edward Shepherd Creasy*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



#867949 in Books Dorset Press 1987-12-31Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .0 x .0 x .0l, .0 #File Name:  
0880291486418 pages | File size: 70.Mb

**Edward Shepherd Creasy : Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. One of the great booksBy Charles van BurenThis is one of the great books of the world. Educated people should at least be familiar with it, even if just in summary. Anyone interested in military history and the history of the west should read it.I found a copy in our high school library and was fascinated with it. Creasy is a great writer, explaining the battles clearly. His description of the defeat and death of Hasdrubal (Hannibal's brother) at Metaurus is still clear in my mind. As is his explanation of the importance of the outcome to Western Civilization.This Digital Services edition released August 8, 2015 contains no maps but has the illustrations at the end of the book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It is a deplorable necessityBy Anne PhillipsCreasy's book was first published in 1841 when the author had retired as Chief Justice of Ceylon. In his introduction, Creasy describes why he chose battles as topic for his book and why he decided on just these fifteen battles. He says that "it cannot be denied that a fearful and wonderful interest is attached to these scenes of carnage. There is undeniable greatness in the disciplined courage, and in the love of honor, which make combatants confront agony and destruction." When the book was written, Waterloo and Napoleonic wars were still in fresh in people's memories and Creasy devoted a large portion of his book to this conflict - quoting contemporary poetry at length. There long excerpts of letters, reports or memoirs convey a sense of impending pandemonium more than all other descriptions. Several ancient battles were compared to the struggle against Napoleon - "for seventeen years Hannibal

strove against Rome; for sixteen years Napoleon Bonaparte strove against England." Creasy begins his book with the Battle of Marathon and stirring descriptions of the participants (the Greeks) as well as their respective outlook and environment. Next he discusses the defeat of the Athenians at Syracuse using contemporary (Victorian) analyses by Niebuhr and Arnold. Every chapter includes several reactions of leaders that were not involved - for example, Napoleon on Alexander's victory over the Persians at Arbela - and I found that my astonishment and horror was quite often shared by "experts." We read about the defeat of Roman legions, the Battle of Tours, the decisive victory of Joan of Arc at Orleans, the surprising fiasco of the Spanish Armada; Marlborough's command at Blenheim; the Swedish actions at Pultowa; the American win over British forces at Saratoga; the unexpected win of revolutionary France at Valmy. It is a survey of fifteen battles - not a definitive work on each of them. Creasy's breadth of knowledge and sources is astonishing. His language is that of a scholar of the 19th century. It is a great book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Classic, But Definitely A Product Of Its Age By Nathan Albright In choosing a list of decisive battles or noteworthy battles, there are some serious difficulties that one faces. This fact, a critical problem today, was even more a case in the 19th century, where national history was such an overwhelming concern that it is little surprise that so many of the battles chosen appear to be decisive not necessarily from a global perspective but from an English perspective. Indeed, someone like Victor Davis Hanson could very easily write the same sort of work today with the same general approach, many of the same battles, and many of the same textual sources in his research. What was acceptable in the 19th century is not always so, and there are some parts of this book, like the author's obvious Anglo-Saxon ethnic pride, or his racialism insofar as it relates to other European nations, to say nothing of his mortifying and broad social judgments on other peoples, like the Syrians, for example. That said, if you can accept this book as a product of its time, there is much to appreciate here. The book is well-written, has chosen its source material and battles well (again, given its context), and often has a sense of poetry as well as humanity and decency. The author writes about battles and war, but recognizes the horrors that provoke conflict and also mark its conduct. No one reading this book will think that the author glorifies bloodshed, but neither does the author shirk the unpleasant truth that sometimes conflict is necessary because we live in a fallen world that is bent by evil. The battles chosen are generally of two kinds--either they are battles of a national nature (Orleans, Syracuse, Waterloo, Blenheim, Saratoga) or of a conflict between different civilizations (Marathon, Tours, Chalons). Some of the explanations are lengthy, and some are very short. In all cases, where the author can find a source that humanizes the conflict, though, this instinct is chosen, and it is a good instinct to have as it makes this a more excellent book even with its flaws. The largest flaw in this book, though, is the book's focus on Western battles to the exclusion of the decisive conflicts of other civilizations. For example, the battles that preserved Japanese independence from Mongol invasion were truly decisive in world history, as was the battle of the Talas River that spread papermaking to the Middle East and that gave the Chinese empire a permanent Muslim problem in Central Asia. To be sure, many other battles could be chosen that had a dramatic effect on some part of the world. An exercise in writing about great generals or decisive battles is likely to be immensely arbitrary, especially because what is truly decisive cannot always be known until long after the fact, and that which seems to be of enduring importance can sometimes end up being ephemeral, while that which seems minor and insignificant can end up being of pivotal importance. Read today, this book provokes a question of what important battles were neglected, which in turn should provoke the writing and release of even better books which serve to balance the flaws of this august volume, hopefully without losing its virtues.

Purchase of this book includes free trial access to [www.million-books.com](http://www.million-books.com) where you can read more than a million books for free. This is an OCR edition with typos. Excerpt from book: Marathon paid religious rites to them; and orators solemnly invoked them in their most impassioned adjurations before the assembled men of Athens. "Nothing was omitted that could keep alive the remembrance of a deed which had first taught the Athenian people to know its own strength, by measuring it with the power which had subdued the greater part of the known world. The consciousness thus awakened fixed its character, its station, and its destiny; it was the spring of its later great actions and ambitious enterprises." It was not indeed by one defeat, however signal, that the pride of Persia could be broken, and her dreams of universal empire dispelled. Ten years afterward she renewed her attempts upon Europe on a grander scale of enterprise, and was repulsed by Greece with greater and reiterated loss. Larger forces and heavier slaughter than had been seen at Marathon signaled the conflicts of Greeks and Persians at Artemisium, Salamis, Plataea, and the Eurymedon. But, mighty and momentous as these battles were, they rank not with Marathon in importance. They originated no new impulse. They turned back no current of fate. They were merely confirmatory of the already existing bias which Marathon had created. The day of Marathon is the critical epoch in the history of the two nations. It broke forever the spell of Persian invincibility, which had previously paralyzed men's minds. It generated among the Greeks the spirit which beat back Xerxes, and afterward led on Xenophon, Agesilaus, and Alexander, in terrible retaliation through their Asiatic campaigns. It secured for mankind the intellectual treasures of Athens, the growth of free institutions, the liberal enlightenment of the Western world, and the gradual ascendancy for many ages of the

great principles of European civ...