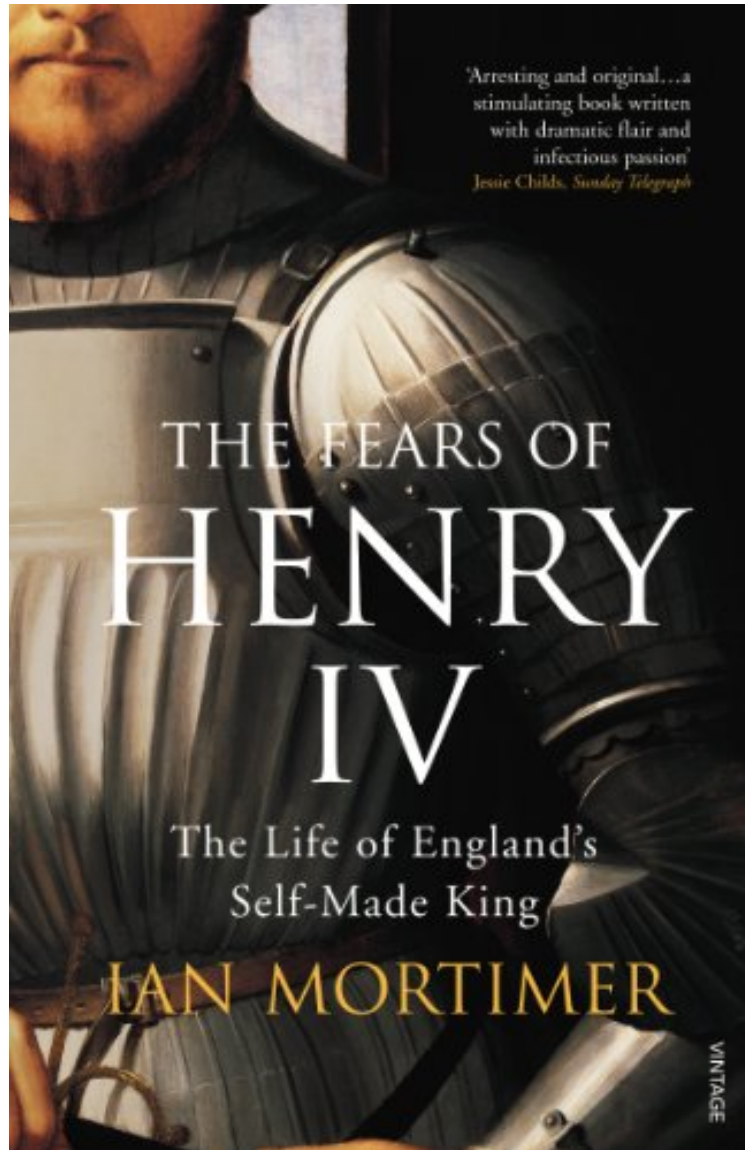


(Download pdf) The Fears of Henry IV: The Life of England's Self-Made King

The Fears of Henry IV: The Life of England's Self-Made King

Von Ian Mortimer

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Von Ian Mortimer : The Fears of Henry IV: The Life of England's Self-Made King before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fears of Henry IV: The Life of England's Self-Made King:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A scholarly study that does not meet its self-set goals, very boring to read,Von AmelrodeI had quite enjoyed Ian Mortimer two previous books "The GreatestTraitor: The Life of Sir Roger Mortimer, Ruler of England 1327-1330"

and "The Perfect King: The Life of Edward III, Father of the English Nation". However, this book comes kind of a disappointment as it the author does not achieve his self-set goals. King Henry IV comes with quite a lot of baggage: the usurper king and the arch-villain of Shakespeare, and eclipsed by his hero-son Henry V. Ian Mortimer sets out to rectify this traditional picture of Henry IV and wants to get to personality of the King. Getting to the personality of late-medieval personalities is quite difficult to achieve as one is very much stuck with the actions and has less on thoughts. Giving it a try is quite recommendable but I feel that in the end Ian Mortimer has given his reader actually not much more than a deduction from actions and mostly describe actually the doings of the King. One does not feel really closer of the thoughts. Otherwise the book it is a bit too much of a whitewash of Henry IV. In the first part Ian Mortimer tries to build up a picture of Henry as the heir presumptive of Richard II, a well educated, widely travelled, religious royal prince of international standing, a hero of tournaments. What a contrast to the spoilt and in-effective Richard II!! Getting rid of this ruler was for Henry first of all a matter of his own survival, understandable that he did so. Being ineffective as a ruler however does not made the legitimate king an unlawful king and would give anybody a right to remove him, at least according to the values of the time. Forcing the monarch to abdicate and than organizing his own election still does not really get rid of the usurpation reproach. In this aspect however Ian Mortimer really tries hard to white-wash Henry IV. Henry's reign and rule was not a glorious one and much of the in-effectiveness of Richard II was repeated by him. Ian Mortimer is therefore quite critical of his reign, especially with regards to the first few years when Henry thought he could run England like he did run the Duchy of Lancaster. This book is a very tiring read, heavy, no great flow, sometimes bogged down with petty details and it is really a struggle to get through. So in the end I did not find it particularly convincing or at least pleasant to read. I was really glad when I had finished it. There were quite a lot of moments when I thought I just drop it. Definitely not a must read. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Helps a lot to understand Von Panda I read Agincourt, the battle that made England first by Juliet Barker and started this book with a lot of prejudice towards Henry IV. What a mistake that was! This book offers a great insight into the life and struggles of Henry IV and is a great read. It is an even better preparation for Ian Mortimer's book 1415 which is the best book on the era I have read so far!

Kurzbeschreibung In June 1405, King Henry IV stopped at a small Yorkshire manor house to shelter from a storm. That night he awoke screaming that traitors were burning his skin. His instinctive belief that he was being poisoned was understandable: he had already survived at least eight plots to dethrone or kill him in the first six years of his reign. Henry IV had not always been so unpopular. In his youth he had been a great chivalric champion and crusader. The son of John of Gaunt, he was courteous, confident, well-educated, generous, devoted to his family, musical and spiritually fervent. In 1399, at the age of thirty-two, he was enthusiastically greeted as the saviour of the realm when he ousted from power the insecure and tyrannical King Richard II. But therein lay Henry's weakness. He had to contend with men who supported him only as long as they could control him; when they failed, they plotted to kill him. Welsh, French and Scottish adversaries also tried to take advantage of his questionable right to the crown. Such overwhelming threats transformed him from a hero into a duplicitous murderer: a king prepared to go to any lengths to save his family and his throne. That legacy of unrest has defined Henry's subsequent reputation. Henry's notoriety in the sixteenth century was such that merely to write about him was to risk imprisonment in the Tower. Shakespeare was forced to downplay his achievements, and instead to present his adversary Richard II as the wronged man. But what Henry actually provoked was a social revolution as much as a political one. Against all the odds, he took a poorly ruled nation, established a new Lancastrian dynasty, and introduced the principle that a king must act in accordance with parliament. He might not have been the most glorious king England ever had, but he was one of the bravest, and certainly the greatest survivor of them all. **Pressestimmen** "[Mortimer] has an instinctive sympathy for the men about whom he writes, a real understanding of the mentalities of late medieval England, and a vivid historical imagination which lends colour and excitement to his pages" (Literary) "Mortimer's book is a success and tells an important story very well" (Richard Francis Daily Telegraph) "An arresting and original biography" (Jessie Childs Sunday Telegraph) "[It] possesses the rare combination of clarity, liveliness, balanced judgement, erudition without pedantry, and scholarship founded on his own research among primary sources" (Scotland on Sunday) "The book is at its most compelling in conjuring a sense of place or occasion" (Guardian) **Werbetext** One of Britain's most gifted historians tackles the turbulent reign of Henry IV, bringing the first Lancastrian king back from obscurity