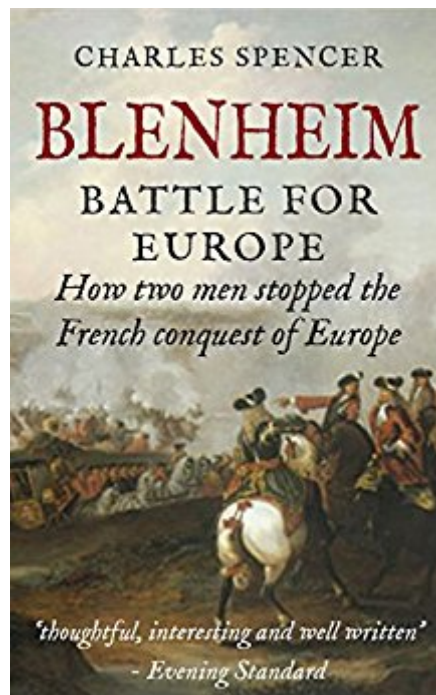




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Blenheim: Battle For Europe, How Two Men Stopped The French Conquest Of Europe



Synopsis

By the summer of 1704 Louis XIV's vast armies threatened to dominate Europe. Two men conspired to save the continent from French rule: John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, and Prince Eugène of Savoy. Deep in Germany, these two committed allies sought to engage Louis's superior forces. At Blenheim, their daring plans came to fruition. The French were utterly destroyed. From the deliberations of kings and princes, to the eyewitness accounts of frontline soldiers, *Blenheim: Battle for Europe* is a compelling account of an often overlooked but major turning point in European history. Not only a highly accomplished account of the battle and its wider consequences, but also a shrewd and persuasive reassessment of the personalities involved.

Charles Spencer's new study offers not only a highly accomplished account of the battle and its wider consequences, but also a shrewd and persuasive reassessment of the personalities involved... Spencer's account maintains the detachment of the professional historian, and is safely ancestor-worship free.

John Adamson, Sunday Telegraph

Charles Spencer has written a history of the War of Spanish Succession • the struggle for European dominance between France and her major European rivals in the early 18th century • in a splendidly old-fashioned style, full of bold epithets and broad judgments... The result is a book that is compulsively readable... the pages of this vividly written book are populated by memorable secondary characters.

Andrew Roberts, Mail on Sunday

Where Spencer has made a real contribution to our understanding of the war of the Spanish succession is in his exploitation of the French sources • diplomatic and military, including the correspondence between Louis XIV and his generals and diplomats.

John Crossland, Sunday Times

There is much to enjoy in this racy, fast-paced narrative, well stocked with larger-than-life characters... The account of the storming of the Schellenberg heights... is truly gripping.

Tim Blanning, Times Literary Supplement

Charles Spencer was educated at Eton College and obtained his degree in Modern History at Magdalen College, Oxford. He is the author of five books, including the Sunday Times bestseller *Blenheim: The Battle for Europe* (shortlisted for History Book of the Year, National Book Awards), 'Killers of the King: The Men Who Dared to Execute Charles I', *The Spencer Family* and *Prince Rupert: The Last Cavalier*.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book and recommend it highly. This is the story of an extremely important battle fought by brilliant generals during the age of Louis XIV. The author does an awesome job of presenting the politics, strategy, personalities and the battle itself in a very straightforward understandable manner. It's amazing to me that this battle and this era is not more well known. The author centers the narrative around John Churchill but does not ignore the many other important men and women of the times. I particularly appreciated these balanced profiles. The story would have been greatly enhanced by the inclusion of simple maps which would have enabled me to follow the campaigns much better. Overall, however, this is a fascinating historical story well written, informative, and eye opening.

This is an absolutely fantastic book about a forgotten but incredibly important battle in European History. The information is presented in a book that is incredibly well written and easy to read (no dry history textbook styles here). The only thing preventing me from giving this five stars is that the Kindle edition is rife with spelling errors. Way more than should be possible. When a word like "fold" is misspelled "fbld", then it becomes very clear that the publisher didn't even so much as run a

spell-check against their digital master and uploaded what I can only assume to be an over-night scan job. If an extra day or two of effort was put in the review and editing of this book, to clear out these silly errors, then this would be an easy 5 star rating.

This rating refers solely to the Kindle edition - The further you read into the text, the larger the number of scanning transfer errors. The book was not proofread well before issue.

This is a very clear account of what happened and the reasons for it. I found it highly informative of an era that lead into school history. It supplied quite some answers to questions on how things came about later, also added new questions. Would be interesting to see a family tree of the Churchill Family. Upline to Sir Winston of WWII? Explains the rise of modern day Europe. Very well done.

You need to pay close attention early to understand all the characters involved in this historical episode. Once settled in the plot unveils which is extremely interesting even though you know the eventual outcome. The author takes you on the journey to the battle of Blenheim, how it evolved and the unique strategies the Allies employed. The only shortcoming is the absence of maps. I overcame that by going to several web sites that had detailed maps of the battle and the route taken to employ troops which enhanced the experience. If you enjoy the history of historic battles then you will be captured by this book. Coach Tom

The only thing added here, not in W S Churchill's Marlborough, is a little more than one chapter on the early life of Prince Eugene of Savoy; and for that, it's okay. However, when it comes to the strategic situation of Queen Anne's Europe and the battle itself, much better to read Vol 1 of Marlborough. It might be a good introduction for a young person intimidated by Churchill's multi-volumes. Primarily however it makes me want to find a good biography of Prince Eugene.

A very well written account of an important but obscure European war. A great attention to detail really brings the story to life. This book has me excited to tackle Churchill's volumes on Marlborough.

Charles Spencer's book is well-written, which is starting to become more of a rarity. Valuable background about King Louis, and a "read like good fiction" build up the the battle itself. I enjoyed

learning about William of Orange, a man I had previously known little about. Churchill an interesting character who had to balance opposing political realities.

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