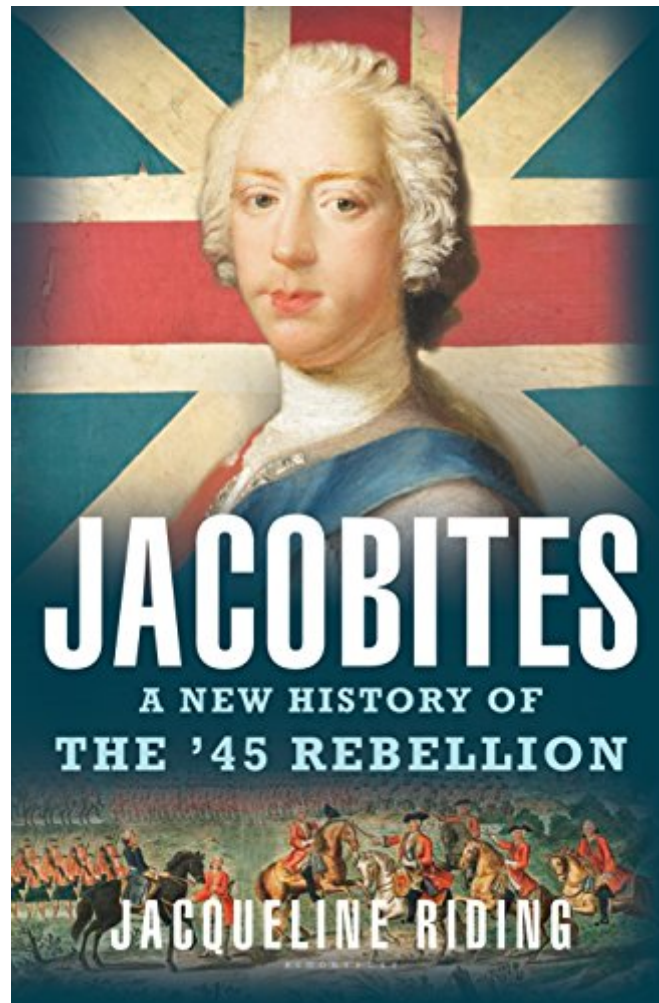




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Jacobites: A New History Of The '45 Rebellion



Synopsis

The Jacobite Rebellion of 1745-46 is one of the most important turning points in British history--in terms of national crisis every bit the equal of 1066 and 1940. The tale of Charles Edward Stuart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie," and his heroic attempt to regain his grandfather's (James II) crown--remains the stuff of legend: the hunted fugitive, Flora MacDonald, and the dramatic escape over the sea to the Isle of Skye. But the full story--the real history--is even more dramatic, captivating, and revelatory. Much more than a single rebellion, the events of 1745 were part of an ongoing civil war that threatened to destabilize the British nation and its empire. The Bonnie Prince and his army alone, which included a large contingent of Scottish highlanders, could not have posed a great threat. But with the involvement of Britain's perennial enemy, Catholic France, it was a far more dangerous and potentially catastrophic situation for the British crown. With encouragement and support from Louis XV, Charles's triumphant Jacobite army advanced all the way to Derby, a mere 120 miles from London, before a series of missteps ultimately doomed the rebellion to crushing defeat and annihilation at Culloden in April 1746--the last battle ever fought on British soil. Jacqueline Riding conveys the full weight of these monumental years of English and Scottish history as the future course of Great Britain as a united nation was irreversibly altered.

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Customer Reviews

This is a large (502 pages) and exhaustive account of the Jacobite rising of 1745 against the Hanoverian Dynasty of Great Britain. The book has 53 pages of citations and 10 pages of bibliography. There were two problems that reduced my enjoyment of this work, one of omission and one of commission. The book desperately needs a good set of maps. There are a number of 18th century maps included; but, these maps are unreadable being both dark and too small. Such a major work deserves clear modern maps; especially when many of the locations are obscure. A list of characters would also have been useful. The problem of commission was the inclusion of very many quotes from contemporary letters. Many of these add little to the narrative; but, made reading tedious.

When I first started this book, I was concerned that it would only be a "re-hash" of previous material on this much documented period and campaign. I couldn't have been more wrong. Exceedingly well researched, it presents interesting facts and information that I had not seen before in reading numerous other works on the '45, Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite movement. The author plays it "down the middle" when discussing the various historic personalities and events and does so in a smooth and easy writing style. I truly regretted coming to the end of this work, it was that good. In my view, this is the definitive book on this exciting period of Scottish, English and European history.

A marvelous account of the 1745 rebellion using primary reports describing events as they happen.

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