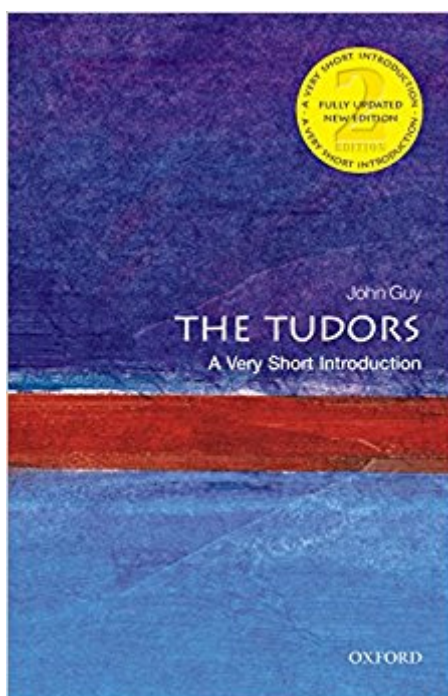


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The Tudors: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



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

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.

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