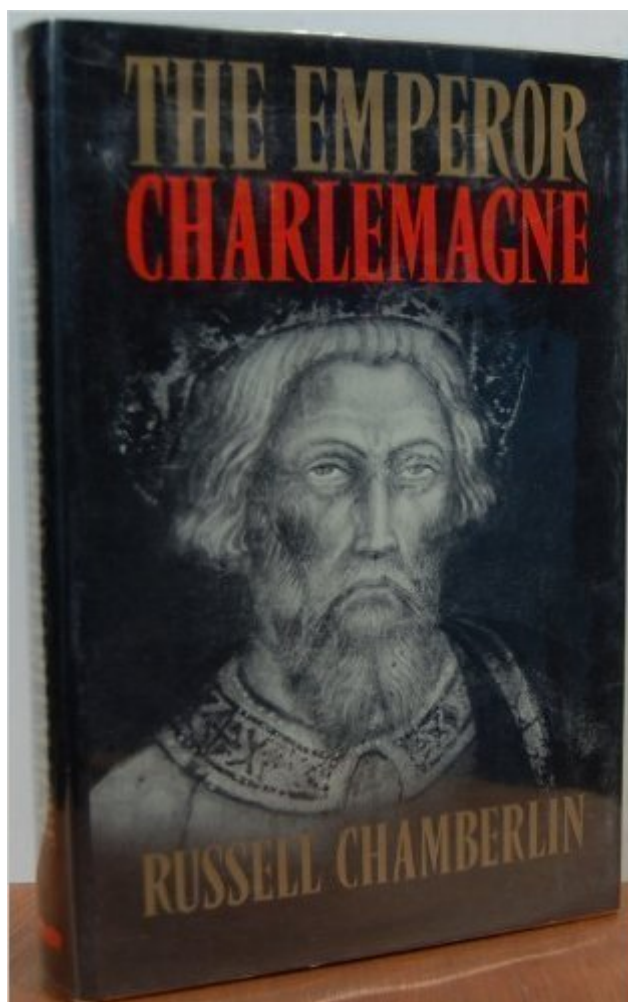


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The Emperor: Charlemagne



Synopsis

Few men have exerted such a lasting influence on the course of Western history as Charlemagne (742-814). At the height of his power in the early ninth century Charlemagne, King of the Franks and Lombards and Emperor of the Romans, ruled all the Christian lands of western Europe except the British Isles and southern Italy and Sicily. Charismatic, gregarious, energetic and cultured, he initiated and encouraged a renaissance of learning and artistic enterprise that appeared to later generations as a Golden Age. An incomparable general, administrator and law-giver, he was as skilled on the battlefield as in the council chamber, and by sheer force of character held together an empire that rivalled the Byzantines in the East. To the many portraits of the man who was crowned the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Russell Chamberlin now adds a modern portrait which reveals the man behind the achievements. This book brings to life a key personality and a formative period in European history. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Charlemagne is something of an enigma. It is necessary to separate legend from fact. Russell Chamberlin deserves high praise for doing so in a manner both straightforward and stirring. Establishing the ascendancy of the Carolingian dynasty, Chamberlin moves forward to plot the manner by which Charlemagne expanded his inheritance to eventually become Emperor Romanus to the dismay of his rivals in Constantinople. It is a compelling story. From a provincial backwater, Charlemagne became sovereign of Western Europe to include the Holy See and the remnants of Roman greatness. Popes crossed the Alps to call and alliances were struck with rulers in places as

far to the east as Baghdad. Chamberlin ensures that the reader extracts full enjoyment from this extraordinary tale. His Charlemagne is a fast-paced interpretation of remarkable clarity and unconditionally deserves 5 stars. It is one of the better historical biographies I've had the pleasure to read.

This book is very interesting. The author writes clearly, and I learned a lot about Charlemagne and the empire he created. More than a military leader, Charlemagne created a governmental system, feudalism. Much of his success was due to the people he selected to administer the areas under his rule. Men like Alcuin, Einhardt, and Eric of Friuli are interesting in their own way. The church is also relevant in this study. Faith was not as refined as it is today. Church and state separation came later. Without the church, Charlemagne probably would not have become emperor. In the same way, the church of Rome would not have become independent of Constantinople.

Perfect for what I needed. Fast delivery. Thanks.

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