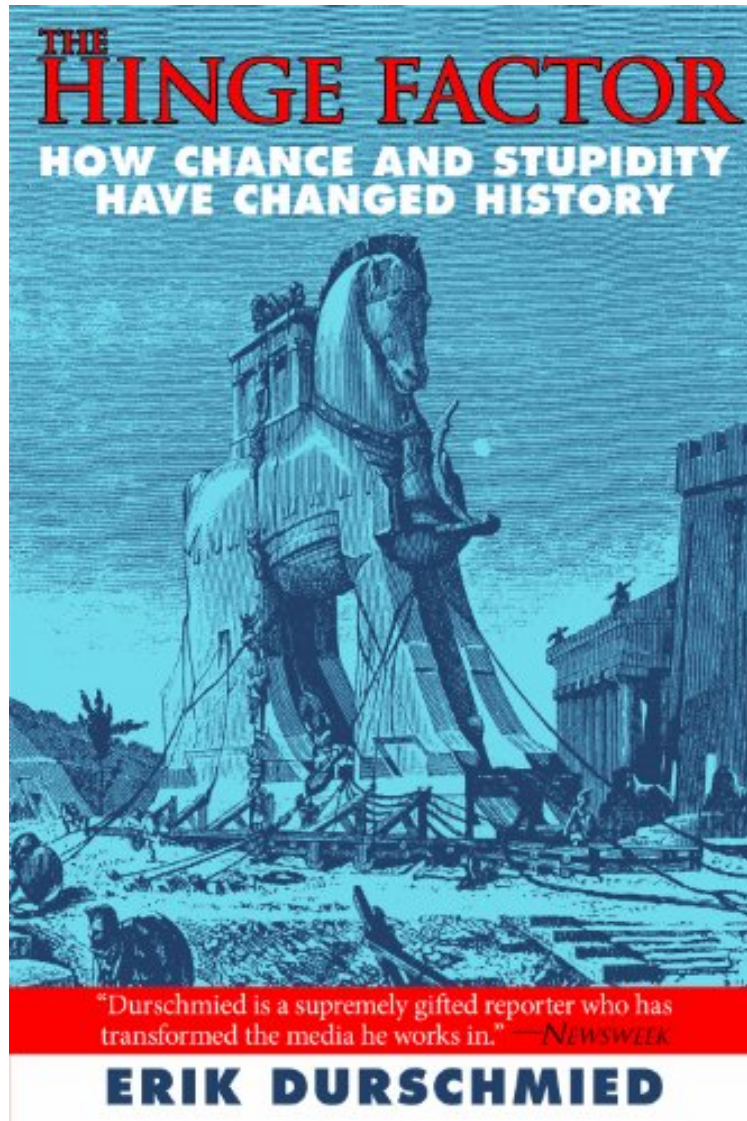


(Download) The Hinge Factor: How Chance and Stupidity Have Changed History

# The Hinge Factor: How Chance and Stupidity Have Changed History

Von Erik Durschmied

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**Von Erik Durschmied : The Hinge Factor: How Chance and Stupidity Have Changed History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hinge Factor: How Chance and Stupidity Have Changed History:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great idea but poorly worked throughVon Kevin BriantonThis book has enormous potential and could have been brilliant.

Selecting battles and working out what keys could have turned when. Yet the author does not examine the implications fully. His account of Agincourt is excellent, but in others he is on very weak ground. Can we really argue that Hitler would have won the second world war if he didn't pause for three days with his panzer divisions in France. Isn't it far more likely that he was so self destructive that eventually a coalition would have been formed to destroy him. Hitler invaded Russia when Britain was on its knees and declared war on the United States for no real reason, wasn't that a key factor. In a desperate war he spent massive resources in his insane quest to eliminate the Jewish population. He also ignored the potential of the 'Jewish science' of nuclear physics. Hitler could not keep Italy in check and it led to an absurd invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece which derailed the invasion of Russia. Yes, chance plays a role in history but can it change long term historical forces. A far better body of work on similar topic is the British Television Series Great Military Blunders which covers the same terrain and makes a more sophisticated analysis. A good and fun read but it really needed more rigour and analysis than provided here.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Learn from Others' Mistakes Von Thomas J. Kelly For my information systems brethren, consider this as "anti-patterns" in strategy: what are the mistakes that leaders commit over and over, handing success to their opponents. While Mother Nature certainly plays a role in the monumental blunders described in the text, man's arrogance, ignorance, naivete, misplaced loyalties, and more lead to his downfall. Several clear messages come out of the text: - know your opponent and know yourself - regularly update your knowledge (on a real-time basis, if possible) - don't assume that your subordinates automatically know what to do in every situation; give them easy access to you, understand and believe in their issues, guide them in resolving the issue, monitor their progress, give them regular feedback, mentor their development, integrate their findings and plans into your total strategy - don't assume that your subordinates know how to work well with one another; ignore their conflicts at your own peril - align your allies objectives with your own -- show how they can achieve their objectives by delivering yours. Otherwise, at a critical juncture, disparate objectives will unravel your strategy. Some of the stories are downright funny, others are just sad. Includes excellent descriptions of the story behind the battles we learned about in school. Excellent presentation of the circumstances, sequence of events, and recap of the specific factors that led to an unforeseen result.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An interested military history book. Von Kurt A. Johnson In this book, the author takes seventeen situations (sixteen battles and the non-violent collapse of East Germany), and shows how things other than military brilliance brought the situation to its climax. Sometimes it was stupidity, sometimes it was arrogance, and one time it was the lack of some nails! The narrative of each story is well written and presented in all of its fascination. What I liked about this book was that the author presented a number of battles that I have never bothered to read about before, and includes many details that I had never encountered about the ones I had read! I highly recommend this book. In case it helps your decision, the chapters are on Troy (1184 BC), Hattin (1187), Agincourt (1415), Karansebes (1788), Waterloo (1815), Balaclava (1854), Antietam (1862), Koniggratz (1866), Spioen Kop (1900), Tannenberg (1914), Tanga (1914), France (1940), North Atlantic (1941), Moscow (1941), Vietnam (1968), Berlin (1989), and the Persian Gulf (1991).

Kurzbeschreibung From the wooden horse at Troy to a harrowing photograph snapped in Vietnam, from Robert E. Lee's lost battle plans to the evacuation of Dunkirk, world history has been shaped as much by chance and error as by courage and heroism. Time and again, invincible armies fall to weaker opponents in the face of impossible odds, when the outcome had seemed a foregone conclusion. How and why does this happen? What is it that decides the fate of battle? Writing with the style and flair that has made him an award-winning war correspondent, Durschmied takes us through the major battles of history, from the battlefields of ancient Greece to the Gulf War. In a series of gripping narratives, he vividly recreates the crucial events in all their mayhem and confusion while pointing out the decisive moments that changed the course of history. We see Agincourt, where rain combined with French arrogance to give Henry V the day; the Crimea, where a badly worded order led to the disastrous charge of the Light Brigade; and colonial Africa, where an attack by African killer bees, described by the London Times as Germany's secret weapon, repulsed an Allied invasion. And in a chilling epilogue, we are given a disturbing glimpse of the secret attempt by Libya to buy atomic weapons from China for use against Israel. Drawing from a variety of sources, including personal accounts such as soldiers diaries and letters home, *The Hinge Factor* is an instructive, fascinating look at how the unpredictable, the absurd, and the bizarre have shaped the face of history in war.