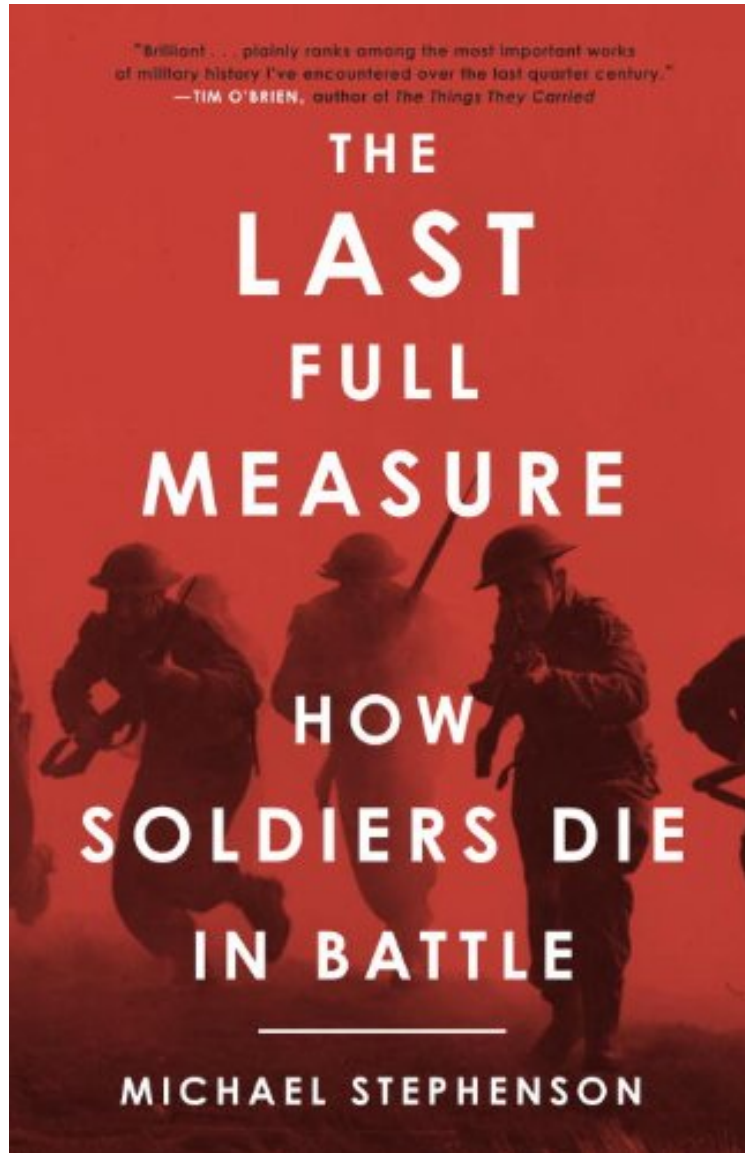


[Mobile book] The Last Full Measure: How Soldiers Die in Battle

The Last Full Measure: How Soldiers Die in Battle

Von Michael Stephenson

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Von Michael Stephenson : The Last Full Measure: How Soldiers Die in Battle before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Full Measure: How Soldiers Die in Battle:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Herausragendes BuchVon TopfIch bin zufllig auf "The Last Full Measure" gestoen und habe den Kauf bislang keineswegs bereut - im Gegenteil. Das gut recherchierte Buch bietet einen hervorragenden berblick ber das Kriegshandwerk bzw. genauer gesagt vom Sterben auf den Schlachtfeldern von der Antike an. Stilistisch ausgefeilt

geschrieben, lässt Stephenson oft Zeitgenossen zu Wort kommen und untermauert seine Argumente mit diesen authentischen Kommentaren. Trotz der Thematik war das Buch für mich ein Lesevergnügen, das mich häufig zum Nachdenken angeregt hat.

Kurzbeschreibung In this brilliantly researched, deeply humane work of history, Michael Stephenson traces the paths that have led soldiers to their graves over the centuries, revealing a wealth of insight about the nature of combat, the differences among cultures, and the unchanging qualities of humanity itself. Behind every soldier's death lies a story, a tale not just of the cold mathematics of the battlefield but of an individual human being who gave his life. What psychological and cultural pressures brought him to his fate? What lies and truths convinced him to march toward his death? Covering warfare from prehistory through the present day, *The Last Full Measure* tells these soldiers' stories, ultimately capturing the experience of war as few books ever have. In these pages, we march into battle alongside the Greek phalanx and the medieval foot soldier. We hear gunpowder's thunder in the slaughters of the Napoleonic era and the industrialized killing of the Civil War, and recoil at the modern, automated horrors of both World Wars. Finally, we witness the death of one tradition of heroic combat and the construction of another in the wars of the modern era, ranging from Vietnam to America's latest involvements in Iraq and Afghanistan. In exploring these conflicts and others, Stephenson draws on numerous sources to delve deep into fascinating, period-specific detail: tracing, for instance, the true combat effectiveness of the musket, the utility of the cavalry charge, or the vulnerabilities of the World War II battle tank. Simultaneously, he examines larger themes and reveals surprising connections across both time and culture. What does the medieval knight have in common with the modern paratrooper? What did heroism and bravery mean to the Roman legionary, or to the World War I infantryman, and what is the true motivating power of such ideals? How do men use religion, friendship, or even nihilism to armor themselves against impending doom, and what do we as human beings make of the undeniable joy some among us take in the carnage? Combining commanding prose, impeccable research, and a true sensitivity to the combatant's plight, *The Last Full Measure* is both a remarkably fresh journey through the annals of war and a powerful tribute to the

Pressestimmen "Intense [and] grippingly specific...honors the fallen by making their experiences fiercely, viscerally understandable. Though it hardly qualifies as escapist reading, its fascination with historical detail and celebration of raw courage make it hard to resist." Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* "Plainly ranks among the most important works of military history I've encountered over the last quarter century--a comprehensive, readable, humane, moving, and enlightening achievement of analysis and scholarship. This brilliant book will endure." Tim O'Brien, author of *The Things They Carried* and *Going After Cacciato* "A great achievement of research, perception, and fine writing. Few other books have managed to convey the true experience of war with such power and clarity." Antony Beevor, author of *D-Day* and *Stalingrad* "Stephenson brings 'the face of battle' even closer to us than John Keegan did over thirty years ago." Hew Strachan, author of *The First World War* and Chichele Professor of the History of War, Oxford University "Death in battle is war's defining experience. Stephenson brilliantly presents it from a challenging perspective: not what it is like to kill, but what it is like to die...Comprehensive, perceptive, and evocative, this is a must-read for any student of conflict." Dennis Showalter, author of *Tannenberg* and former president of the Society for Military History

Kurzbeschreibung In this brilliantly researched, deeply humane work of history, Michael Stephenson traces the paths that have led soldiers to their graves over the centuries, revealing a wealth of insight about the nature of combat, the differences among cultures, and the unchanging qualities of humanity itself. Behind every soldier's death lies a story, a tale not just of the cold mathematics of the battlefield but of an individual human being who gave his life. What psychological and cultural pressures brought him to his fate? What lies and truths convinced him to march toward his death? Covering warfare from prehistory through the present day, *The Last Full Measure* tells these soldiers' stories, ultimately capturing the experience of war as few books ever have. In these pages, we march into battle alongside the Greek phalanx and the medieval foot soldier. We hear gunpowder's thunder in the slaughters of the Napoleonic era and the industrialized killing of the Civil War, and recoil at the modern, automated horrors of both World Wars. Finally, we witness the death of one tradition of heroic combat and the construction of another in the wars of the modern era, ranging from Vietnam to America's latest involvements in Iraq and Afghanistan. In exploring these conflicts and others, Stephenson draws on numerous sources to delve deep into fascinating, period-specific detail: tracing, for instance, the true combat effectiveness of the musket, the utility of the cavalry charge, or the vulnerabilities of the World War II battle tank. Simultaneously, he examines larger themes and reveals surprising connections across both time and culture. What does the medieval knight have in common with the modern paratrooper? What did heroism and bravery mean to the Roman legionary, or to the World War I infantryman, and what is the true motivating power of such ideals? How do men use religion, friendship, or even nihilism to armor themselves against impending doom, and what do we as human beings make of the undeniable joy some among us take in the carnage? Combining commanding prose, impeccable research, and a true sensitivity to the combatant's plight, *The Last Full Measure* is both a remarkably fresh journey through the annals of war and a powerful tribute to the

proverbial unknown soldier.