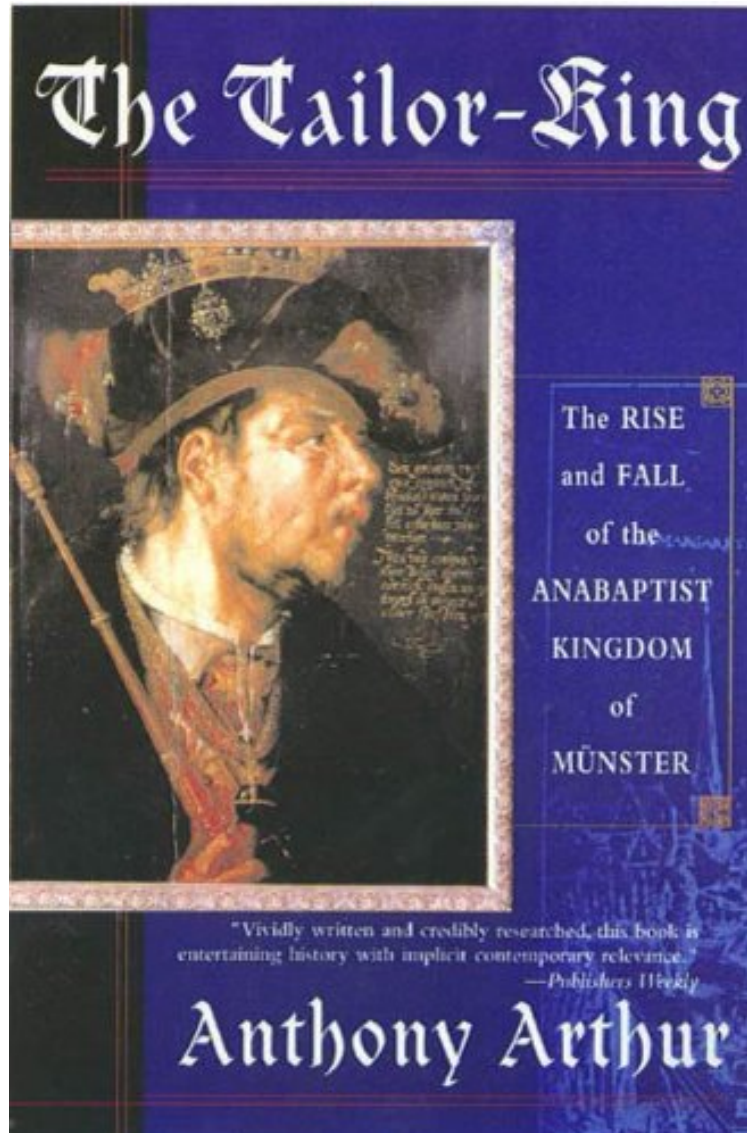


(Free download) The Tailor-King: The Rise and Fall of the Anabaptist Kingdom of Muenster

The Tailor-King: The Rise and Fall of the Anabaptist Kingdom of Muenster

Von Anthony Arthur

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Von Anthony Arthur : The Tailor-King: The Rise and Fall of the Anabaptist Kingdom of Muenster before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tailor-King: The Rise and Fall of the Anabaptist Kingdom of Muenster:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Living history at its engrossing bestVon Ein KundeThe Tailor King is a masterful account of what happened both inside and

outside the ancient walls of sixteenth-century Munster when Protestant religious fervor transformed otherwise intelligent and rational men into irrational creatures capable of unbelievable brutality. Readers beware - the graphic descriptions and concrete imagery bring the sixteenth-century fully alive. The characters in this book could easily populate a wide-screen, action-filled film. The author's meticulous research and gift for storytelling combine to create a rare pairing of erudition and page-turning readability. Like the narrator who seizes the wedding guest in Coleridge's "The Ancient Mariner," the author seizes the reader's attention and does not let go. His calm journalistic voice only heightens the "you are there" quality of the book. And his occasional strokes of subtle dry wit surprise and delight. This is living history at its engrossing best. The carefully annotated illustrations, culled from archives and museums in Germany, highlight events in the story and are a unique bonus. A well told story from first page to last!1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great (even titillating) read ...Von CustomerThis well-researched and entertaining book will not disappoint. I recommend it to all Mennonite/Anabaptist researchers and scholars - and laypersons.

KurzbeschreibungHe was only a Dutch tailor's apprentice, but from 1534 to 1535, Jan van Leyden led a radical sect of persecuted Anabaptists to repeated triumphs over the combined powers of church and state. Revered by his followers as the new David, the charismatic young leader pronounced the northern German city of Muenster a new Zion and crowned himself king. He expropriated all private property, took sixteen wives (supposedly emulating the biblical patriarchs), and in a deadly reign of terror, executed all who opposed him. As the long siege of Muenster resulted in starvation, thousands fled Jan's deadly kingdom while others waited behind the double walls and moats for the apocalyptic final attack by the Prince-Bishop's hired armies, supported by all the rulers of Europe. With the sudden rise to power of a compelling personality and the resulting violent threat to ordered society, Jan van Leyden's distant story strangely echoes the many tragedies of the twentieth century. More than just a fascinating human drama from the past, *The Tailor-King* also offers insight into our own troubled times. From Publishers WeeklyCarnage abounds in this shocking account of the 16th-century Anabaptist revolt of M?nster, during which some 9000 residents barricaded themselves in the north German town for more than a year, proclaiming a militant, anti-Catholic theocracy. Led by the 24-year-old Jan van Leyden, a charismatic tailor's apprentice from Holland, the revolt quickly jettisoned its promise of a community united by voluntary faith, becoming instead a textbook study in extremism. The Anabaptist message, contends Arthur, was predicated on the appeal of the irrational. A signally, a zealous belief that the Second Coming would unfold in 1534 in M?nster, where the loyal Anabaptists would wage the ultimate battle between good and evil. A master propagandist, the young, self-anointed King Jan swiftly ordered all books save the Bible consigned to a bonfire and even declared a new order of marriage: mandatory polygamy. Amply serviced by his 16-wife harem, Jan then loosed what Arthur (Bushmasters, etc.) alternately describes as a reign of terror and a carnival of madness upon the town, in which pikestaves whirled and halberds raged against unrepentant adherents of the Roman Catholic Church. Both Catholics and Protestants opposed the Anabaptists, and the sect's contempt for temporal authority of any kind made it the object of persecution by Germany's powerful princes. Students of millenarian movements will enjoy notable parallels to today's apocalyptic sects like the Branch Davidians. Vividly written and credibly researched, this book is entertaining history with implicit contemporary relevance. (Sept.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From BooklistThe sixteenth-century Anabaptist uprising in the northern German city of Munster, under the leadership of tailor's apprentice Jan van Leyden, is a fascinating story that has spawned many popular accounts in German. Its elements include the heroism, intrigue, greed, sex, and violence of a late-twentieth-century blockbuster novel, and Arthur's timing in presenting his account neatly coincides with the current bull market for apocalypticism, aka millenarianism. For the most part, Arthur draws on historical records and fictional accounts to recount the transformation of a protodemocratic uprising into a theocratic nightmare distorted on all sides by flawed and often unscrupulous leaders and followers whose hope regularly led them into gullibility. Arthur's attempts to draw explicit parallels with recent events and the Freudian framework within which he draws them are detractions, but they are restricted almost entirely to the final chapter. Although Arthur imparts little about Anabaptism, he provides a riveting story and pointers to other sources for reflection on the still important interplay of religious faith and theological and political authority. Steven Schroeder