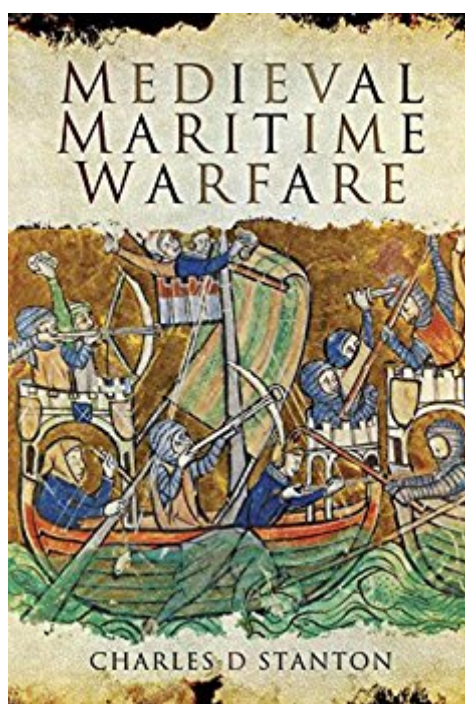


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# Medieval Maritime Warfare



## Synopsis

Following the fall of Rome, the sea is increasingly the stage upon which the human struggle of western civilization is played out. In a world of few roads and great disorder, the sea is the medium on which power is projected and wealth sought. Yet this confused period in the history of maritime warfare has rarely been studied – it is little known and even less understood. Charles Stanton uses an innovative and involving approach to describe this fascinating but neglected facet of European medieval history. He depicts the development of maritime warfare from the end of the Roman Empire to the dawn of the Renaissance, detailing the wars waged in the Mediterranean by the Byzantines, Muslims, Normans, Crusaders, the Italian maritime republics, Angevins and Aragonese as well as those fought in northern waters by the Vikings, English, French and the Hanseatic League. This pioneering study will be compelling reading for everyone interested in medieval warfare and maritime history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

These (as mentioned in this review's title) were the book's objectives and I was rather happy to discover that they have been fully achieved. Given that this is an overview, and because of the book's scope – roughly ten centuries – the reader might find in some cases that the author

has somewhat and sometimes â œcut cornersâ •. Those that have already read more specialised books or one or the other of the periods covered will nevertheless find that there is a fair amount of detail included (much more than I initially expected, anyway!) and that all of the main points are well-made, starting with the limitations of naval warfare under oars and sail at the time. Also included are some good summaries of at least some of the main debates that have taken place among historians and a rather fascinating collection of illustrations, including some superb pictures of Scandinavian warships. A second - and related - major feature of this book is that it is a compilation and a summary. As such, it does not contain any original findings. However, it draws on just about all of the main specialists for each of the various periods covered and contains ample notes and a bibliography which will allow anyone wanting to go any further to do so. Note, however, that the bibliography seems to have been deliberately kept short, possibly to avoid burdening the general reader. A number of titles are omitted from it, both because they are quoted and referenced in more recent titles that are included in the bibliography and because they are listed and referenced among the notes (with total some fifty five pages). A third feature of this book is its rather interesting and easy to read structure. A short introduction of some nine pages summarises the main components and limitations of medieval naval warfare.

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