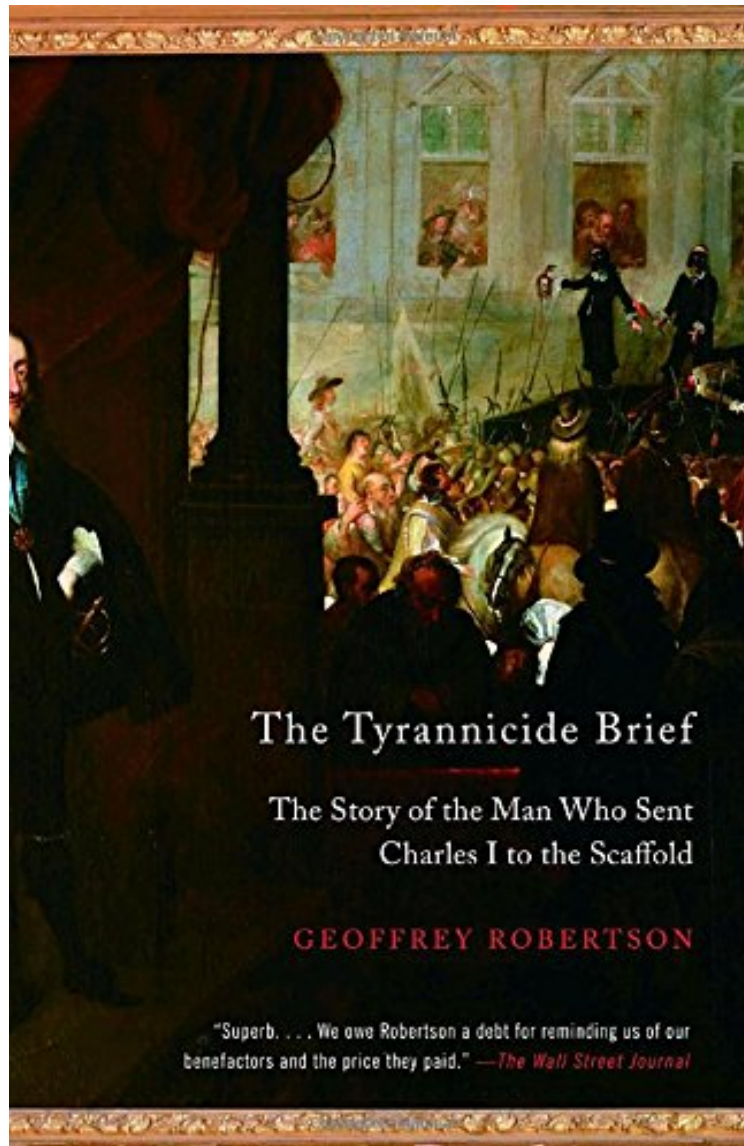


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The Tyrannicide Brief: The Story of the Man Who Sent Charles I to the Scaffold

Geoffrey Robertson

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#1304745 in Books Robertson, Geoffrey 2007-10-09 2007-10-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .90 x 5.20l, .97 #File Name: 0307386376464 pages | File size: 75.Mb

Geoffrey Robertson : The Tyrannicide Brief: The Story of the Man Who Sent Charles I to the Scaffold before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tyrannicide Brief: The Story of the Man Who Sent Charles I to the Scaffold:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A trial that established that all were equal before the law, but some

were more equal than others (sorry Mr Orwell)By Dr. Dayle SmithA truly brilliant analyses of the single most critical trial English legal history, very well written, thoroughly researched and blending a trial of an arrogant lying brigand who believed in two critical absolute: firstly, that as a king he had a divine right to rule his subjects as if they were mere sheep; and secondly that as he could do no wrong he could lie, cheat, break the laws of England and all the while wrapping himself in the bloody flag of absolutism.The 'restoration' of his son Charles II taught the Stuarts nothing at all. Charles II was even worse than his father even going to the extent of plundering the graves of all of those that his minions could find who had (or whose families had) any role in the trial of Charles I and sentencing their bodies to be dragged out of the ground and displayed in such public places as he could find, He also had the participants in his late unlamented fathers trial, and their families, prosecuted and punished by having them half hanged, (that is choked but cut down before they died) their genitals removed with a red hot knife before slitting them from throat to crotch (still alive if possible) beheading them and then having their bodies hacked up into pieces and then left their bits to the kings mercy.This trial has much relevance to today, When heads of state try to disinter the doctrine (in modern form) of their divine or semi divine rights that permit them to ignore the law with the impunity that was once the right only of the actual head of state acting within his or her powers.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Robertson has resurrected one of the great characters of history from obscurity and consigns one of ...By G. P.

LehmannRobertson has resurrected one of the great characters of history from obscurity and consigns one of the vilest characters of history, Charles II, to the bucket where he belongs. Robertson combines his acute legal mind, his appreciation of history and his passion for human rights in this delightfully readable history. What a shame the Republic didn't last. Here we are, nearly four hundred years later, and we still have a bunch of dodgy parasites claiming divine right to a privileged lifestyle and adoration.As a fellow-citizen of a country, Australia, which still exhibits fawning obeisance to a foreign billionaire as our head-of-state, Robertson gives me some hope that one day sanity will prevail in the adoption of a Bill of Rights for our country and in our becoming a Republic and casting off our government's obsequious grovelling to a foreign family of conservative sympathies, lack of intellect and whose only hope of survival is a perpetuation of medieval class systems.11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Lex vs. RexBy Christian SchlectJohn Cooke, who held progressive views of the law that were well ahead of his time and who was a key actor in the trial of King Charles I, is rightly rescued from the dusty corners of English history by the very knowledgeable Mr. Robertson. The heretofore forgotten Cooke emerges a fitting hero to all who believe in the rule of law.I score this book high for both those interested in the general development of the law, those interested in the trial of King Charles I, and those looking for background in support of holding to account present-day political tyrants.I do not have the knowledge to dispute the author's hostile view of some of the religious factions (such as Scottish Presbyterians) of that long ago day, but wholeheartedly agree with his condemnation---and John Cooke's---of the idea of a hereditary monarch (or tyrant of any stripe) ruling without restraint of earthly legislators and independent courts.

Charles I waged civil wars that cost one in ten Englishmen their lives. But in 1649 Parliament was hard put to find a lawyer with the skill and daring to prosecute a king who claimed to be above the law. In the end, they chose the radical lawyer John Cooke, whose Puritan conscience, political vision, and love of civil liberties gave him the courage to bring the king to trial. As a result, Charles I was beheaded, but eleven years later Cooke himself was arrested, tried, and executed at the hands of Charles II.Geoffrey Robertson, a renowned human rights lawyer, provides a vivid new reading of the tumultuous Civil War years, exposing long-hidden truths: that the king was guilty, that his execution was necessary to establish the sovereignty of Parliament, that the regicide trials were rigged and their victims should be seen as national heroes. Cookes trial of Charles I, the first trial of a head of state for waging war on his own people, became a forerunner of the trials of Augusto Pinochet, Slobodan Milosevic, and Saddam Hussein. The Tyrannicide Brief is a superb work of history that casts a revelatory light on some of the most important issues of our time.

From The New YorkerIn 1649, after Oliver Cromwell and his army had taken King Charles I prisoner, they had to decide what to do with him. The easiest option, according to a contemporary, was assassination, "for which there were hands ready enough to be employed." Instead, a lawyer named John Cooke was given the brief to prosecute him. (Other lawyers left town to dodge the job.) At the time, there was no language for what Charles was charged with: as king, he was the law, so prosecuting him seemed a logical absurdity. Robertson, a lawyer involved in the prosecutions of Augusto Pinochet and Saddam Hussein, credits Cooke with helping to make those proceedings possible; he "made tyranny a crime." But Cooke himself was executed after the monarchy was restored. His heart and genitals were fed to stray dogs, and his head, at King Charles II's direction, was displayed at the entrance to Westminster Hall. Copyright 2006 Click here to subscribe to The New Yorker Superb. . . . We owe Robertson a debt for reminding us of our benefactors and the price they paid. The Wall Street JournalFascinating. . . . The best account of these events to date. . . . A very major book, a persuasive reminder of the ongoing need to defend human rights and civil liberties. . . . Historical writing and legal writing at its best. Houston ChronicleScholarly and gripping. . . . The Tyrannicide Brief is not only a compelling history and legal thriller, but also a telling commentary for today. New York Law Journal

Magazine About the Author GEOFFREY ROBERTSON, a leading human rights lawyer and UN war-crimes judge, has won landmark rulings on civil liberty from the highest courts in Britain, Europe, and the Commonwealth. He was involved in the case against General Pinochet and in the training of judges who tried Saddam Hussein. His book *Crimes Against Humanity* has been an inspiration for the global justice movement. Robertson, who was born in Australia, now lives in London.