

European naval and maritime history : 300-1500

Type de contenu : Texte

Titre(s) : European naval and maritime history : 300-1500 [Texte imprimé]
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Auteur(s) : Lewis Archibald R.

Autre(s) responsabilité(s) : Runyan Timothy L.

Editeur, producteur : Bloomington (Indiana) : Indiana university press, 1990

Description matérielle : XIII-192 p.
: ill., couv. ill. en coul. ; 22 cm

ISBN : 978-0-253-20573-5

Classification décimale Dewey : 930

Note(s) : Index
Notes bibliogr.

Résumé ou extrait : This first general survey of European naval and maritime history for the period from A.D. 300 to 1500 focuses on Western Europe, including the Baltic, North Sea, and Atlantic traditions, and on the Mediterranean, particularly Byzantine and Moslem naval history. The authors survey a number of interconnected areas: the use of seapower in international and intercultural relations, commerce and trade routes, naval technology and design, military tactics, the physical features of seafaring, and the geography of the sea. They make accessible to the general reader very technical scholarship, and provide numerous maps and illustrations that explain the changes in ship design and construction. The overall result is a powerful historical synthesis which gives students, teachers, and general readers a feel for the seafaring life and the place of the sea within medieval civilization.