

The Untold Military History of Iran: From Ancient Persia to Modern Armed Forces

The military history of Iran is as rich and captivating as the country's ancient civilization. From the magnificent empire of Persia to the modern and formidable armed forces of today, Iran's military prowess has left a profound impact on the region and the world. In this article, we will delve into the depths of Iran's military history, exploring the ancient warfare tactics, legendary battles, and the evolution of its armed forces.

Ancient Persia: Birth of a Powerful Empire

The military might of Iran originated from the ancient kingdom of Persia, which laid the foundation for one of the most powerful empires in history. The Persian Empire conquered vast territories under the leadership of notable rulers such as Cyrus the Great and Darius the Great. Masters of cavalry warfare and archery, the Persians employed innovative tactics and military strategies that struck fear into the hearts of their enemies.

Perhaps the most famous battle in ancient Persian history is the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC, where the Persian King, Xerxes I, faced the formidable Spartan King Leonidas. Though the Persians ultimately emerged victorious, the Spartans' fierce resistance left an indelible mark on history.

Immortal: A Military History of Iran and Its Armed

Forces by Steven R. Ward (Illustrated Edition, Kindle Edition)

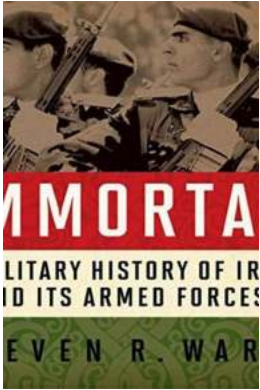
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The Islamic Golden Age: A Time of Military Advancement

During the Islamic Golden Age, Iran witnessed significant developments in warfare technology and military tactics. The Persian Empire, now under Islamic rule, experienced a renaissance in various fields, including military sciences. Persian scholars contributed immensely to the advancement of military technology, fortifications, and military strategy.

One noteworthy development during this period was the widespread adoption of firearms, including the use of gunpowder and cannons. These innovations revolutionized warfare, altering the dynamics of battles and sieges. The Persian military engineers made significant contributions in building advanced fortifications, catapults, and siege weapons, enabling them to defend their territories effectively. Iran became a formidable force to be reckoned with.

Iran-Iraq War: The Bloody Conflict

In the 20th century, Iran faced one of its most significant military challenges when it engaged in an eight-year-long war with Iraq. The Iran-Iraq War, which lasted from 1980 to 1988, had a devastating impact on both nations. The conflict was characterized by trench warfare, chemical weapons, and brutal tactics.

The Iranian military exhibited remarkable resilience and determination, defending their homeland against the Iraqi forces. Despite facing a much larger and better-equipped enemy, Iran's armed forces displayed unprecedented courage and innovation on the battlefield. The war became a symbol of Iranian resistance and the strength of the nation's military.

Modern Armed Forces: Strengthening the Nation

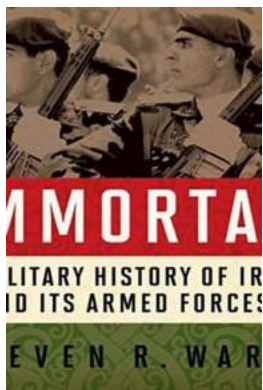
Today, Iran boasts one of the most powerful armed forces in the Middle East. The Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces is a complex and sophisticated military organization that consists of multiple branches, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the regular army.

The Iranian armed forces have undergone significant modernization efforts to ensure their readiness and capability to defend the nation against potential threats. Iran has invested heavily in its missile program, naval forces, and air defense systems. Additionally, the IRGC has played a crucial role in Iran's military expeditions in Syria, Iraq, and other regional conflicts.

The military history of Iran is an intricate tapestry woven with bravery, ingenuity, and resilience. From the splendors of ancient Persia to the modern forces of today, Iran's armed forces have left a lasting legacy that demands recognition. Understanding Iran's military history not only sheds light on the nation's past, but also provides insight into its present and future as it continues to navigate a complex geopolitical landscape.

Keywords: military history of Iran, armed forces of Iran, ancient Persia, Persian Empire, Battle of Thermopylae, Islamic Golden Age, Iran-Iraq War, modern armed forces

Alt Attribute Keywords: ancient Persian soldiers, Persian Empire cavalry, Islamic Golden Age military advancements, Iran-Iraq War battlefield, modern Iranian military equipment



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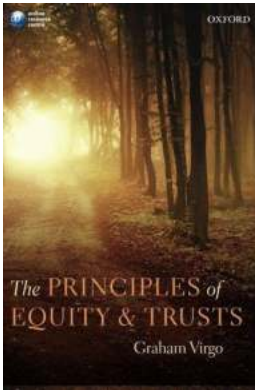
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Immortal is the only single-volume English-language survey of Iran’s military history. CIA analyst Steven R. Ward shows that Iran’s soldiers, from the famed “Immortals” of ancient Persia to today’s Revolutionary Guard, have demonstrated through the centuries that they should not be underestimated. This history also provides background on the nationalist, tribal, and religious heritages of the country to help readers better understand Iran and its security outlook.

Immortal begins with the founding of ancient Persia’s empire under Cyrus the Great and continues through the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988) and up to the present. Drawing on a wide range of sources including declassified documents, the author gives primary focus to the modern era to relate the build-up of the military under the last Shah, its collapse during the Islamic revolution, its fortunes in the Iran-Iraq War, and its rise from the ashes to help Iran become once again a major regional military power. He shows that, despite command and supply

problems, Iranian soldiers demonstrate high levels of bravery and perseverance and have enjoyed surprising tactical successes even when victory has been elusive. These qualities and the Iranians' ability to impose high costs on their enemies by exploiting Iran's imposing geography bear careful consideration today by potential opponents.



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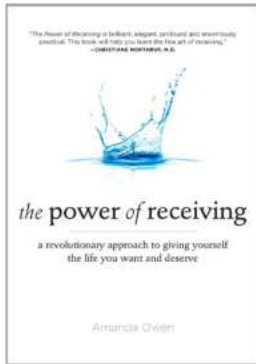
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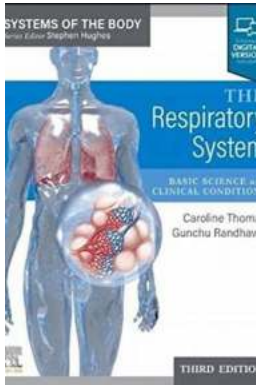
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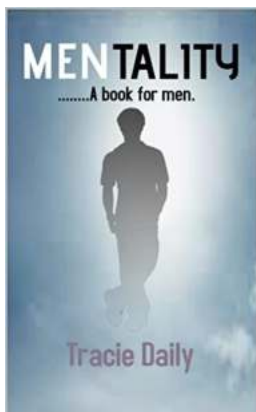
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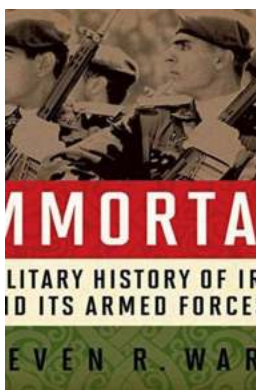
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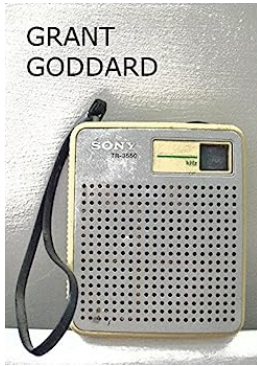
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