

The Crimean War

Osprey Essential Histories ESS 2 (2001)

Text by John Sweetman. Colour maps by The Map Studio.

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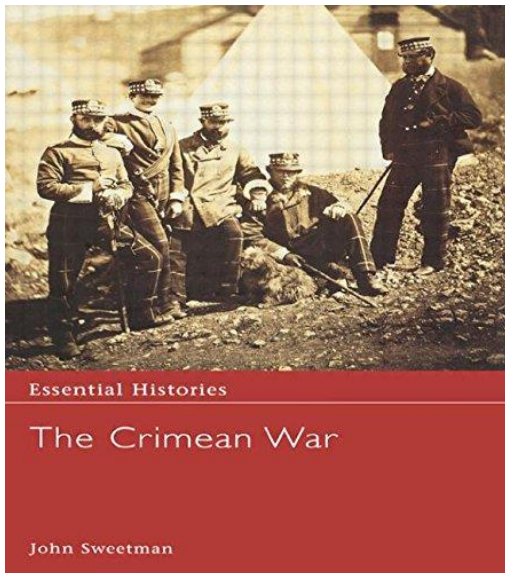
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This account by John Sweetman of the lead up to and events of the Crimean War between Russia and an alliance of Turkey, Britain, France, and Sardinia in the middle of the 19th Century is very well written, and a good example of Osprey at its best. Included are illustrations of and short biographical notes on the key players in this saga, and a well-

paced narrative of the events of the war, including descriptions of the major battles.

Peculiarities such as the influence of press reporting and political interference via the recently invented telegraph are covered, as are medical reforms and supply issues, helping to set the scene. Many contemporary illustrations are included, with early photographs among them, as well as seven well produced and informative colour maps. (The only problem I encountered was that four of the colour maps were mis-labelled, and may have been positioned incorrectly in the text, which proved something of a distraction. When emailed to ask if this had been addressed, Osprey did not respond).

In summary, a good example of an informative and well-pitched Osprey. Although it should be noted that this work does not include uniforms or details on orders of battle, it is nonetheless a great starting point for any wargamer seeking to get the feel of the period.