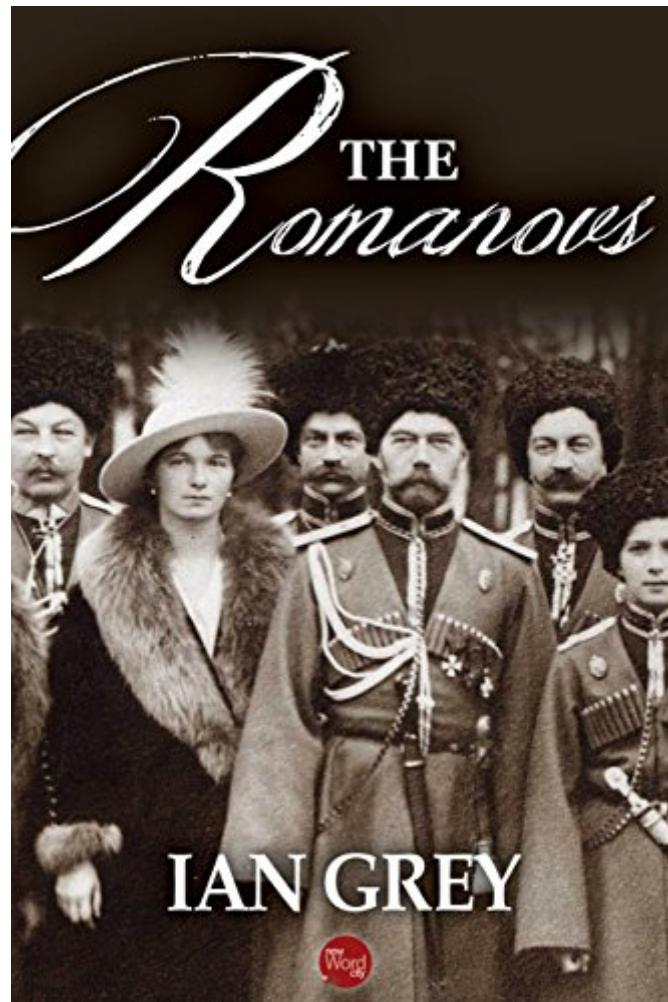


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The Romanovs



Synopsis

The Romanov dynasty has dazzled, intrigued, and confused the world for more than three centuries. These extraordinary monarchs wielded absolute power over the vast and violent lands of Russia. Savagery and opulence, asceticism and unparalleled luxury, deep piety and insane cruelty existed side by side in the royal courts. Historian Ian Grey threads his way through these turbulent centuries, his focus on the private lives of the tsars themselves, the rulers whose personal histories are entwined with the history of the empire. He brings to life the passions, rages, intrigues, and greatness of the remarkable men and women who guided the destiny of Russia and influenced and fascinated the world.

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Customer Reviews

“The Romanovs” has it all, the drama of 300 years of Russia’s Romanov tsars, with palace intrigue, wars, scheming for power, jealousies, all the historic drama, including, of course, the brutal ending. During their consecutive reigns, the Romanovs turned Russia into a powerful nation, then squandered it and brought the country to ruin. Ian Grey presents the saga tsar by tsar, some vile

and some bold and imaginative. Some years ago, I visited what was then the Soviet Union with a peace group. Of course, we also visited the gold and jewel encrusted Summer and Winter Palaces (the Winter Palace is now the Hermitage Museum). And at the Kremlin museum we saw the crowns, jewels, and carriages that are remnants of the tsars. The opulence was breath-taking. At the time, of course, we were focused on communism and the time since World War II. I knew little about the Romanovs, and was awed by the extravagances that remained (and gave a pretty good indication of why the common folk turned against them). I found "The Romanovs" particularly interesting and important to understanding the full history of Russia.

Fascinating HistoryI bought this book as a result of a BookBub promotion, and I'm glad I did. The Romanovs ruled Russia for three centuries. The dynasty began in 1613 with the crowning of a sixteen-year-old tsar. At the time, Russia was falling apart. The young man wept when he learned he would be crowned. Yet, despite his fear and inexperience, he led Russia out of what was called the Times of Troubles and into an era of stability. During his reign, Russia prospered. In the years to follow, the dynasty produced such rulers as Peter the Great, who built St. Petersburg and made Russia a world power. He was arguably the greatest of the Romanovs, but others made their marks. Peter's illegitimate daughter, Elizabeth had to wrest control from her infant cousin, and once she had it, plunged Russia into two major wars. But she also abolished the death penalty and opened some of Russia's first institutions of higher learning.

Quite readable, though a broad and therefore necessarily not terribly deep study of its wide-ranging subject. (After all, the Romanovs ruled the largest nation on the planet for centuries. Covering it all in one volume requires compromises) I enjoyed it and, despite being an amateur history student of sorts, also encountered quite a bit of information I'd never come across before. The author is an excellent and able wordsmith, which is too rarely the case in a book of this type.

I just finished reading another book on the Romanovs by Simon Sebag Montefiore, which went into very great detail (sometimes a bit too much). Reading "The Romanovs" by Grey was much lighter and still very informative. However, it did not give as complete a picture of the events and the behavior of the Romanovs, including their almost barbaric customs and cruel governing. Still, a very good read.

Great overview of Russian history before the communist revolution with a focus on the dynasty of

the czars. Ended a little too abruptly for me, not mentioning the revolution and the demise of the last czar.

A very interesting account of the Romanov Dynasty, although not necessarily as informative as I had hoped. I learned much about Russia that I hadn't previously known, but I would have like a little more about Russian Society and Culture, and a little less about Russian Military Campaigns.

Factual, but kind of boring. Way too much on foreign policy and not enough family interactions and domestic consequences. Author kind of recites facts, but does little to make the history interesting.

This has so much information that it read as a history book. I found some info quite entertaining but other info boring. I do think if you are interested in Russian history this book would be good for you to read.

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