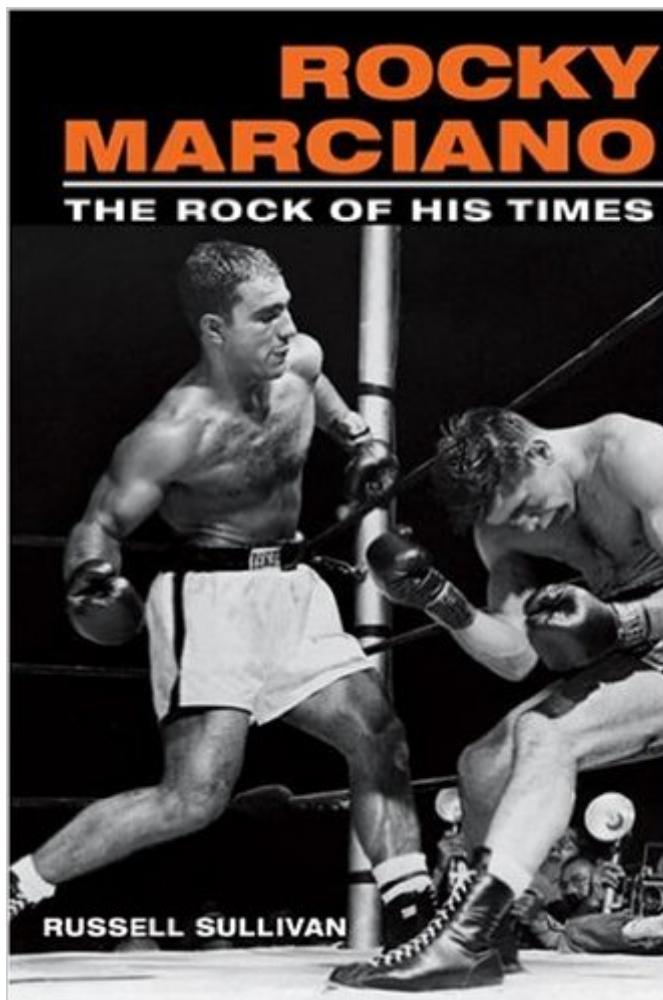


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# Rocky Marciano: The Rock Of His Times (Sport And Society)



## Synopsis

Talks about the life, career, and impact of Rocky Marciano, the legendary heavyweight boxing champion who also stands as a powerful symbol of his times.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rocky Marciano was a hero to my dad, so therefore has been a hero of mine since I was 13 years old. I am now 37. I was kind of afraid to read this book because I thought it might diminish the legend in my own mind. Well, it actually enhanced it! Sullivan is no Marciano cheerleader but he does a great job of placing his achievements in their proper context. Marciano was the best heavyweight of his era by far. He beat all the top contenders no matter if we think they were over-the-hill, not that good, or whatever. Sullivan does great background on some of Marciano's opponents; especially Walcott, Charles, La Starza, and Moore. These men were real good heavyweights. The main problem with Marciano's era was it was on the tail end of the great Joe Louis. However Marciano was indeed an alltime great. He was perhaps the hardest puncher of all time pound for pound, he probably had the greatest stamina of any fighter ever, he could throw an inhumane amount of punches and never tire, he was only knocked down twice in his whole career. He was 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed about 185 pounds. He had a freakishly small 67 inch reach. Everyone he fought was bigger than him, yet he won all 49 fights with 43 by knockout. One thing that surprised me is that Marciano was thought of as a bit of a dirty fighter by some of his

peers. Sullivan puts this in its proper context that it was a by product of Marciano's all out wild in your face style. He never gave his opponents a chance to rest or get set. Sullivan also shows how Marciano who many thought was a squeaky clean 50's man actually was indeed flawed. He was a very complex man which was due in large part in my opinion, to his fear of poverty and being first generation American.

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