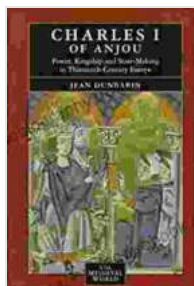


Charles of Anjou: The Angevin King of Naples and Sicily



Charles I of Anjou: Power, Kingship and State-Making in Thirteenth-Century Europe (The Medieval World)

by Jean Dunbabin

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 252 pages



Charles of Anjou (1226-1285) was a powerful and ambitious king who ruled over Naples and Sicily from 1266 to 1285. He was the younger brother of King Louis IX of France and the founder of the Angevin dynasty in Southern Italy. Charles' reign was marked by both great successes and tragic failures, and he remains one of the most controversial figures in the history of the Mediterranean region.

Early life and career

Charles was born in 1226 in Anjou, France. He was the sixth son of King Louis VIII of France and Blanche of Castile. Charles received a privileged education and was trained in the arts of war and government. He served as a military commander in his brother's army during the Seventh Crusade and distinguished himself in battle.

In 1246, Charles was granted the county of Anjou by his brother, King Louis IX. He ruled Anjou for the next twenty years, during which time he expanded his territory and strengthened his power. In 1265, Pope Clement IV offered Charles the crown of Naples and Sicily. Charles accepted the offer and invaded Southern Italy in 1266.

The Angevin conquest of Southern Italy and Sicily

Charles' invasion of Southern Italy was initially successful. He quickly defeated the Hohenstaufen king, Manfred, at the Battle of Benevento in 1266. Manfred was killed in the battle, and his death marked the end of the Hohenstaufen dynasty in Southern Italy.

After his victory at Benevento, Charles entered Naples in triumph. He was crowned king of Naples and Sicily in 1266. Charles' conquest of Southern Italy was a major turning point in the history of the region. It brought the kingdom under the control of the French Angevin dynasty and marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Southern Italy and Sicily.

Charles' reign

Charles' reign was marked by both great successes and tragic failures. He was a skilled military commander and a shrewd politician. He expanded the Angevin kingdom in Southern Italy and Sicily, and he also played a key role in the politics of the Mediterranean region.

However, Charles' reign was also marked by violence and bloodshed. He was ruthless in his suppression of his enemies, and he alienated many of his subjects. In 1282, he ordered the execution of Conradin, the last male heir of the Hohenstaufen dynasty. Conradin's execution sparked a rebellion in Sicily, which was brutally suppressed by Charles' forces.

The Sicilian Vespers

The Sicilian Vespers was a popular uprising that took place in Sicily on March 30, 1282. The uprising was sparked by the resentment of the Sicilian people towards Charles' rule. The rebels massacred the French garrison in Palermo and declared their independence from the Angevin kingdom.

Charles was furious at the news of the Sicilian Vespers. He sent a large army to Sicily to put down the rebellion. However, the Sicilian rebels were able to hold out against the Angevin forces for several years. The rebellion was finally crushed in 1291, but Charles never fully regained control of Sicily.

The later years of Charles' reign

Charles' later years were marked by a series of setbacks and defeats. He was unable to reconquer Sicily, and he was also defeated by the Aragonese in a war over the island of Corsica. In 1285, Charles died in Foggia, Italy. He was succeeded by his son, Charles II.

Legacy

Charles of Anjou was a complex and controversial figure. He was a skilled military commander and a shrewd politician, but he was also ruthless and ambitious. His reign was marked by both great successes and tragic failures. He expanded the Angevin kingdom in Southern Italy and Sicily, but he also alienated many of his subjects and sparked a rebellion that led to the loss of Sicily.

Charles' legacy is still debated today. Some historians see him as a great king who brought order and stability to Southern Italy and Sicily. Others see him as a ruthless tyrant who oppressed his subjects and caused great

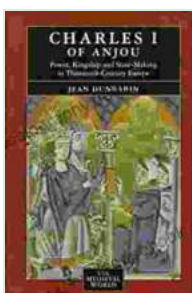
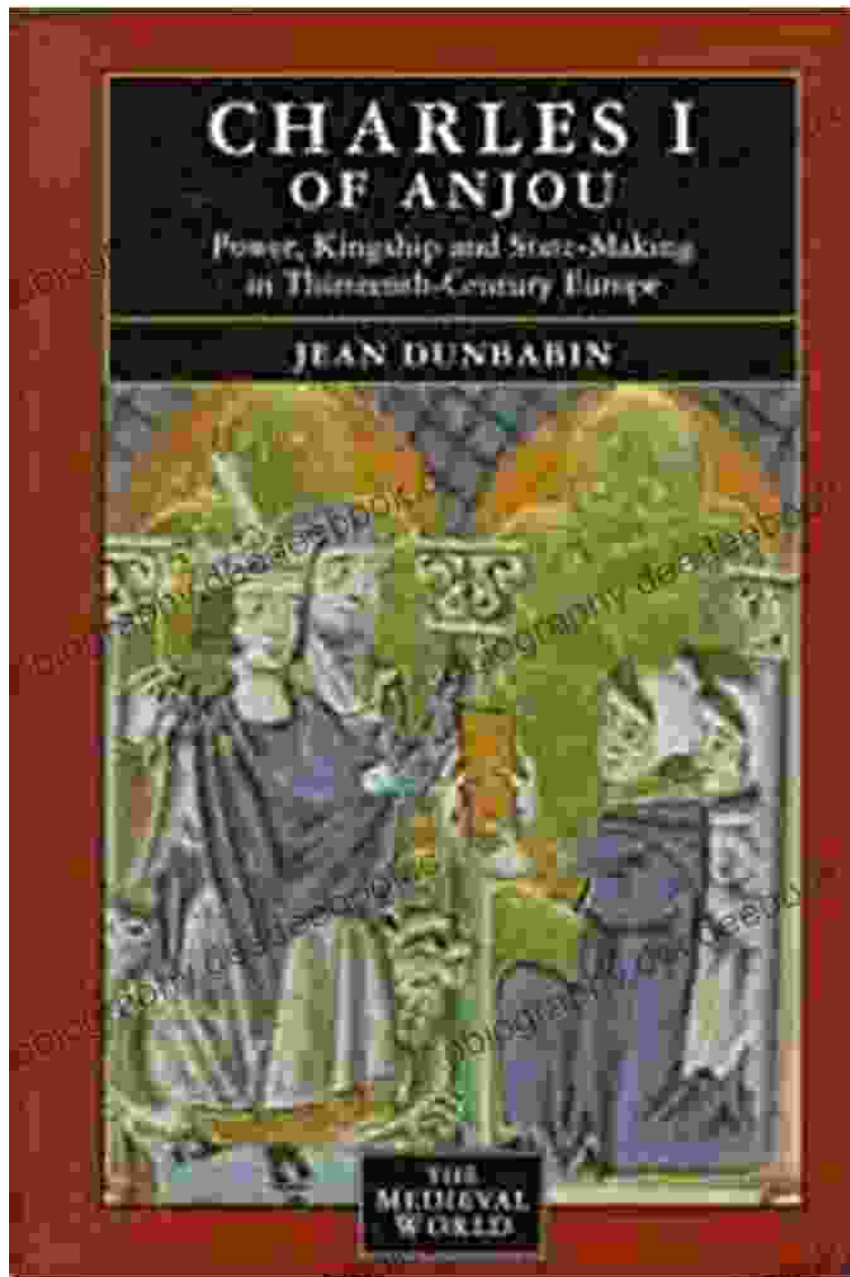
suffering. Regardless of one's opinion of Charles, there is no doubt that he was one of the most important figures in the history of the Mediterranean region during the 13th century.

Image gallery





Battle of Benevento



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