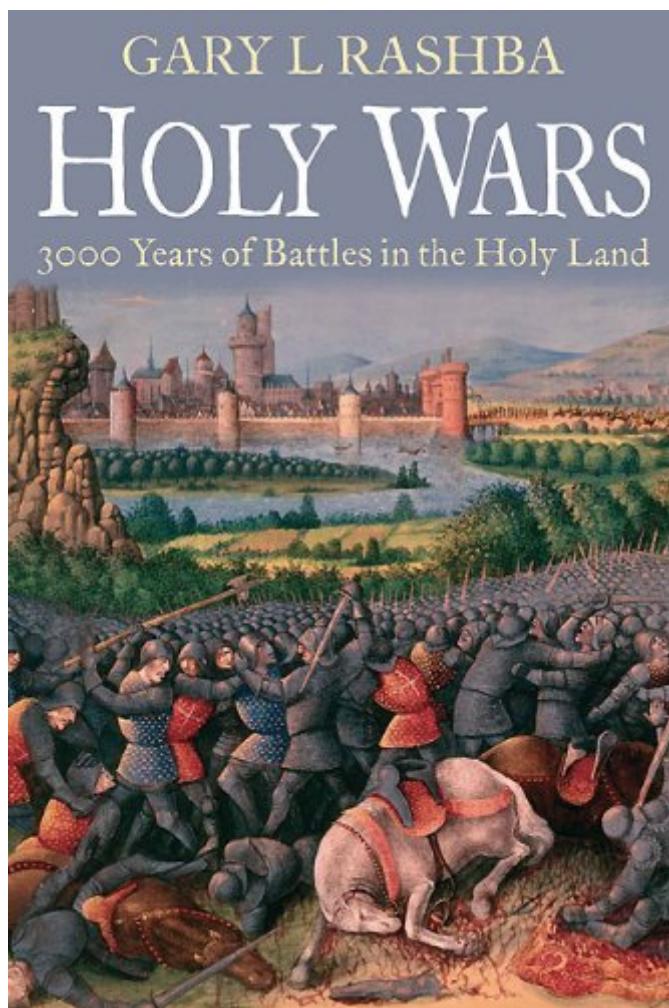


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# Holy Wars: 3000 Years Of Battles In The Holy Land



## **Synopsis**

Today's Arab-Israeli conflict, ever-present in the news, is merely the latest iteration of an unending history of violence in the Holy Land—a region that is unsurpassed as witness to a kaleidoscopic military history involving forces from across the world and throughout the millennia. *Holy Wars* describes 3,000 years of war in the Holy Land with the unique approach of focusing on pivotal battles or campaigns, beginning with the Israelites' capture of Jericho and ending with Israel's last full-fledged assault against Lebanon. Its 17 chapters stop along the way to examine key battles fought by the Philistines, Assyrians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, and Mamluks, the latter clash, at Ayn Jalut, comprising the first time the Mongols suffered a decisive defeat. The modern era saw the rise of the Ottomans, and an incursion by Napoleon who only found bloody stalemate outside the walls of Akko (Acre). The Holy Land became a battlefield again in World War I when the British fought the Turks. The nation of Israel was forged in conflict during its 1948 War of Independence, and subsequently found itself in desperate combat, often against great odds, in 1956 and 1967, and then it was surprised by a massive two-pronged assault in 1973. By focusing on the climax of each conflict, while carefully setting each stage, *Holy Wars* allows the reader to examine an extraordinary breadth of military history, glimpsing in one volume the evolution of warfare over the centuries as well as the enduring status of the Holy Land as a battleground. GARY L. RASHBA, the author of more than 30 articles on defense, aerospace and international topics, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990 and currently lives in Israel with his wife and two children.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Words of warning to potential buyers of the Kindle version. This is a decent book, but the Kindle version is simply awful and should not be sold until it is fixed. Every page contains errors that become so bothersome that it is hard to concentrate on the book itself. These are easy errors to fix. Most fall in the curious category of single words with multiple spaces inserted within them. My advice to potential buyers is to download the free sample and judge whether you can tolerate the errors before buying. Also, it should be noted that any Kindle purchase can be returned within the first seven days. is very good about this.

The Holy Land has been in conflict for thousands of years and will always be that. This is a good book that gives a brief account of these following conflicts: Israelite conquest of Canaan 1400 BC Battles of the Judges 1200 BC Israelite-Philistine wars 1000 BC Assyrian siege of Lachish 701 BC Maccabees revolt 167-160 BC Jewish-Roman War 66-74 AD Islamic conquest 634-636 AD Battle of Hattin 1187 Battle of Ain Jault 1260 Ottoman-Mamluk war 1516-17 Napoleon's campaign 1799 WW1 Israeli war 1948 Suez Crisis 1956 Six Day War 1967 Yom Kippur War 1973 1982 Lebanon War All in all a good book.

As an ex-Israeli combat soldier, I enjoyed reading this book very much, especially the later chapters concerning the battles in the Holy Land over the past thousand years. This book included a nice balance of straight-forward reporting together with personal insights from the combatants themselves. However, my main criticism is that the publishers should have included many more maps and battle plans. One example of this: it was not easy to follow the progress of the Battle of the Mitla Pass during the Suez Campaign (1956). Also, a more detailed map of the Anglo-Turkish fighting in the Sinai Peninsula would have been very helpful in understanding how Gen. Allenby succeeded where his predecessors had failed. There were also no battle-plans to show what

happened at the critically important Crusader-Saladin battle at the Horns of Hattin, 1187 or the lead up to this defeat of the Crusader army.

This book not discuss wars of religion, rather it looks at historical campaigns fought in the Holy Lands: Judea, Sinai, Samaria, Galilee and so on. For 3,000 years people have fought over this region (although not constantly, which is a modern myth). The Israelites, Philistines, Assyrians, Egyptians, Romans, Arabs, Franks, Ottomans, Mamluks, Mongols, French, British and, of course, Israelis have all fought on this ground. With 3,000 years of battle no single book could possibly give a comprehensive account of wars fought in the Holy Land, But Rashba's book provides credible chapters which describe wars as fought in ancient times, in classical times, during the expansion of Islam, during the gunpowder revolution, during the French Revolution, and during the 20th Century. Well-written, one doesn't have to be a military historian to appreciate this book. Well-illustrated with photographs.

I was at first very interested in reading this book hoping to learn some insights into the current Middle Eastern Crisis. You might as well read the Bible because this is just a rehash of biblical legend with perhaps some explanation as to what may have happened to explain what the Jews thought were Victories because of Gods help. If you believe everything in the bible really happened then you will love this book. If on the other hand you are like me and hoped to learn why the People in the Middle east are so passionately able to hate each other and can find no reason for a lasting peace then you wont like this book.

Not well written, especially the early chapters. Consistently introduces cultures and forces without background info at all. I read the book because I know little about those wars. I still don't.

Rashba has tackled a huge time span and a huge topic, nestled in a tiny geographic area. But his work and careful research brings to life why this sliver of land has always been, and will forever be, the subject of some of mankind's most complex and bloody battles. I recommend this book for casual military history readers or serious scholars, or observers of the Holy Land in general. The quick chapters and excellent organization allows one to read from beginning to end, or to use as a resource for specific eras and wars. You will not be sorry to have this in your permanent collection.

I said to myself, "why didn't I think of doing this?" I haven't finished the book yet and am only about

25% through it, but have learned that the Roman Jewish historian Josephus was an Israeli defector to the Romans. The value to me is that the author approaches the subject from an objective standpoint, and not from Old Testament perspective that you usually read about (like the meaning of Channuka popular over the holidays), for the entire Jewish struggle or Islamic struggle as the chronology progresses. As a fairly serious life long student of history, this is a very interesting treatment of the subject matter.

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