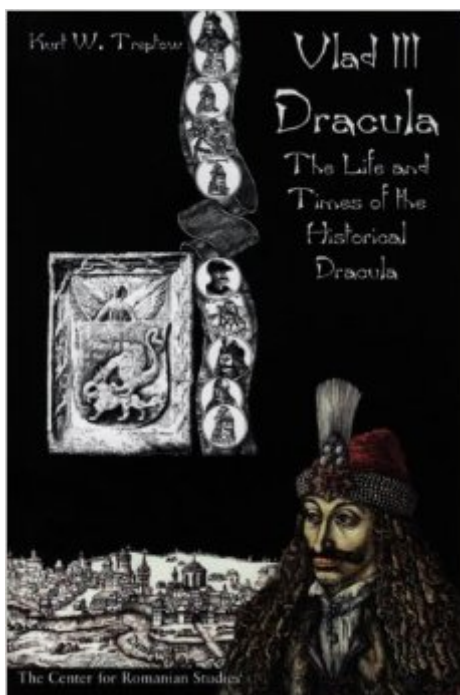


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Vlad III Dracula: The Life And Times Of The Historical Dracula



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Customer Reviews

Kurt Treptow's *Vlad III Dracula: The Life And Times Of The Historical Dracula* is a superbly presented, meticulously researched biography of the 15th century Romanian aristocrat known to history as "Vlad the Impaler". Treptow draws upon all extant Romanian, Turkish, Russian, and German sources to reconstruct the history of a prince who, in his own lifetime, was acclaimed a dedicated national hero and an implacable, bloody, merciless, diabolical tyrant. The informative, definitive, "reader friendly" text is enhanced with a series of appendices offering translations of principal documents concerns the history of Vlad III Dracula. Vlad III Dracula is "must" reading for anyone seeking an accurate, history-based biography of a man whose life and accomplishments have become interwoven and obscured by myth, legend, and popularized fiction.

I'm a history professor who's teaching a course on Dracula next semester. I've already ordered Florescu's *Prince of Many Faces* and McNally's *In Search of Dracula* as required reading. I've attempted to read everything in English on Dracula. I then found Treptow. From the very first page he avoids the tendency to sensationalize Vlad III. He avoids using documents that are suspicious, like other historians. He tells us how he came to the conclusion that they are not trustworthy. He attempts to set Vlad's action within their proper context. When I finished the book, I knew that I had read the best biography on Dracula now in existence.

Buy it! If you're a serious student (casual readers may be intimidated by the massive amount of

footnotes), get this one. If one could own four books on Dracula they should be the Florescu-McNally books and this one. This volume is well-written and heavily footnoted, with an extensive bibliography; one does wish certain chapters (such as the chapter on Dracula's relations with the church,) were a bit longer, however the only real drawback is that many of the works cited in the footnotes and bibliography are by Romanian authors, hence, not available to the majority of nonspecialist readers, however, most Romanian quotations are also rendered in English. This volume represents the latest in Dracula scholarship. Author Treptow attempts to portray Vlad as objectively as possible, divorced from the Stoker/vampire connection. The book itself is very handsome; black hardback cover with imitation gold leaf; color dust jacket; and an attached cloth bookmark. And the illustrations by artist Octavian Ion Penda in the style of medieval/renaissance woodcuts, in imitation of Holbein's work, add to the book's overall attractiveness. The price can't be beat, either. All-in-all, a worthy addition to Dracula studies.

Having acquired a passing interest with the "real" Dracula, it was nice to find a detailed historical account more in the vein of academics than popular culture. If you have a casual interest in Vlad then this book will be more than you want to handle. But if you are ready to deal with an in-depth consideration of the Impaler, you cannot do better than this volume.

This is the only book I have read that is not biased against the historical Prince Vlad III Dracula. It is well written and does not present the information in the usual dusty monotone delivery of facts of the moldy thinking of academia. It is a good source of information about the real man and dispels many of the lies surrounding him. As a strong admirer of the man (Dracula) and his accomplishments I have found this book to be the most fair and even its assessment. This book like others who talk about the real man is not for the those who think to call the hero Vlad III Dracula by the moniker Vlad Tepes or Vlad the Impaler (as this was an insult no one in the man's own lifetime would have dare call him to his face) as you only seek the sensationalist lies told by his enemies. This book is especially not for the mentally challenged looking for real vampires and thinking they have found it in the real Dracula. However, if you seek the real Prince Vlad III Dracula, this is a must have source. Buy it!

This is a nice scholarly book just teeming with footnotes and it made me feel like I was in college again. It could have contained a little more info and a little less footnote. It very well might have some snippets that the other books don't, but McNally and Florescu books have a wealth of

information for much less money. For example "In Search of Dracula" is about \$10 to \$15 with shipping vs. this book at \$40.00 or so. It is a good book, but not worth the price for the information that it contains.

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