



Historical Dictionary of Malta (Historical Dictionaries of Europe)

By Uwe Jens Rudolf, Warren G. Berg

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Malta, a 'tiny pebble kicked by the 'boot' of Italy into the middle of the Mediterranean,' has been visited and influenced over the centuries by many different peoples and cultures. The site of the oldest free-standing, man-made structures known to exist, Malta has been occupied by Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Arabs, Normans, the Knights of St. John, Swabians, Angevins, French, and British. Most recently, Malta has become the smallest (in both population and landmass) member country of the European Union. This second edition of the Historical Dictionary of Malta compiles the unusually rich and long history of the islands comprising the country of Malta. This is done through a chronology, an introductory essay, a bibliography, and hundreds of cross-reference dictionary entries describing all of the major places, persons, institutions, and events that have shaped the history of the archipelago.

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Editorial Review

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The seventy-sixth installment in the publisher's *Historical Dictionaries of Europe* series focuses on a tiny Mediterranean island nation that has been the stopping point for people from widely divergent cultures throughout history. At different times, Malta has been occupied by Arabs, British, Carthaginians, French, and Normans, among others. Today, Malta is the smallest member of the European Union, whether measured by population or landmass. However, this fact does not make Malta insignificant. In many ways, its history, politics, and culture are a microcosm of Europe's. This volume is a second edition, significantly expanding and updating the original 1995 version. Entries are alphabetically arranged and cover biographical, economic, linguistic, geographical, religious, and social topics in brief. Sample topics include Arab rule, Emigration, Flag of Malta, Tourism, and Women. Most entries are less than a page long and contain numerous cross-references. The A-Z entries are preceded by a chronology and introductory essay. The chronology is quite detailed, especially from the year of Malta's independence, 1964, onward. Some helpful maps are included, both historical and current. The opening 19-page essay covers geography and prehistoric inhabitants as well as later occupiers and colonizers, nationhood, economic and social development, and the European Union. A bibliography of more than 30 pages comes at the end?substantial enough to warrant its own table of contents, with print and electronic resources divided into categories. This is a wonderful aid for a user wishing to conduct further research. Overall, this volume would be a good addition for both academic and large public libraries. --Michael Tosko

Review

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(*Booklist*)

Entries are concise but thorough and well written, and the book benefits from a number of extra features....invaluable contribution to those studying this country. This is a highly specialized work that will be of interest primarily to students and faculty in fields such as modern history, Mediterranean studies, and international political science. (*American Reference Books Annual, May-August 2010*)

About the Author

Uwe Jens Rudolf is a Professor of Accounting and Management at Luther College, he was born in Germany and emigrated to the US after WWII. He has taught German, accounting and international business courses at Luther College since 1971 and traveled extensively as a business consultant in Germany, France, Japan

and China.

Warren G. Berg is Professor Emeritus of Accounting and Management after a distinguished forty-year career at Luther College, is a native of Chicago and the first Fulbright lecturer posted to Malta. He established a bond between Malta and Luther College that continues today.

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