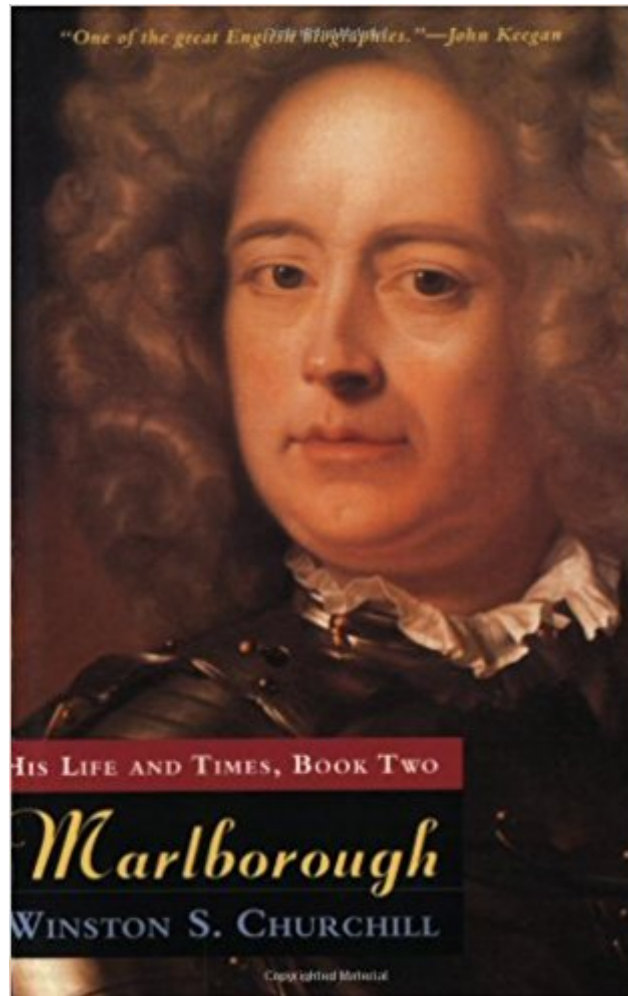




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# Marlborough: His Life And Times, Book Two



## Synopsis

"It is my hope to recall this great shade from the past, and not only invest him with his panoply, but make him living and intimate to modern eyes." —from the preface to Volume One

John Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough (1644-1722), was one of the greatest military commanders and statesmen in the history of England. Victorious in the Battles of Blenheim (1704), Ramillies (1706), and countless other campaigns, Marlborough, whose political intrigues were almost as legendary as his military skill, never fought a battle he didn't win. Although he helped James II crush the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth, Marlborough later supported William of Orange against James II in the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and brilliantly managed England's diplomatic triumphs during the War of the Spanish Succession. Marlborough also bequeathed the world another great British military strategist and diplomat — his descendant, Winston S. Churchill, who wrote this book to redeem Marlborough's reputation from Macaulay's smears. One million words long and ten years in the making, Churchill's *Marlborough* stands as both a literary and historical masterpiece, giving us unique insights into the Churchill of World War II, for just as Churchill's literary skill helps us understand the complexities of Marlborough's life, so too did his writing of *Marlborough* help Churchill master the arts of military strategy and diplomacy. This two-volume edition includes the entire text and almost all the original maps.

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## Customer Reviews

"The greatest historical work written in our century, an inexhaustible mine of political wisdom and

understanding, which should be required reading for every student of political science." - Leo Strauss, University of Chicago "Rarely in the history of historical writing have author and subject seemed so made for each other." - Henry Steele Commager

"It is my hope to recall this great shade from the past, and not only invest him with his panoply, but make him living and intimate to modern eyes." – from the preface to Volume One John Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough (1644-1722), was one of the greatest military commanders and statesmen in the history of England. Victorious in the Battles of Blenheim (1704), Ramillies (1706), and countless other campaigns, Marlborough, whose political intrigues were almost as legendary as his military skill, never fought a battle he didn't win. Although he helped James II crush the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth, Marlborough later supported William of Orange against James II in the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and brilliantly managed England's diplomatic triumphs during the War of the Spanish Succession. Marlborough also bequeathed the world another great British military strategist and diplomat – his descendant, Winston S. Churchill, who wrote this book to redeem Marlborough's reputation from Macaulay's smears. One million words long and ten years in the making, Churchill's Marlborough stands as both a literary and historical masterpiece, giving us unique insights into the Churchill of World War II, for just as Churchill's literary skill helps us understand the complexities of Marlborough's life, so too did his writing of Marlborough help Churchill master the arts of military strategy and diplomacy. This two-volume edition includes the entire text and almost all the original maps.

Winston Churchill's massive biography of the Duke of Marlborough is considered one of the great biographies in the English language. It lives up to its reputation. Churchill's writing is engaging, moving and clear. In a few sentences he can capture the qualities of both thought and action. This history is exhaustive and was intended to lay to rest many historical controversies regarding John Churchill's actions and character. His access to original documents through his family connection lends formidable support for the authors interpretation of events. It is a long, long biography but it is amply rewarding!

Winston Churchill wrote this book during the 1930's while in political exile. His masterful handling of Hitler, Roosevelt, and Stalin is presaged as he tells the tale of John Churchill, who overcame party strife in England, baseness and shortsightedness in coalition partners, and (finally) Louis XIV of France. WSC tell the story with his brilliant flair and style, but he also pauses with the reader to

reflect on such matters as how to blunt a violent political storm without being yourself destroyed, how best to handle superiors who will hold you responsible for results but will not let you do the job, and how to act honorably when all of your life's work is thrown away by your enemies. These trenchant insights were pertinent in 1700, in the 1930's, and today. You are in for a treat, read this one.

As a long time owner and devotee of most of Winston Churchill's works, my husband and I are delighted to begin reading about his illustrious background and family history. Well told as always, American probably don't realize that Marlborough's name was John Churchill.

I have watch with a great deal of interest the 1971 BBC production of "The First Churchills." However, much of the television series dealt with the live of Marborough up to the beginning of this book. Consequently, this book has shown me much new material.

Churchill, simply the best

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Winston Churchill is a great writer, and this biography is a page-turner. That's rare for a half-forgotten 18th Century general fighting a half-forgotten 18th Century war. Churchill makes this all come alive. The only problem is that Marlborough, in Churchill's eyes, can do little wrong. I may have to read some of the other adverse biographies as a corrective to this. All in all, though, a very enjoyable and informative book.

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