

The Duel in European History: Honour and the Reign of Aristocracy

V. G. Kiernan

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



#5357809 in Books 1988-04-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 1.06 x 6.44l, #File Name: 0198225660360 pages | File size: 58.Mb

V. G. Kiernan : The Duel in European History: Honour and the Reign of Aristocracy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Duel in European History: Honour and the Reign of Aristocracy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful prose work exploring the violence and reality of the duel in European history. By Miroku Nemeth Moore found in dueling annals astonishing proofs of the force and prevalence of wayward fashion over sound judgment and reason; of the despotic tyranny and usurpation of the flitting phantom honour. Throughout history societies have lived within the walls and under the roof of ideas and conventions slowly drying up into things they could only half or fitfully believe in, but could not break away from, for fear of a disruption of the social fabric. Men are always dying, a Great War essayist wrote, for other peoples opinions, prejudices they have inherited from someone else, ideas they have borrow second-hand. Modern man, more than his ancestors, has an overblown false consciousness, a brain stuffed not mainly with lessons from life, but with the thinking of whole generations and centuries, heavy enough to weigh down the feeble carrier; and today ghostly voices find sponsors to supply them with megaphones. For the same shabby reasons men have always been killing, as well as being killed. (Kiernan 328-329) This book is extremely well-written in a scholarly sense, though perhaps too scholarly and demanding of a text for most laymen with only a passing interest in the subject to enjoy. If you have a background in

literature, you will be delighted for the treasures found therein, for, in truth, it has perhaps 20 times more material on dueling gleaned from works of literature than it does from actual historical accounts, though the level of familiarity that Kiernan shows from his selective and erudite use of literary sources is nothing less than completely masterful. Not light reading, but a very important source for study on this topic, martial arts, culture, and the evolution of combat sports in the West in general for bare knuckle boxing and gloved boxing arose out of dueling culture. I still wish for a more comprehensive study of dueling throughout European and world history even though this study purports to be a study of dueling in Europe (and it does cover much of European history), the focus is largely on England and Scotland, though France, Germany, Spain, Russia, and Italy are also given substantial coverage. It would be a very important scholarly work indeed that covered dueling throughout the world throughout history. One of the most interesting qualities of the text is its interrogation of the worth of dueling itself as it was represented and dealt with throughout the ages, and the relationship of this questioning to ideas and ideals of class, nobility, gentility, and violence itself. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Duels By Bartok Kinski While I was at university in Germany, I participated in five duels, now these duels were not the type of 'regime ancien' duels, for they were not intended to mortally wound the foe or cause great harm to his person. That said, they were very effective in curtailing rude or improper behavior from individuals who did not seem to follow any polite etiquette. Duels came out of favor, were outlawed and in my opinion, we are none the better. Take for example today, feuds are settled by cowardice or pusillanimity, by drive by shootings, sucker punches, drunken brawls and such where a man will impel a knife into your back. These settle absolutely nothing. Yet why are duels prohibited today? Indeed. In my five duels, I proposed a challenge to my opponents by bare knuckle fisticuffs, Graeco-Roman wrestling, fighting with wooden lances with padded ends and classic boxing. I secured a 'second' and picked the location that was favorable to both parties. This book gives a history of duels in most of their prime aspects. It is my contention that dueling did in fact solve discrepancies. If you have an antagonist, intimidator, bully, or ruffian that continually harasses or torments you, then only by standing up to him will you have any chance of getting rid of him. Far from being pompous, outdated and meaningless, duels were an important part of the social context of those times in the past when they were fought. Of course, the aristocracy corrupted such meanings as was bound to happen. En garde! I do not believe that such ideas such as 'honor, respect and courtesy' are wholly abstract concepts, but exist truly in our real world. Also recommended: Giacomo Casanova's The Duel Anton Chekhov's The Duel Joseph Conrad's The Duel Heinrich von Kleist's The Duel Aleksander Pushkin's The Duel (AKA The Pistol, The Shooter) Aleksander Kuprins The Duel Mark Twain's How I Escaped Being Killed in a Duel Jorge Luis Borges' The Duel O. Henry's The Duel Guy de Maupassant's A Duel Nikolai Teleshov's The Duel Vladimir Nabokov's The Duel (AKA An Affair of Honor) Charles Dickens's The Great Winglebury Duel Touch: The Duel in Literature by John Leigh

The romance and drama of the duel has made it an enduring attraction in novels, plays, and operas; but it takes on a deeper significance when considered in its social, evolutionary setting. From medieval times, the privilege of duelling was regarded as a badge of rank, an assertion of preeminence by Europe's dominant classes. This book describes the evolution of the duel from its medieval origins to the early 20th century. It also looks at the opinions about duelling in different areas and historical eras, as reflected in legislation, church pronouncements, and the works of philosophers such as Montesquieu, and writers like Walter Scott. Kiernan discusses the duel as something unique to Europe and its colonies, its practice in Ireland and Scotland compared with English practice, what women thought of it, and how it contributed to the development of an officer corps, throwing new light on the long ascendancy of aristocratic classes and their values in European history.