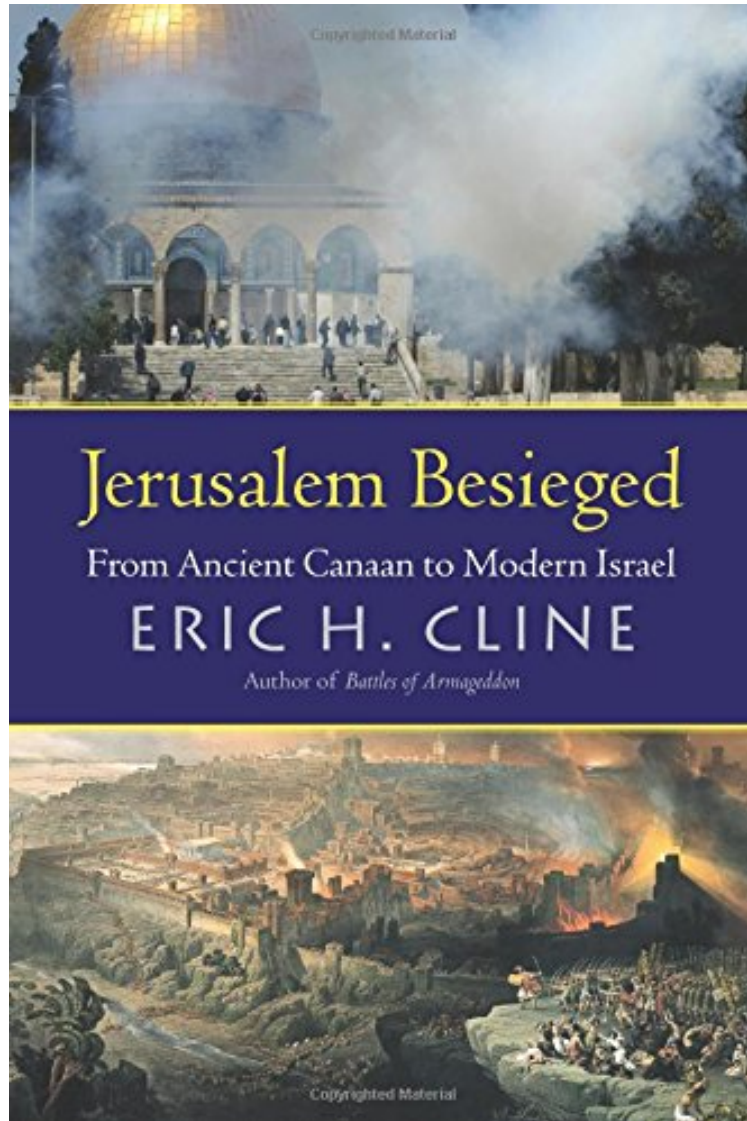


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## Jerusalem Besieged: From Ancient Canaan to Modern Israel

*Eric H. Cline*

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**Eric H. Cline : Jerusalem Besieged: From Ancient Canaan to Modern Israel** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jerusalem Besieged: From Ancient Canaan to Modern Israel:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Extremely well written By AHGA very readable, detailed history with extensive notes. I particularly found useful the timelines indicating the "conquerer." 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Well Written Narrative - But By Jared E. Krauss The book is vast in scope: it covers from the Bronze Age to the Modern Age. The book is written as a narrative of Jerusalem, and succeeds in conveying the events

of history surrounding Jerusalem in a way that keeps Jerusalem at the center, and this is done well. You will learn a lot about Jerusalem, specifically, and its quite enjoyable reading. I have two major points of contention. 1. He claims that the Umayyad Dynasty began in 638, with the taking of Jerusalem. This simply cannot be true. Caliph Umar was in charge during 638, was the Caliph who ordered the taking of, and received the surrender of, Jerusalem. There is not even room to argue that he was the beginning of the Umayyad Dynasty. He is neither from the Banu Umayyah I think he's from Banu Qusay, off the top of my head, nor is the caliphate administering from Damascus (this doesn't happen until the Umayyad Dynasty begins, officially). Caliph Ali isn't killed until 661, which is considered the end of the Rashidun Caliphate, and thus the beginning of the Umayyad cannot be 638. There are arguments to be made that it began shortly before 661, as Mu'awiyah had amassed a serious military and administration in Damascus by this time, but certainly not in 638, certainly not before Uthman is killed, certainly not before the Battle of the Camel, or the Battle of Siffin. 2. He follows Karen Armstrong's definition of jihad, which forgoes any notion of the Greater Jihad and Lesser Jihad, the former being an internal battle and the latter being the existential or external battle. All those and the binding of the book is s\*\*\*, the first 50 pages have fallen out. They're glued in, so I guess that's to be expected, and it's not even good glue. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly fast read, gripping story! By Barry Paul For 4000 years, Jerusalem's sovereignty is fought over by Egyptians, Assyrians, Persians, Canaanites, Jews, Greeks, Romans, Christians, and various Muslim states. You will understand the Christian concept of "Armageddon" evolving from these hundreds of battles fought in and around Jerusalem, not far from the eponymous mountain (Har Megiddo). Highly recommended for those interested in gaining a foundation for the modern day struggle for this "Eternal City" - for the struggle over Jerusalem is anything but modern. An exciting, yet painful history to read.

"Jerusalem Besieged is a fascinating account of how and why a baffling array of peoples, ideologies, and religions have fought for some four thousand years over a city without either great wealth, size, or strategic importance. Cline guides us through the baffling, but always bloody, array of Jewish, Roman, Moslem, Crusader, Ottoman, Western, Arab, and Israeli fights for possession of such a symbolic prize in a manner that is both scholarly and engaging." - Victor Davis Hanson, Stanford University; author of *The Other Greeks* and *Carnage and Culture* "A beautifully lucid presentation of four thousand years of history in a single volume. Cline writes primarily as an archaeologist-avoiding polemic and offering evidence for any religious claims-yet he has also incorporated much journalistic material into this study. Jerusalem Besieged will enlighten anyone interested in the history of military conflict in and around Jerusalem." - Col. Rose Mary Sheldon, Virginia Military Institute "This groundbreaking study offers a fascinating synthesis of Jerusalem's military history from its first occupation into the modern era. Cline amply deploys primary source material to investigate assaults on Jerusalem of every sort, starting at the dawn of recorded history. Jerusalem Besieged is invaluable for framing the contemporary situation in the Middle East in the context of a very long and pertinent history." - Baruch Halpern, Pennsylvania State University "A sweeping history of four thousand years of struggle for control of one city" [An] absorbing account of archaeological history, from the ancient Israelites' first conquest to today's second intifada. Cline clearly lays out the fascinating history behind the conflicts." - USA Today "A pleasure to read, this work makes this important but complicated subject fascinating." - Jewish Book World "Jerusalem Besieged is a fascinating account of how and why a baffling array of peoples, ideologies, and religions have fought for some four thousand years over a city without either great wealth, size, or strategic importance. Cline guides us through the baffling, but always bloody, array of Jewish, Roman, Moslem, Crusader, Ottoman, Western, Arab, and Israeli fights for possession of such a symbolic prize in a manner that is both scholarly and engaging." - Victor Davis Hanson, Stanford University; author of *The Other Greeks* and *Carnage and Culture*

From Publishers Weekly Cline, an associate professor of ancient history and archeology at George Washington University, begins his history of Jerusalem with mythical, biblical and archeological clues to its past, and the Roman histories of Josephus. Cline's narrative thread is the battles over control of a dusty village that took on increasing emotional content as it became a contested religious site. Cline claims "assimilation, annihilation and acculturation" through 10 empires and occupancies have left no one in the area today with "a legitimate pedigree definitively extending back to any of the original inhabitants." Of the alleged 118 conflicts over Jerusalem, few lacked a religious basis. Until 1917, Cline shows, Westerners controlled Jerusalem for less than a century. Beyond the Solomonic years, Jews have controlled the old city only since 1967. Perhaps no fragment of global real estate has been so volatile over so long a history. Despite sanguinary, even horrific detail from past memoirs and narratives, Cline's retelling is flat and repetitious, and the numerous references to Saddam Hussein, physically absent from this history, overreach in attempting immediate relevance. While a useful, well-annotated, textbookish guide to Jerusalem's violent past and present, it will not replace Karen Armstrong's stylish *Jerusalem. One City, Three Faiths* (1996). 10 color photos not seen by PW, 24 maps. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A beautifully lucid presentation of four thousand years of history in a single volume. Cline writes primarily as an archaeologist-avoiding polemic and offering evidence for any religious claims-yet he has also incorporated much journalistic material into this study. Jerusalem Besieged will enlighten anyone interested in the history of military

conflict in and around Jerusalem."-Col. Rose Mary Sheldon, Virginia Military Institute  
About the Author  
Eric H. Cline is Associate Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology in the Department of Classical and Semitic Languages and Literatures at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on the ancient world, including *The Battles of Armageddon* (University of Michigan Press, 2000), which won the 2001 Biblical Archaeology Society Publication Award.