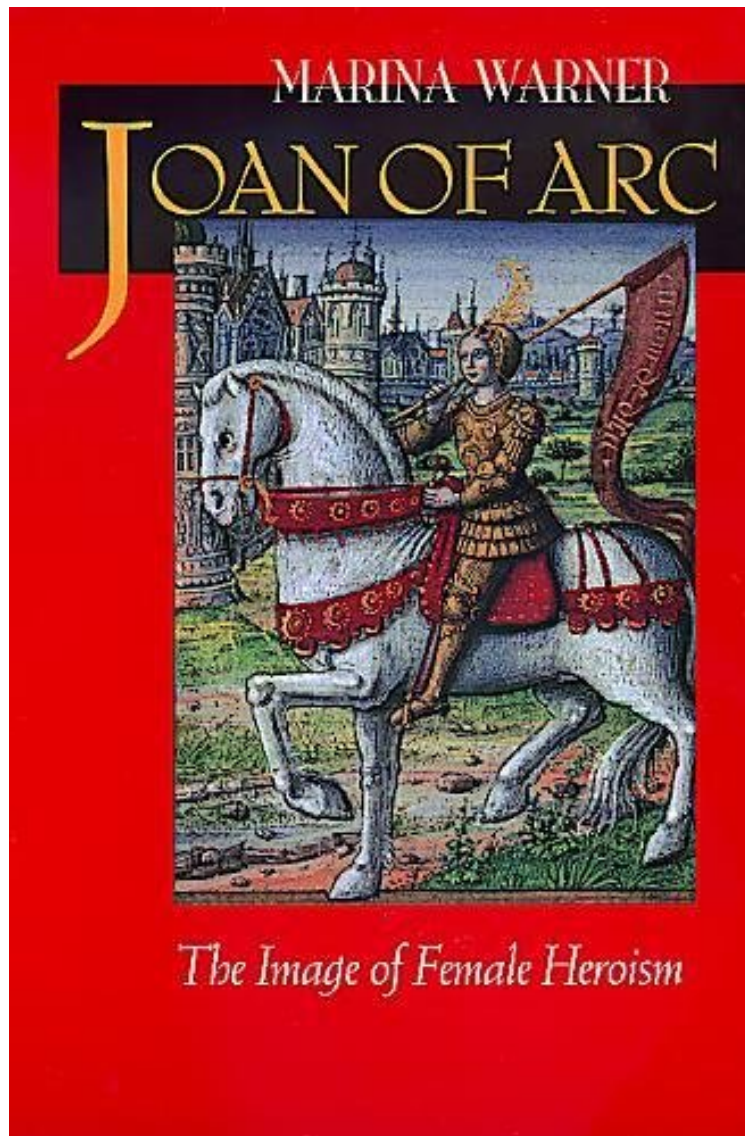


(Read free) Joan of Arc: The Image of Female Heroism

Joan of Arc: The Image of Female Heroism

Marina Warner

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Marina Warner : Joan of Arc: The Image of Female Heroism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Joan of Arc: The Image of Female Heroism:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Book For Understanding the "Myths" of JoanBy Richard EinhornAs some Joan of Arc fans may know, I composed an entire oratorio, Voices of Light, inspired by Joan's story and by Carl Dreyer's great film, The Passion of Joan of Arc. Marina Warner's book was a major influence on the piece.I'm writing this to take issue with other reviewers here who have wrongly, in my mind, eviscerated

Warner's great work. As I'm not an historian, I can't speak to the alleged inaccuracies. What I can say is that the book is clearly not so much about the historical Joan as it is about the various images and "ideas" of Joan that persisted during her lifetime and afterwards. She first achieved hero status, as Warner states, not in the traditional ways that women did - and often still - do but rather through her achievements as an astonishingly brave warrior. Her experience at the trial transcended even that achievement. Since then, Joan's image has been adopted, co-opted, exploited, modified and transformed by numerous, often mutually antagonistic groups: French nationalists, communists (Joan's icon was found in Vietnamese tunnels); gay American women; right wing extremists; and artists. Warner's book describes and analyses this remarkable after-life and does an utterly brilliant job at it. I strongly recommend this book. 26 of 31 people found the following review helpful. fair play and the interpretation of a legend By Julia Walker Warner's book has more archival material and historical background detail than any other single work in this price-range or level of reader-access. Yes, Warner also presents opinions, as scholar/critics tend to do. If, however, you turn to Regine Pernoud for an "unbiased" version of Joan's life -- whatever that might be -- you are on much more dangerous ground. Pernoud conveys opinion by omission; if a document is at odds with her reading of Joan's life or actions, she simply ignores it, leaving it unmentioned. An example of this is a crucial letter Joan dictated on the necessity of taking Paris. Yes, Pernoud IS French (or rather, she was), and she writes as though she has on-line access to 15th-century feelings and personal opinions -- a big problem, in my view. But Pernoud's relentlessly pro-Charles interpretation of events is much more distorting and misleading than anything generated by Warner's British feminism, which is fairly presented as the lense through which the material will be viewed. If you want another good book on Joan, try Charles Wood's study of Joan and Richard II. No one scholar is going to write a book which satisfies everyone on such a complex figure. But Warner is a good place to start reading and/or thinking about Joan of Arc. 9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful and challenging examination of Joan of Arc By R.L. Holly It's good to see this title back in print again, and I can only hope that this new edition also includes the illustrations of the eighties original. Warner discusses many aspects and offers new interpretations of France's most celebrated warrior-mystic. Whether or not one always agrees with her conclusions, her style is engaging and her depth of research and passion for the subject seem unimpeachable. We can probably never fully comprehend the elusive mystery of Jeanne d'Arc, but this book does an admirable job of looking at and evaluating her life and career and placing them in historical and cultural contexts. Regine Pernoud may offer superior histories, and with less of a feminist agenda (some of which now seems rather awkward and dated), but as a series of extended essays and thought-provoking analyses, this book comes highly recommended.

Joan has a unique role in Western imagination--she is one of the few true female heroes. Marina Warner uses her superb historical and literary skills to move beyond conventional biography and to capture the essence of Joan of Arc, both as she lived in her own time and as she has "grown" in the human imagination over the five centuries since her death. She has examined the court documents from Joan of Arc's 1431 Inquisition trial for heresy and woven the facts together with an analysis of the histories, biographies, plays, and paintings and sculptures that have appeared over time to honor this heroine and symbol of France's nationhood. Warner shows how the few facts that are known about the woman Joan have been shaped to suit the aims of those who have chosen her as their hero. The book places Joan in the context of the mythology of the female hero and takes note of her historical antecedents, both pagan and Christian and the role she has played up to the present as the embodiment of an ideal, whether as Amazon, saint, child of nature, or personification of virtue.

"Elegantly written, thoughtful (as one would expect from the author of "Alone of All Her Sex), imaginative, sensitive. Warner ranges through iconographic, allegorical, literary, dramatic, operatic, cinematographic, linguistic, historical, biographical, and political evidence to present a history of Joan and of her subsequent representations."--

"Choice About the Author Marina Warner is a historian and novelist; among her books are No Go the Bogeyman: Scaring, Lulling, and Making Mock (1998), From the Beast to the Blonde: On Fairy Tales and Their Tellers (1995), and Alone of All Her Sex: The Myth and the Cult of the Virgin Mary (1983). She lives in London.