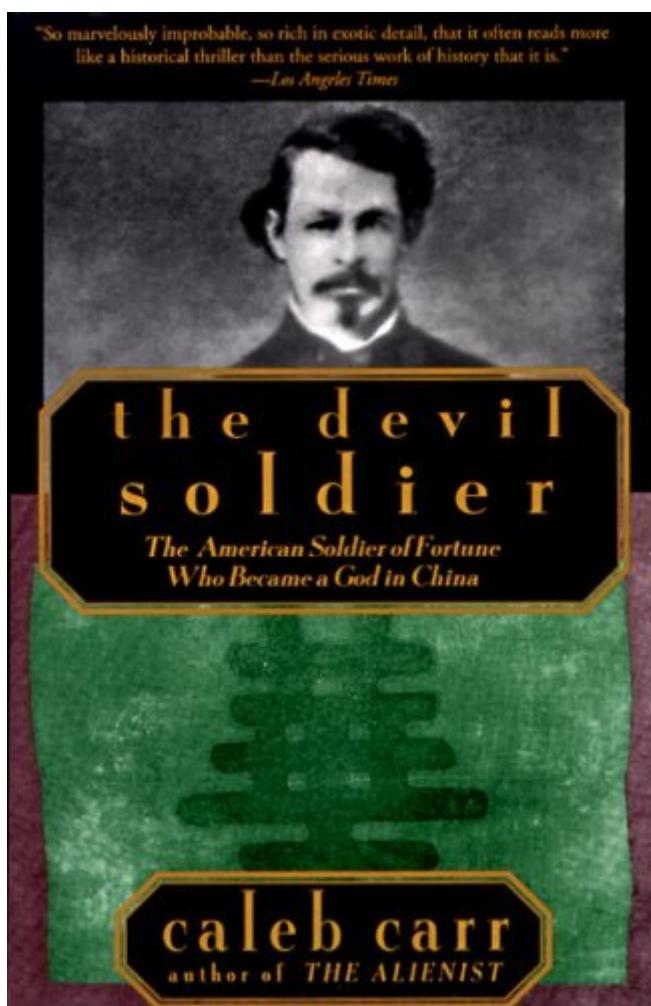


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The Devil Soldier: The American Soldier Of Fortune Who Became A God In China



Synopsis

A courageous leader who became the first American mandarin, Frederick Townsend Ward won crucial victories for the Emperor of China during the Taiping Rebellion, history's bloodiest civil war. Carr's skills as historian and storyteller come to the fore in this thrilling account of the kind of adventurer the world no longer sees.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

ok, this book was a delightful surprise from a master historian. i'd known about Townsend Ward from the treatment of an unmade film script that pitched him in what i quickly (after reading only 100 pages of the book) realised was a totally hollywood light that showed William Walker as somewhat more than he was and TW as his "able lieutenant." in reality, TW deserves much more recognition than WW has gotten - in fact, he is one of the most overlooked figures of the 19th century (an epoch overflowing with "overlooked figures"). enjoy adventure stories? military background stories? china stories? are you a history buff? get the book - you're likely to love it!

I learned much about 19th Century China. If the book were as well written as his novels, I would have liked it more. I found it ponderous. Finally, I gave up and skimmed the last chapter. excellent !

Slow starting off but if the subjects (China, military history, adventure) interest you it is worth sticking to it. The pace of the writing picks up after a bit and the last 2/3 are enjoyable. I do wish there had been more historical pictures and maps.

Great historical account.

Fascinating history, and an early work by Carr, though it frequently suffers most from a lack of the Chinese perspective.

An excellent review of Chinese history and a great story. I would recommend it to anyone - or give as a present to any reader.

Caleb Carr is an excellent historian, but a terrible writer. He covers everything in excessive detail and has more Chinese names in his book than there are in all China! He also uses complex sentences ad nauseum. Reading this book is too stressful for most people. Simple declarative sentences would work much better. We learned those in eighth grade.

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