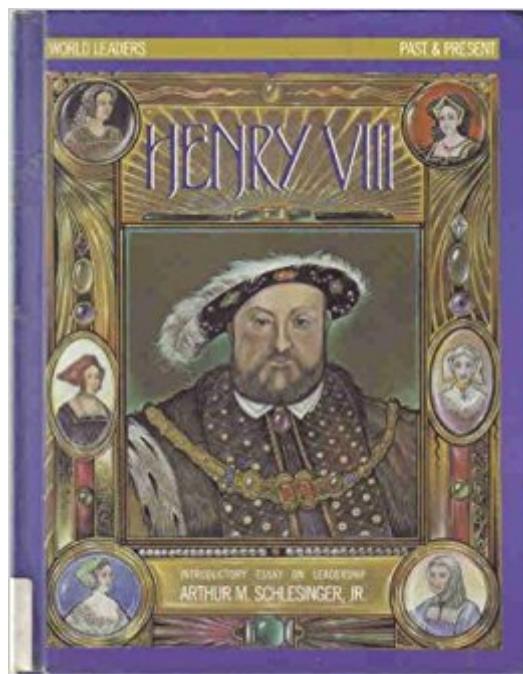


The book was found

Henry VIII (World Leaders Past & Present)



Synopsis

-- Absorbing accounts of the men and women whose ideas and actions have changed the course of history-- Examines each person's life within the context of the politics of the time-- Photographs, engravings, and maps enhance each book

Book Information

Series: World Leaders Past & Present

Library Binding: 112 pages

Publisher: Chelsea House Publications (April 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0877545308

ISBN-13: 978-0877545309

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 7.6 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #938,312 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Europe #305 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Historical

Customer Reviews

ea. vol: 112p. illus. maps. reprods. bibliog. chron. index. (World Leaders Past & Present Series). CIP. Chelsea House. 1988. PLB \$15.95. Grade 7 Up Wide margins and numerous black-and-white illustrations suggest an accessible resource for student reports. However, what is inside these ``biographies'' of Robespierre and Henry VIII is old-fashioned political history, densely packed with a description of governmental issues, wars, and diplomatic crises the kind of history that for generations has made students ask, ``Do we have to know all these dates?'' Between the details of the historical narrative, diligent readers can find a Henry VIII with a ``romping appetite for a new wife'' and a Robespierre whose opponents ``marveled at his zeal,'' but it is only the political persona or public personality that is described. There is no breath of psychological interpretation or evidence of personal relationships or private life as explanation of public actions. The ``stories'' of these world leaders are drawn from speeches, documents, and traditional histories. The results do not make lively reading and do not provide the sense of character or personality one would expect from a biography. The illustrations, mostly engravings from contemporary paintings and portraits, are identified only from the Bettmann Archive, and not by the original artist or source. Shirley Wilton, Ocean County College, Toms River, N.J. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

These books always give a summary view of the leader and their strengths and weaknesses. This book was no exception. Henry VIII became king at a young age. He was progressive and a free spirit. This endured him to the population. Even his break with the Catholic Church raised his popularity. However, as he changed wives and made his desires known, he became an old, fat tyrant. When he passed, people were relieved. These books were written for young readers. They sometimes make the subject too attractive in his/her virtues. Henry had his faults and this should have been stressed in the writing.

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