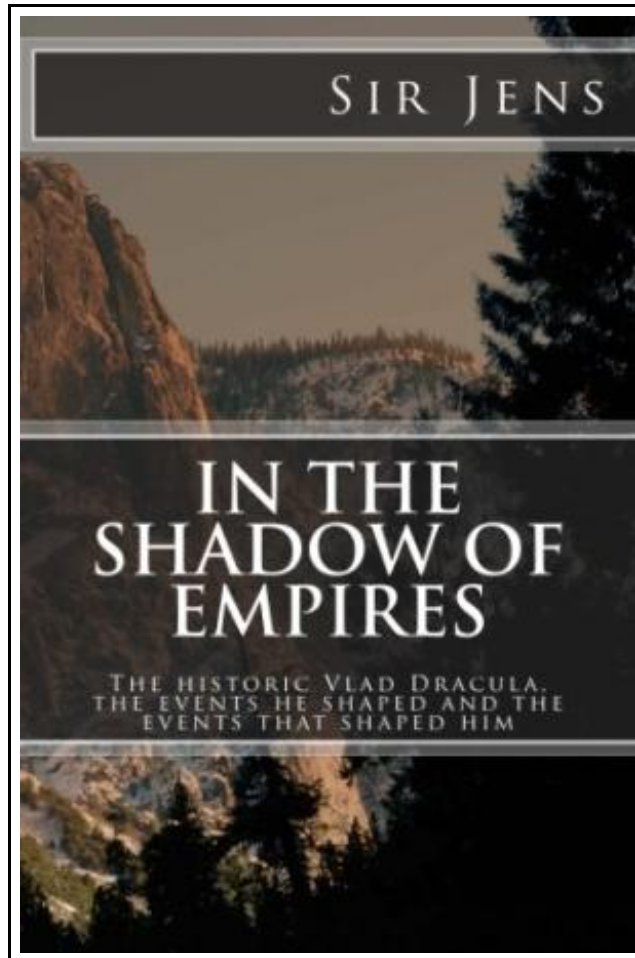


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
IN THE SHADOW OF EMPIRES: THE HISTORIC VLAD DRACULA: THE EVENTS HE SHAPED AND THE EVENTS THAT SHAPED HIM (PAPERBACK)



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First Break Publishing, United Kingdom, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 202 x 134 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Vlad Dracula, three times ruler of Walachia, never once ruler of Transylvania, indeed he left Transylvania at around the age of 7, when his father took the throne in Wallachia and moved his family from Sighisoara to Tirgoviste (and no, he didn't have a castle in Transylvania either. Neither the one in Bran, nor any other). Vlad was given as a hostage to the Ottomans in ca. 1442 and held there until his father's murder in 1448. He then briefly ruled with Ottoman backing. Sent packing, he roamed around until he managed to get the throne back in 1456. He ruled for 6 years in what by many is still seen as a golden period, where crime and anti-social behaviour was as good as eradicated through harsh and very public punishment of those that broke the law (impaling was particularly popular. He had learned that trick from the Ottomans). He enraged Fatih Sultan Mehmet by a series of raids into Ottoman held Bulgaria in the winter of 1461, and in 1462 Mehmet came for him. Following a series of guerrilla skirmishes, Vlad finally withdrew to his bolthole castle in Poienari, which was eventually bombarded by Ottoman cannons and Vlad had to flee to Transylvania. Having had enough of him causing trouble with the sultan, the Hungarian king, Matthias, put him in house arrest for the next 14 years (partly in Budapest), only to support his last reign in Wallachia in 1476, when Matthias needed a strong arm facing the sultan. He was killed in battle in January 1477 and his head was sent to the sultan as proof that his long-time adversary had died....

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