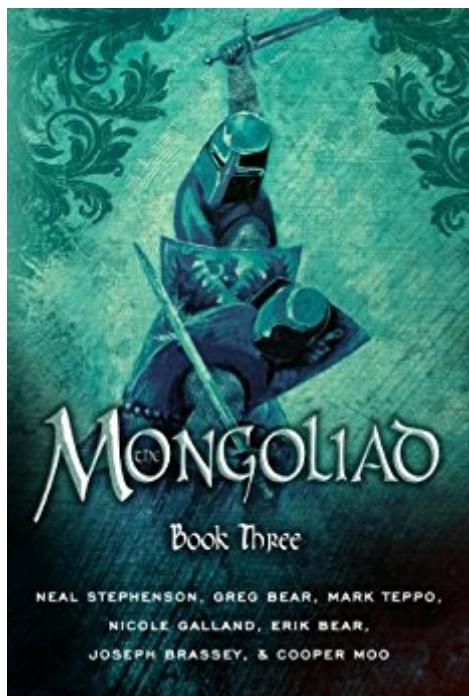


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The Mongoliad (The Mongoliad Series Book 3)



Synopsis

With bonus material! This Kindle edition features extra content only found in the Collector's Edition of The Mongoliad: Book Three, including an illustrated character glossary and a Foreworld map. The final book of the Mongoliad trilogy from Neal Stephenson and company tells the gripping personal stories of medieval freedom fighters to form an epic, imaginative recounting of a moment in history when a world in peril relied solely on the courage of its people. The shadow of Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II hangs over the shattered Holy Roman Church as the cardinals remain deadlocked, unable to choose a new pope. Only the Binders and a mad priest have a hope of uniting the Church against the invading Mongol host. An untested band of young warriors stands against the dissolute Khan, fighting for glory and freedom in the Khan's sadistic circus of swords, and the brave band of Shield-Brethren who set out to stop the Mongol threat single-handedly race against their nemesis before he can raise the entire empire against them. Veteran knight Feronantus, haunted by his life in exile, leads the dwindling company of Shield-Brethren to their final battle, molding them into a team that will outlast him. No good hero lives forever. Or fights alone.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I finally finished this trilogy (prequel?). This review is for the trilogy and not just on this book. If you're a history buff/geek with a focus of the crusades, warrior monk societies, (Knights of the Rose-Cross? Really?!?!), mystics, alchemists, Norse mythology, shamanism, if you're into martial arts tactics that vary from med-evil fencing to eastern martial arts, insights into culture and warfare then this series will fill you like a tankard of well brewed ale. And I'm sure I've missed some as well. I believe the authors have captured a complicated world with characters that are well developed and complex overt as well as covert plot lines. The 4 star rating (more like 4 and a half for me) is because as much as it was a success in creating the complicated world that the authors did, it does drag. I'm hoping its because it needs to set the stage for the rest of the books and I don't like cliff hangers, especially when the story has left what I would consider loose ends. Otherwise, the authors are familiar with their subject matter and can weave a good tale. Recommend for all the above.

This book finally wraps up the many plots introduced in the first two books of the trilogy, and there really isn't much else to say about this, there's really no reason to pick this up except to resolve the old plots. For the most part it is satisfying, the various plots involving Shield Brethren reach their expected conclusions, some of our heroes die, but not without ensuring the demise of their enemies. Even Gansukh and Lian gets a satisfying conclusion to their subplot, though not quite what the reader may have expected or wanted. The battle scenes were impressive and I would love to see this book made into an action movie. The one major problem I have that cost this book a five star rating was the Roman plot concerning Father Rodrigo Bendrito who becomes Pope only to suddenly go all Gollum over the alleged Holy Grail, you can almost hear him saying "My Precious". The entire plot is irrelevant to everything else happening in the story and fails to ever connect. Checking the synopsis for other books that take place after I think it's setting up for later stories, but frankly I would have rather they hadn't wasted so much time on this subplot instead of the main story.

I may have been absent when my high school world history class glossed over the Mongolian invasion of Europe. I vaguely recalled they penetrated as far as Hungary. This series is based on that invasion and the West's fractured efforts to defeat the "Horde". The role of the Catholic Church pitted against non-catholic Christians, martial monks/knights, an empire larger than Alexander the

Greats, all make an intriguing story...full of intrigue. The scope of the Mongol empire, and the logistics of ruling something so far flung, make a great story. This is a series to which you need to commit. At least five books are necessary to get the whole story. Interestingly, the books are written by different authors, yet the voice and pace remain consistent. Highly recommended for the committed few!

The Mongoliad (The Mongoliad Cycle Book 3)The Mongoliad, by Neal Stephenson is a really long book, like all his others, but this one is broken up into three books that appeared episodically. The stories of Mongol invasions of Europe in the thirteenth century, it is told from the perspectives of an order of knights, their witch guide, their political rivals, a mad priest, his native guide and another witch, a Mongol warrior tasked with keeping Ogedai Khan from drinking himself to death, his Chinese mistress, a Japanese giant samurai and a Slavic street urchin. Not quite a cast of thousands, but even Stephenson has his limits (although I may have left several characters out. My limits are much smaller than his, after all). I very much enjoyed the corrupt Catholic church officials electing the mad priest as pontiff just to mess with each other, the crafty Mongol warrior's learning to conquer by wit and not might (and how he gets schooled in this by the Chinese slave who becomes his mistress), the strange camaraderie of the knights and their stranger infighting in the face of the Mongol conquest of Europe with their political rivals...and their audacious plan to stop the Mongol conquest by assassinating Ogedai Khan, surrounded by his army in his native land six thousand miles away. Good luck with that, fellas. I do love Stephenson's digressions into detail, but I'm a shade OCD; your mileage may vary. The story moves along as well as can be expected for as many parts as it has; I'm not sure anyone could tell it any better; certainly nobody has tried anything as long as this lately with such good effect.

This set of books are the most intriguing, thought provoking, instructive and enthralling series I have read. Definitely start with the first and read all the way through the spin off books at the end. The first four books are written by a team of writers and researchers. This could be a disaster, but with the Mongoliad series it is brilliant. Historical research is detailed and rich, the writing is seamless and in one voice, the story is involving, interesting, marvelous. Who knew that the inner story about the Mongoliad Ghengis Khan's children and their struggles to keep their father's empire intact, along side a view into the religiously-affiliated knights' jealousies, clashes and desire to eliminate the Mongol hoard could be so enthralling! If you would like to have a series of incredible books that will stick with you forever, get The Mongoliad Cycle books 1,2,3,4. Feed your mind!

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