

Mercenary Definition World History



Mercenary Definition World History: A Journey Through Time's Hired Swords

The clash of steel, the roar of battle – these images often conjure visions of valiant knights and loyal armies. But throughout world history, a different breed of warrior has played a significant role: the mercenary. This blog post delves into the mercenary definition world history, exploring their diverse roles, motivations, and lasting impact on global conflicts and societies. We'll journey from ancient civilizations to modern times, uncovering the complex realities of these hired soldiers and their contributions – and consequences – to the unfolding narrative of human conflict. Prepare for a fascinating exploration of power, loyalty, and the enduring human thirst for both conquest and profit.

What is a Mercenary? A Comprehensive Definition

At its core, a mercenary definition centers around the principle of hired service. A mercenary is an individual who offers their military skills and services to a state, group, or individual for payment, rather than fighting for their own nation or ideology. This distinguishes them from regular soldiers, who typically swear allegiance to a national army. The motivation is primarily financial, although other factors like personal ambition, adventure, or even political asylum can play a role. Importantly, mercenaries are not inherently immoral; their actions are shaped by the context and the directives of those who employ them.

Distinguishing Mercenaries from other Military Personnel

It's crucial to understand the nuances that differentiate mercenaries from other fighting forces. While often grouped together, mercenaries are distinct from:

Condottieri: Predominantly active in medieval and Renaissance Italy, condottieri were captains who commanded private armies, often comprised of mercenaries. They were essentially military entrepreneurs, negotiating contracts and leading troops on behalf of city-states and powerful families.

Foreign Legionaries: These are soldiers who serve in a foreign army, typically driven by patriotism, opportunity, or escape from a difficult situation in their home country. Their allegiance, however, is to the adopted nation, unlike a mercenary's primarily financial ties.

Private Military Contractors (PMCs): Modern equivalents, PMCs offer specialized military and security services to governments and corporations. While sharing some similarities with historical mercenaries, they are heavily regulated and operate under significantly different legal and ethical frameworks.

Mercenaries Throughout World History: A Chronological Overview

Ancient World Mercenaries: The Spearhead of Empires

The use of mercenaries dates back to antiquity. Ancient Greece and Rome frequently relied on foreign troops, often composed of skilled warriors from various ethnic groups. These mercenaries played a crucial role in expanding empires, securing borders, and suppressing rebellions. Famous examples include the Spartan hoplites, employed by various city-states, and the Gauls, who served in Roman legions. The strategic importance of these foreign fighters is evident in the historical accounts and archaeological evidence.

Medieval and Renaissance Mercenaries: The Rise of the Condottieri

The medieval and Renaissance periods saw the rise of the condottieri in Italy. These powerful captains commanded private armies, often composed of mercenaries, and played a significant role in the political landscape. Their loyalty was frequently bought, leading to shifting allegiances and complex power dynamics. The exploits of condottieri such as Bartolomeo Colleoni and Giovanni Acuto became legendary, shaping the military strategies and political intrigues of the era.

Colonial Era and Beyond: Mercenaries in Global Conflicts

The age of colonialism saw widespread use of mercenaries. European powers employed them in their colonial conquests and subsequent suppression of rebellions. The use of mercenaries continued throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, often playing pivotal roles in various conflicts and wars. The two World Wars, while seeing mass mobilization of national armies, still witnessed the involvement of mercenaries in various capacities.

The Modern Mercenary Landscape: Ethics, Legality, and Controversy

The modern landscape of mercenaries is complex. While the ethical and legal dimensions of their employment remain a point of significant debate, the use of Private Military Contractors (PMCs) continues to grow. These private security firms provide military and security services to governments and private entities, raising questions about accountability, transparency, and potential human rights violations. The role of mercenaries in contemporary conflicts, from Afghanistan to Africa, remains a highly debated topic.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the Hired Sword

From the ancient battlefields to modern conflict zones, mercenaries have played a multifaceted role in world history. Their motivations, tactics, and impact have varied across different eras and geographical locations. Understanding the mercenary definition world history provides essential insight into the dynamics of warfare, power, and the ever-evolving relationship between states, individuals, and the use of force. While often shrouded in controversy, the mercenary's place in history is undeniable, offering a complex reflection on human ambition, loyalty, and the enduring pursuit of power.

FAQs:

1. Were all mercenaries solely motivated by money? While financial gain was a primary driver, other motivations like adventure, political beliefs, and escape from difficult situations also played a role.
2. How did mercenaries impact the development of military tactics and technology? Mercenaries often introduced new fighting techniques and weapons from their regions of origin, influencing the development of military strategies in the countries they served.

3. Are mercenaries legal today? The legality of mercenaries is complex and varies significantly by country and context. While some forms of private military contracting are legal, others remain highly controversial and subject to international laws and treaties.

4. What are the ethical considerations surrounding the use of mercenaries? Ethical concerns include accountability for human rights violations, potential lack of oversight, and the blurring of lines between legitimate warfare and mercenary activity.

5. How have historical accounts of mercenaries shaped our understanding of them? Historical accounts, while often biased towards the perspective of the victors, offer invaluable insights into the experiences, motivations, and impact of mercenaries throughout history. Careful analysis is needed to consider the diverse perspectives and sources.

mercenary definition world history: *Mercenaries and War* National Defense University Press, Sean McFate, 2019-12-18 Mercenaries are more powerful than experts realize, a grave oversight. Those who assume they are cheap imitations of national armed forces invite disaster because for-profit warriors are a wholly different genus and species of fighter. Private military companies such as the Wagner Group are more like heavily armed multinational corporations than the Marine Corps. Their employees are recruited from different countries, and profitability is everything. Patriotism is unimportant, and sometimes a liability. Unsurprisingly, mercenaries do not fight conventionally, and traditional war strategies used against them may backfire.

mercenary definition world history: *Mercenaries* Sarah Percy, 2007-10-11 The main aim of this book is to argue that the use of private force by states has been restricted by a norm against mercenary use. The book traces the evolution of this norm, from mercenaries in medieval Europe through to private security companies in modern day Iraq, telling a story about how the mercenaries of yesterday have evolved into those of today in the process. The norm against mercenaries has two components. First, mercenaries are considered to be immoral because they use force outside legitimate, authoritative control. Second, mercenaries are considered to be morally problematic because they fight wars for selfish, financial reasons as opposed to fighting for some kind of larger conception of the common good. The book examines four puzzles about mercenary use, and argues that they can only be explained by understanding the norm against mercenaries. First, the book argues that moral disapproval of mercenaries led to the disappearance of independent mercenaries from medieval Europe. Second, the transition from armies composed of mercenaries to citizen armies in the nineteenth century can only be understood with attention to the norm against mercenaries. Third, it is impossible to understand why international law regarding mercenaries, created in the 1970s and 1980s, is so ineffective without understanding the norm. Finally, the disappearance of companies like Executive Outcomes and Sandline and the development of today's private security industry cannot be understood without the norm. This book is a project of the Oxford Leverhulme Programme on the Changing Character of War.

mercenary definition world history: *Mercenaries in the Classical World* Stephen English, 2012 This book examines the role of the mercenaries and their influence on the wars of the Classical world down to the death of Alexander the Great. It also looks at the social and economic pressures that drove tens of thousands to make a living of fighting for the highest bidder, despite the intense dangers of the ancient battlefield.

mercenary definition world history: *Mercenaries* Col. Michael Lee Lanning, 2007-12-18 SOLDIERS OF \$\$ Privateers, contract killers, corporate warriors. Contract soldiers go by many names, but they all have one thing in common: They fight for money and plunder rather than liberty, God, or country. Now acclaimed author and war vet Michael Lee Lanning traces the compelling history of these fighting machines—from the “Sea Peoples” who fought for the pharaohs’ greater glory to today’s soldiers for hire from private military companies (PMCs) in Iraq and Afghanistan.

What emerges is a fascinating account of the men who fight other people's wars—the Greeks who built an empire for Alexander the Great, the Nubians who accompanied Hannibal across the Alps, the Irish who became the first to go global in their search for work. Soldiers of fortune have always had the power to change the course of war, and Lanning examines their pivotal roles in individual battles and in the rise and fall of empires. As the employment of contract soldiers spreads in Iraq and America's War on Terrorism—the U.S. paid \$30 billion to PMCs in 2003 alone—Mercenaries offers a valuable inside look at a system that appears embedded in our nation's future. Includes eight pages of photographs

mercenary definition world history: The Modern Mercenary Sean McFate, 2014 Sean McFate lays bare the opaque world of private military contractors, explaining the economic structure of the industry and showing in detail how firms operate on the ground. As a former paratrooper and private military contractor, McFate provides an unparalleled perspective into the nuts and bolts of the industry, as well as a sobering prognosis for the future of war.

mercenary definition world history: Keenie Meenie Phil Miller, 2020 An explosive account of a secret group of mercenaries based on newly declassified documents.

mercenary definition world history: Cyber Mercenaries Tim Maurer, 2018-01-18 Cyber Mercenaries explores the secretive relationships between states and hackers. As cyberspace has emerged as the new frontier for geopolitics, states have become entrepreneurial in their sponsorship, deployment, and exploitation of hackers as proxies to project power. Such modern-day mercenaries and privateers can impose significant harm undermining global security, stability, and human rights. These state-hacker relationships therefore raise important questions about the control, authority, and use of offensive cyber capabilities. While different countries pursue different models for their proxy relationships, they face the common challenge of balancing the benefits of these relationships with their costs and the potential risks of escalation. This book examines case studies in the United States, Iran, Syria, Russia, and China for the purpose of establishing a framework to better understand and manage the impact and risks of cyber proxies on global politics.

mercenary definition world history: *The Hessians* Rodney Atwood, 2002-08-15 A study of the German auxiliaries who fought with the British against the American colonists.

mercenary definition world history: Fortune's Warriors James R. Davis, 2009-12-01 From the jungles of west Africa to the killing fields of the former Yugoslavia, wherever the next global hotspot flares into action, the private military waits, ready to step into the fray. Once they were known as soldiers of fortune. Now, they call themselves military advisors. The honourable history of soldiers-for-hire clashes with the modern distaste for mercenaries. In this compelling and controversial new book, James Davis reveals the shadowy inside world of the multi-billion-dollar international security industry.

mercenary definition world history: The British Way in Warfare 1688 - 2000 (Routledge Revivals) David French, 2014-07-17 First published in 1990, this title examines British defence policy from 1688 onwards; the year in which Britain was successfully invaded for the final time, and which marked a generation of warfare that lasted until 1714, during which Britain came to be known as a major European power. David French considers the strategic alliances that formed and changed throughout the period, and tests his hypotheses in light of the varying paradigms of war, and British wartime and peacetime practices. The ways in which the needs of both the army and the navy have been balanced over time are analysed, with particular attention paid to how parliament allotted money and resources to each. Wars under discussion include the American War of Independence, and the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. A detailed and critical title, this reissue will be of great value to history students studying Early Modern diplomacy, with a particular emphasis on the strategic development of British warfare and policy, and the place of Britain within the European power structure.

mercenary definition world history: The Dark Lord Thomas Harlan, 2016-01-12 Tom Harlan brings his Oath of Empire series to a shattering conclusion in The Dark Lord. In what would be the 7th Century AD in our history, the Roman Empire still stands, supported by the twin pillars of the

Legions and Thaumaturges of Rome. The Emperor of the West, the Augustus Galen Atreus, came to the aid of the Emperor of the East, the Avtokrator Heraclius, in his war with the Sassanad Emperor of Persia. But despite early victories, that war has not gone well, and now Rome is hard-pressed. Constantinople has fallen before the dark sorceries of the Lord Dahak and his legions of the living and dead. Now the new Emperor of Persia marches on Egypt, and if he takes that ancient nation, Rome will be starved and defeated. But there is a faint glimmer of hope. The Emperor Galen's brother Maxian is a great sorcerer, perhaps the equal of Dahak, lord of the seven serpents. He is now firmly allied with his Imperial brother and Rome. And though they are caught tight in the Dark Lord's net of sorcery, Queen Zoe of Palmyra and Lord Mohammed have not relinquished their souls to evil. Powerful, complex, engrossing --Thomas Harlan's Oath of Empire series has taken fantasy readers by storm. The first three volumes, The Shadow of Ararat, The Gate of Fire, and The Storm of Heaven have been universally praised. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

mercenary definition world history: How to Become a Mercenary Barry Davies, 2020-05-19 For anyone who's ever considered a career as a warrior-for-hire—or who just wants to learn more about the lifestyle—How to Become a Mercenary is the ultimate guide to all the history, training, and equipment information you'll ever need! Mercenaries—who are often trained as part of the best Special Forces, including American Delta Force, British SAS, French Foreign Legion, Marines, SBS, SEALs, and many others—perform one of the most dangerous and feared jobs in the world. Their task is to go into remote locations and remove their targets by any means necessary. They are “hired hands,” and have no remorse for their actions. Now, along with Soldier of Fortune magazine, Barry Davies teaches you the training and knowledge that goes into being a mercenary, as well as the history of the profession and how it has evolved. How to Become a Mercenary will teach you everything you've ever needed to know about becoming a mercenary, and also how to excel at it with information on weapons, escape plans, and overall safety. You will learn: • Where and how to find work • How to understand and apply the most modern tactics • What languages to master • Which weapons are preferred • How to disappear after you've completed your job It's always been about the money, but in this book, you will learn all the skills that you must acquire before you take your first job. Just remember: Article 47 of the Geneva Convention states that “a mercenary shall not have the right to be a combatant or a prisoner of war.” Getting caught is not an option, and in this manual, you will learn how to avoid that at all costs.

mercenary definition world history: The African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights in Context Charles C. Jalloh, Kamari M. Clarke, Vincent O. Nmehielle, 2019-05-16 This volume analyses the prospects and challenges of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights in context. The book is for all readers interested in African institutions and contemporary global challenges of peace, security, human rights, and international law. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

mercenary definition world history: Historical Review of Developments Relating to Aggression United Nations, 2003 This report was prepared for the Working Group on the Crime of Aggression at the 8th session of Preparatory Commission, held in September-October 2001. The paper consists of four parts relating to: the Nuremberg tribunal; tribunals establish pursuant to Control Council Law number 10; the Tokyo tribunal; and the United Nations. Annexes contain tables regarding aggression by a State and individual responsibility for crimes against peace. The paper seeks to provide an objective, analytical overview of the history and major developments relating to aggression, both before and after the adoption of the UN Charter.

mercenary definition world history: Migration Michael H. Fisher, 2014 Fisher explores the process of migration chronologically and at levels varying from the migration of an individual community, to larger patterns of the collective movements of major ethnic groups, to the more abstract study of emigration, migration, and immigration.

mercenary definition world history: Carnage and Culture Victor Davis Hanson, 2007-12-18 Examining nine landmark battles from ancient to modern times--from Salamis, where outnumbered

Greeks devastated the slave army of Xerxes, to Cortes's conquest of Mexico to the Tet offensive--Victor Davis Hanson explains why the armies of the West have been the most lethal and effective of any fighting forces in the world. Looking beyond popular explanations such as geography or superior technology, Hanson argues that it is in fact Western culture and values--the tradition of dissent, the value placed on inventiveness and adaptation, the concept of citizenship--which have consistently produced superior arms and soldiers. Offering riveting battle narratives and a balanced perspective that avoids simple triumphalism, *Carnage and Culture* demonstrates how armies cannot be separated from the cultures that produce them and explains why an army produced by a free culture will always have the advantage.

mercenary definition world history: American Military History Volume 1 Army Center of Military History, 2016-06-05 American Military History provides the United States Army--in particular, its young officers, NCOs, and cadets--with a comprehensive but brief account of its past. The Center of Military History first published this work in 1956 as a textbook for senior ROTC courses. Since then it has gone through a number of updates and revisions, but the primary intent has remained the same. Support for military history education has always been a principal mission of the Center, and this new edition of an invaluable history furthers that purpose. The history of an active organization tends to expand rapidly as the organization grows larger and more complex. The period since the Vietnam War, at which point the most recent edition ended, has been a significant one for the Army, a busy period of expanding roles and missions and of fundamental organizational changes. In particular, the explosion of missions and deployments since 11 September 2001 has necessitated the creation of additional, open-ended chapters in the story of the U.S. Army in action. This first volume covers the Army's history from its birth in 1775 to the eve of World War I. By 1917, the United States was already a world power. The Army had sent large expeditionary forces beyond the American hemisphere, and at the beginning of the new century Secretary of War Elihu Root had proposed changes and reforms that within a generation would shape the Army of the future. But world war--global war--was still to come. The second volume of this new edition will take up that story and extend it into the twenty-first century and the early years of the war on terrorism and includes an analysis of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq up to January 2009.

mercenary definition world history: Beyond the River Ann Hagedorn, 2008-06-30 *Beyond the River* brings to brilliant life the dramatic story of the forgotten heroes of the Ripley, Ohio, line of the Underground Railroad. From the highest hill above the town of Ripley, Ohio, you can see five bends in the Ohio River. You can see the hills of northern Kentucky and the rooftops of Ripley's riverfront houses. And you can see what the abolitionist John Rankin saw from his house at the top of that hill, where for nearly forty years he placed a lantern each night to guide fugitive slaves to freedom beyond the river. In *Beyond the River*, Ann Hagedorn tells the remarkable story of the participants in the Ripley line of the Underground Railroad, bringing to life the struggles of the men and women, black and white, who fought "the war before the war" along the Ohio River. Determined in their cause, Rankin, his family, and his fellow abolitionists--some of them former slaves themselves--risked their lives to guide thousands of runaways safely across the river into the free state of Ohio, even when a sensational trial in Kentucky threatened to expose the Ripley "conductors." Rankin, the leader of the Ripley line and one of the early leaders of the antislavery movement, became nationally renowned after the publication of his *Letters on American Slavery*, a collection of letters he wrote to persuade his brother in Virginia to renounce slavery. A vivid narrative about memorable people, *Beyond the River* is an inspiring story of courage and heroism that transports us to another era and deepens our understanding of the great social movement known as the Underground Railroad.

mercenary definition world history: Wellington Rory Muir, 2013-12-03 The leading Wellington historian's fascinating reassessment of the Iron Duke's most famous victory and his role in the turbulent politics after Waterloo. For Arthur Wellesley, First Duke of Wellington, his momentous victory over Napoleon was the culminating point of a brilliant military career. Yet Wellington's achievements were far from over: he commanded the allied army of occupation in

France to the end of 1818, returned home to a seat in Lord Liverpool's cabinet, and became prime minister in 1828. He later served as a senior minister in Peel's government and remained commander-in-chief of the army for a decade until his death in 1852. In this richly detailed work, the second and concluding volume of Rory Muir's definitive biography, the author offers a substantial reassessment of Wellington's significance as a politician and a nuanced view of the private man behind the legend of the selfless hero. Muir presents new insights into Wellington's determination to keep peace at home and abroad, achieved by maintaining good relations with the Continental powers and resisting radical agitation while granting political equality to the Catholics in Ireland rather than risk civil war. And countering one-dimensional pictures of Wellington as a national hero, Muir paints a portrait of a well-rounded man whose austere demeanor on the public stage belied his entertaining, gossipy, generous, and unpretentious private self. "[An] authoritative and enjoyable conclusion to a two-part biography." —Lawrence James, *Times* (London) "Muir conveys the military, political, social and personal sides of Wellington's career with equal brilliance. This will be the leading work on the subject for decades." —Andrew Roberts, author of *Napoleon and Wellington: The Long Duel*

mercenary definition world history: I Want You! Bernard D. Rostker, K. C. Yeh, 2006-09-08 As U.S. military forces appear overcommitted and some ponder a possible return to the draft, the timing is ideal for a review of how the American military transformed itself over the past five decades, from a poorly disciplined force of conscripts and draft-motivated volunteers to a force of professionals revered throughout the world. Starting in the early 1960s, this account runs through the current war in Iraq, with alternating chapters on the history of the all-volunteer force and the analytic background that supported decisionmaking. The author participated as an analyst and government policymaker in many of the events covered in this book. His insider status and access offer a behind-the-scenes look at decisionmaking within the Pentagon and White House. The book includes a foreword by former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird. The accompanying DVD contains more than 1,700 primary-source documents-government memoranda, Presidential memos and letters, staff papers, and reports-linked directly from citations in the electronic version of the book. This unique technology presents a treasure trove of materials for specialists, researchers, and students of military history, public administration, and government affairs to draw upon.

mercenary definition world history: The Brigade: A History, Its Organization and Employment in the US Army, 2004 This work provides an organizational history of the maneuver brigade and case studies of its employment throughout the various wars. Apart from the text, the appendices at the end of the work provide a ready reference to all brigade organizations used in the Army since 1917 and the history of the brigade colors.

mercenary definition world history: The Common Cause Robert G. Parkinson, 2016-05-18 When the Revolutionary War began, the odds of a united, continental effort to resist the British seemed nearly impossible. Few on either side of the Atlantic expected thirteen colonies to stick together in a war against their cultural cousins. In this pathbreaking book, Robert Parkinson argues that to unify the patriot side, political and communications leaders linked British tyranny to colonial prejudices, stereotypes, and fears about insurrectionary slaves and violent Indians. Manipulating newspaper networks, Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, and their fellow agitators broadcast stories of British agents inciting African Americans and Indians to take up arms against the American rebellion. Using rhetoric like domestic insurrectionists and merciless savages, the founding fathers rallied the people around a common enemy and made racial prejudice a cornerstone of the new Republic. In a fresh reading of the founding moment, Parkinson demonstrates the dual projection of the common cause. Patriots through both an ideological appeal to popular rights and a wartime movement against a host of British-recruited slaves and Indians forged a racialized, exclusionary model of American citizenship.

mercenary definition world history: Fighting for a living Erik-Jan Zürcher, 2015-12-15 The military, in one form or another, are always part of the picture. This unique and compelling study investigates the circumstances that have produced starkly different systems of recruiting and

employing soldiers in different parts of the globe over the last 500 years, on the basis of case studies from Europe, Africa, America, the Middle East and Asia. The authors, including Robert Johnson, Frank Tallett and Gilles Weinstein, conduct an international comparison of military service and warfare as forms of labour, and the soldiers as workers. This is the first study to undertake a systematic comparative analysis of military labour, addressing two distinct, and normally quite separate, communities: labour historians and military historians.

mercenary definition world history: The Mercenaries of the Hellenistic World G. T. Griffith, 2014-08-14 Originally published in 1935, this book provides a detailed history of the employment of mercenaries in the Hellenistic period. Griffith discusses how and why mercenaries were used after the death of Alexander the Great by the Seleucids, Ptolemies, the Greek League and other powers active before the rise of Rome, and includes a section contrasting the pay and maintenance of mercenaries in the classical period with that of the Hellenistic period. This book will be of value to anyone with an interest in ancient history and one of the ancient world's most important professions.

mercenary definition world history: Castles, Battles, & Bombs Jurgen Brauer, Hubert van Tuyl, 2008-11-15 Castles, Battles, and Bombs reconsiders key episodes of military history from the point of view of economics—with dramatically insightful results. For example, when looked at as a question of sheer cost, the building of castles in the High Middle Ages seems almost inevitable: though stunningly expensive, a strong castle was far cheaper to maintain than a standing army. The authors also reexamine the strategic bombing of Germany in World War II and provide new insights into France's decision to develop nuclear weapons. Drawing on these examples and more, Brauer and Van Tuyl suggest lessons for today's military, from counterterrorist strategy and military manpower planning to the use of private military companies in Afghanistan and Iraq. In bringing economics into assessments of military history, [the authors] also bring illumination. . . . [The authors] turn their interdisciplinary lens on the mercenary arrangements of Renaissance Italy; the wars of Marlborough, Frederick the Great, and Napoleon; Grant's campaigns in the Civil War; and the strategic bombings of World War II. The results are invariably stimulating.—Martin Walker, *Wilson Quarterly* This study is serious, creative, important. As an economist I am happy to see economics so professionally applied to illuminate major decisions in the history of warfare.—Thomas C. Schelling, Winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Economics

mercenary definition world history: Congo Mercenary Mike Hoare, 2008-01-01 In July 1964, after four years of uneasy independence, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was engulfed by an armed rebellion that spread throughout the country like a bush fire. The rebel soldiers struck terror into the hearts of civilians and National Army soldiers alike. Faced with this situation, the Congolese government hired legendary mercenary leader Mike Hoare to quell the uprising and bring order to the country. In *Congo Mercenary*, Mike Hoare tells the true story of his resolute band of mercenaries during the Congo war. In fascinating detail, Hoare describes how the mercenaries were recruited and trained, and then recounts their adventures through four combat campaigns over an 18-month period during which they liberated Stanleyville, fought rebels in the hinterland, freed hundreds of European hostages and restored law and order to the Congo. Originally published in 1967, and now including a new foreword by Mike Hoare, *Congo Mercenary* is a well-written and historically important account of one of the most brutal rebellions in Africa, as well as an accurate and gritty depiction of the mercenary life.

mercenary definition world history: *The Cambridge History of War: Volume 2, War and the Medieval World* David A. Graff, 2020-10-01 Volume II of *The Cambridge History of War* covers what in Europe is commonly called 'the Middle Ages'. It includes all of the well-known themes of European warfare, from the migrations of the Germanic peoples and the Vikings through the Reconquista, the Crusades and the age of chivalry, to the development of state-controlled gunpowder-wielding armies and the urban militias of the later middle ages; yet its scope is world-wide, ranging across Eurasia and the Americas to trace the interregional connections formed by the great Arab conquests and the expansion of Islam, the migrations of horse nomads such as the Avars and the Turks, the formation of the vast Mongol Empire, and the spread of new technologies – including gunpowder and the

earliest firearms – by land and sea.

mercenary definition world history: The Warrior Ethos Steven Pressfield, 2011-03-02 WARS CHANGE, WARRIORS DON'T We are all warriors. Each of us struggles every day to define and defend our sense of purpose and integrity, to justify our existence on the planet and to understand, if only within our own hearts, who we are and what we believe in. Do we fight by a code? If so, what is it? What is the Warrior Ethos? Where did it come from? What form does it take today? How do we (and how can we) use it and be true to it in our internal and external lives? The Warrior Ethos is intended not only for men and women in uniform, but artists, entrepreneurs and other warriors in other walks of life. The book examines the evolution of the warrior code of honor and mental toughness. It goes back to the ancient Spartans and Athenians, to Caesar's Romans, Alexander's Macedonians and the Persians of Cyrus the Great (not excluding the Garden of Eden and the primitive hunting band). Sources include Herodotus, Thucydides, Plutarch, Xenophon, Vegetius, Arrian and Curtius--and on down to Gen. George Patton, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, and Israeli Minister of Defense, Moshe Dayan.

mercenary definition world history: Armies Without States Robert Mandel, 2002 The book concludes with an assessment of the complexities surrounding responses to security privatization - and an exploration of when, and whether, it should be promoted rather than prevented.--BOOK JACKET.

mercenary definition world history: The Cambridge World History of Violence: Volume 1, The Prehistoric and Ancient Worlds Garrett G. Fagan, Linda Fibiger, Mark Hudson, Matthew Trundle, 2020-03-31 The first in a four-volume set, The Cambridge World History of Violence, Volume 1 provides a comprehensive examination of violence in prehistory and the ancient world. Covering the Palaeolithic through to the end of classical antiquity, the chapters take a global perspective spanning sub-Saharan Africa, the Near East, Europe, India, China, Japan and Central America. Unlike many previous works, this book does not focus only on warfare but examines violence as a broader phenomenon. The historical approach complements, and in some cases critiques, previous research on the anthropology and psychology of violence in the human story. Written by a team of contributors who are experts in each of their respective fields, Volume 1 will be of particular interest to anyone fascinated by archaeology and the ancient world.

mercenary definition world history: The Road to Kalamata Mike Hoare, 1989-10-15 The famous adventurer and mercenary recounts his exploits during the Congo Crisis in this Cold War military memoir. At the close of 1960, the newly formed Independent State of Katanga in central Africa recruited Thomas "Mad Mike" Hoare and his 4 Commando team of mercenary soldiers to suppress a rebellion by Baluba warriors known to torture the enemy soldiers they captured. In The Road to Kalamata, Hoare tells the story of 4 Commando and its evolution from a loose assembly of individuals into a highly organized professional fighting unit. Hoare's memoir presents a compelling portrait of the men who sell their military skills for money. They are, in his words, "a breed of men which has almost vanished from the face of the earth. Originally published in 1989, this edition of The Road to Kalamata features a new foreword by the 20th century's most famous mercenary and one of its most eloquent storytellers.

mercenary definition world history: Mercenaries and their Masters Michael Mallett, 2009-08-19 Michael Mallett's classic study of Renaissance warfare in Italy is as relevant today as it was when it was first published a generation ago. His lucid account of the age of the condottieri - the mercenary captains of fortune - and of the soldiers who fought under them is set in the wider context of the Italian society of the time and of the warring city-states who employed them. A fascinating picture emerges of the mercenaries themselves, of their commanders and their campaigns, but also of the way in which war was organized and practiced in the Renaissance world. The book concentrates on the fifteenth century, a confused period of turbulence and transition when standing armies were formed in Italy and more modern types of military organization took hold across Europe. But it also looks back to the middle ages and the fourteenth century, and forward to the Italian wars of the sixteenth century when foreign armies disputed the European balance of power

on Italian soil. Michael Mallett's pioneering study, which embodies much scholarly research into this neglected, often misunderstood subject, is essential reading for any one who is keen to understand the history of warfare in the late medieval period and the Renaissance.

mercenary definition world history: *The Legal Status of Prisoners of War* Allan Rosas, 1976

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