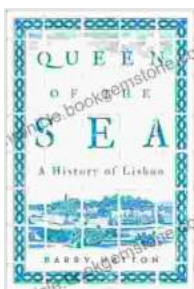


The Queen of the Sea: A Historical Journey into the Maritime Soul of Lisbon

Lisbon, a city built on the banks of the Tagus River and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, has a long and captivating history as a maritime hub. Its strategic location at the mouth of the river and its proximity to the sea have made it a vital center for trade, exploration, and cultural exchange. From the time of the Phoenicians to the present day, Lisbon has played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of Portugal and the broader world.

Phoenician and Roman Roots

The earliest known inhabitants of Lisbon were the Phoenicians, a seafaring people from the eastern Mediterranean. They established a trading post at the mouth of the Tagus River around 1200 BCE, taking advantage of the city's natural harbor and access to the Atlantic Ocean. The Phoenicians named the settlement "Alis Ubbo," meaning "safe haven," a testament to its strategic importance.



Queen of the Sea: A History of Lisbon by Barry Hatton

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled

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Centuries later, the Romans conquered Lisbon and renamed it "Felicitas Julia." They developed the city's infrastructure, including building an aqueduct, baths, and a theater. Lisbon became an important center for Roman trade and administration, connecting the Iberian Peninsula with the rest of the Roman Empire.

Moorish Influence

In 711 CE, the Umayyad Caliphate from North Africa conquered Lisbon. The Moors ruled the city for over 400 years, leaving a lasting imprint on its culture and architecture. They built the Castelo de São Jorge, a formidable fortress that overlooked the city, and introduced new agricultural practices, such as the use of irrigation systems.

Reconquista and Maritime Expansion

In 1147, Lisbon was reconquered by the Portuguese King Afonso Henriques during the Reconquista, a period of Christian conquest of territories controlled by the Moors. The city became the capital of the newly established Kingdom of Portugal.

Under the rule of King Dom João I in the 15th century, Lisbon embarked on a period of maritime expansion that would forever change its destiny. Portuguese explorers set out from Lisbon to discover new lands, establishing trade routes and claiming territories in Africa, Asia, and South America.

The Age of Discovery

Lisbon became the gateway to the Age of Discovery, a time of unprecedented exploration and scientific advancement. Vasco da Gama departed from Lisbon in 1497 and sailed around the Cape of Good Hope,

opening up a sea route to India. In 1500, Pedro Álvares Cabral claimed Brazil for Portugal.

The influx of wealth and knowledge from the discoveries transformed Lisbon into a thriving metropolis. The city became a center for trade, shipbuilding, and cartography. Renowned navigators, such as Ferdinand Magellan and Christopher Columbus, gathered in Lisbon to plan their expeditions.

The 1755 Earthquake and Reconstruction

In 1755, a devastating earthquake and tsunami struck Lisbon, causing widespread destruction and loss of life. The city was largely destroyed, including many of its historic buildings.

Under the leadership of the Marquis of Pombal, Lisbon was rebuilt according to a grand plan that combined Baroque and Neoclassical architecture. The city's iconic waterfront, known as the Terreiro do Paço, was redesigned to be more open and functional.

19th and 20th Centuries

In the 19th century, Lisbon experienced industrial growth and modernization. The city expanded its infrastructure, including the construction of new bridges, railways, and factories. It became a major center for textile production and food processing.

During the 20th century, Lisbon witnessed social and political upheavals. The city was the site of the 1926 revolution that established a dictatorship and its liberation during the Carnation Revolution in 1974. Lisbon also played a crucial role in Portugal's entry into the European Union in 1986.

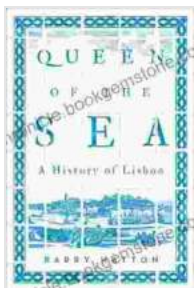
Modern Lisbon

Today, Lisbon is a vibrant modern city that retains its historic charm. It is a major tourist destination, renowned for its beautiful architecture, lively nightlife, and delicious cuisine. Its maritime heritage is still evident in the many museums and monuments dedicated to its seafaring past.

The city's waterfront is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, offering stunning views of the Tagus River and the Atlantic Ocean. The Belém Tower, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stands as a testament to Lisbon's maritime prowess.

Lisbon continues to be a hub for commerce, culture, and innovation. It is home to some of Portugal's leading universities and research institutions, and is a major center for technology and tourism.

Lisbon, the Queen of the Sea, has a rich and fascinating history inextricably intertwined with the sea. From its humble beginnings as a Phoenician trading post to its role as the gateway to the Age of Discovery and beyond, the city has played a pivotal part in shaping human history and culture. Today, Lisbon remains a vibrant and cosmopolitan metropolis that proudly embraces its maritime heritage while continuing to build its future.



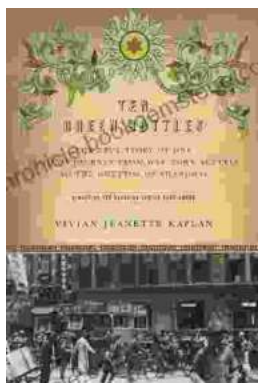
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