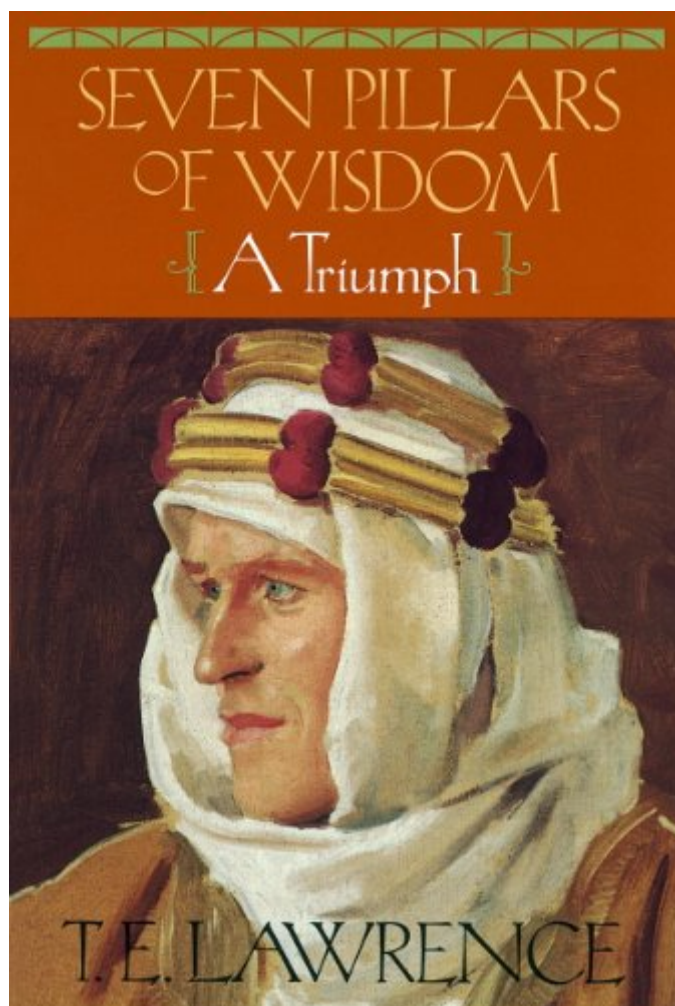


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Seven Pillars Of Wisdom: A Triumph (The Authorized Doubleday/Doran Edition)



Synopsis

In his classic book, T.E. Lawrence—forever known as Lawrence of Arabia—recounts his role in the origin of the modern Arab world. At first a shy Oxford scholar and archaeologist with a facility for languages, he joined and went on to lead the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Turks while the rest of the world was enmeshed in World War I. With its richly detailed evocation of the land and the people Lawrence passionately believed in, its incisive portraits of key players, from Faisal ibn Hussein, the future Hashemite king of Syria and Iraq, to General Sir Edmund Allenby and other members of the British imperial forces, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* is an indispensable primary historical source. It helps us to understand today's Middle East, while giving us thrilling accounts of military exploits (including the liberation of Aqaba and Damascus), clandestine activities, and human foibles.

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Customer Reviews

A superlative intelligence shines through this book. It is a historical memoir and a deep personal

meditation, by turns harsh, humane, strange and profound. Lawrence comes across as a man highly educated, determined, resourceful, sensitive, and tough; there is no false modesty about him. He also shows us, with remarkable frankness, a born outsider and a man tormented by his complicity in great power machinations in Arabia. What a read! Enough said about the original. This book has been around for nearly 100 years. The text of the Kindle edition is shabby. It appears to have been scanned from a printed text using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, and it is full of words that don't belong: the word "life" almost invariably appears as "Me" ("the gift of Me" [chapter 3] looks conceited even for this author); and the name "Ali" frequently appears as "Ah", which complicates the difficulty of tracking the multitude of personal names. There are many other transcription errors to trip the reader. Also, why is the table of contents at the back of the book, where I found it only when I no longer needed it? Come on. You can do better than that!

I own the print edition of this book but there are no maps, so it has been a tough book to follow. However, I received a Kindle for Christmas and I decided to download this edition for the maps. However, to find the maps, you have to guess at the position - there is no Table Of Contents available. The content is also different from the printed edition - I think the intro chapter in each section is missing. Not a big deal for me but others might be disappointed.

Seven Pillars of Wisdom is a great book, and you should read it. BUT; the Wilder Publications version on this page (gray cover, paperback, with a painting of T.E. Lawrence in Arab regalia and with "The Complete 1922 Text" in White on a black background SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS!!! Why? This was clearly put together by some sort of scanned image to text program that has a ton of flaws! Punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphs are all messed up - some letters are transcribed into numbers - because of this some sentences are puzzling to decipher, the publisher should be ashamed! This is especially terrible when one considers the amount of time T.E. Lawrence put into obsessing over the details while writing this book (punctuation, how paragraphs began and ended on specific pages, etc...) I'm disappointed this review will probably be lost in the sea of appropriate praise for this book and more people will probably end up disappointed with this piece of crap.

One star - only to draw attention to the OCR errors of the Kindle edition, which occur every few pages, but are often very distracting. It's an irritation among many or most of the older books converted for the Kindle. Yet the inexpensive paperback edition by Anchor Books is quite the most

lyrical and captivating book imaginable. Who's responsible for this poor conversion to Kindle? The editor, or the publisher? We can complain to a low-level, willing-but-incapable Kindle assistant but get nowhere. Has anyone considered enlisting the aid of the concerned reader? Why not use a Wikipedia-like solution: let the readers who care make the corrections under some monitored system that can not be abused.

The prose of TE Lawrence has a style and beauty all of its own, a journey back in time to an era when the Middle East was in a tribal state that had not changed in centuries. Each of the true life characters introduced by the author lives jumping out from the page surrounded by images of sky and desert a journey of adventure with an extraordinary human being one of the rare individuals of his generation. When I get to journey's end I intend to read *Seven Pillars* a second time as a book like this only comes along once in one's lifetime. I am 82 years of age. Peter Rothwell

If you want to read this historic tome, I urge you to choose a different edition. I'm guessing, but I believe this edition was created by scanning the text from some source and then transferring it to this one, which has caused a great deal of problems including but not limited to missing punctuation, especially missing periods and therefore run-on sentences, missing initial capital letters, missing the starts of new paragraphs, and especially misspellings, in particular of Arab names and place names. It was a struggle to get through it all! So, do yourself a favor and choose a different edition.

As is almost always the case, the book sheds a lot of light in a much more detailed way than the "Lawrence of Arabia" movie based on it, on how the modern map, and leaderships, of Arabia, Mesopotamia, and the Levant was created during/after WW I. Details, and insights into people, events, geography, ...etc from up-close, albeit one person's view/opinion, that probably only the very knowing of today's "experts" are aware of. One also gets a good glimpse at how a colonial power operated. I thought it was a timely reading, of such an old book, given all that has been happening in that area over the past 2-3 years, where the old designs may end up exploding at the seams. The book may have too much details for someone with a limited interest in the area. I will echo here the frustrations I saw in other reviews, of the poor quality of the Kindle edition. There are a lot of typos, which on more than one occasion created some confusion as to what the author really meant to say. I don't think the low price can be an excuse. They should probably never release a book like this at this low quality.

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