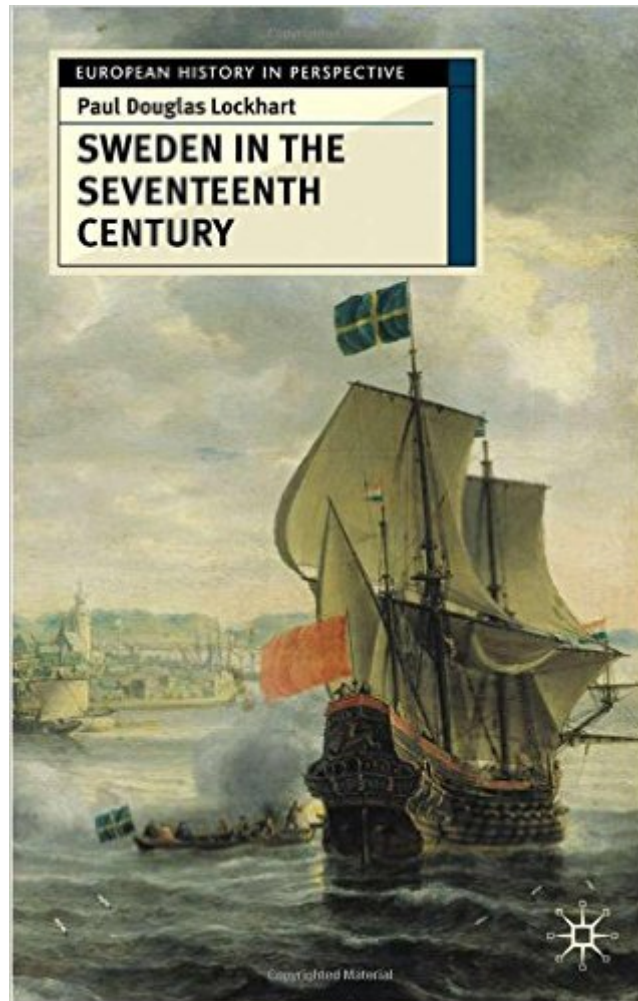


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Sweden In The Seventeenth Century (European History In Perspective)



Synopsis

This is a survey of the point in history when Sweden rose to preeminence in Europe. Drawing on the latest literature in Swedish and other languages, Paul Lockhart examines the institutions of the Swedish 'empire' at the height of its influence, while focusing on the key historical questions: why did this impoverished state become a great power, how was it able to maintain this status, and what brought about its eventual decline?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was purchased through [Amazon's U.K. site](#). In his history of Sweden in the 17th century Prof. Lockhart writes about King Karl X Gustav's July 1655 invasion of Poland-Lithuania. In the last third of page 96 he mentions Karl X Gustav gaining the support of Prince Răjki czi of Transylvania. He goes on to say that Prince Răjki czi's subsequent invasion of Poland raised "the specter of Hapsburg intervention." Prof Lockhart does not mention that Transylvania was a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire. Both Karl X and Răjki czi knew that Ottoman vassal states had to have advance approval of any sort of alliance. This point seems as important a factor as Hapsburg concern. Sweden sent a delegation to Turkey in early 1657 to seek the required approval for a Swedish-Transylvanian alliance. The Turkish Grand Vizier, Kâprî Mehmed Pasha, opposed any alliance between Sweden and Transylvania. The Ottomans invaded Transylvania in the spring of 1657 to punish Răjki czi for invading Poland without approval - while Răjki czi was in Poland. He was defeated in July of 1657 and returned to Transylvania without most of his army. He fought two Turkish invasions (1657 and 1658 - 1660) and ended up dying of battle wounds in June of

1660. After his death Turks and the Hapsburgs essentially divided up Transylvania. Sweden's 1657 ambassador, Claes Rånby, wrote a report to Karl X Gustav which was subsequently translated into English. A careful review of that report raises all sorts of questions about Karl X Gustav's motives and plans. Karl X Gustav essentially used Rånby and then abandoned him.

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