



The Third Horseman: Climate Change and the Great Famine of the 14th Century

By Rosen, William.

Viking. 1 Paperback(s), 2014. soft. Book Condition: New. In May 1315, it started to rain, and for the seven disastrous years that followed, Europeans would be visited by a series of curses unseen since the book of Exodus: floods, ice, failures of crops and cattle, epidemics of disease, and spasms of war. All told, six million lives a full eighth of Europe's population would be lost. William Rosen, the author of *Justinian's Flea* and *The Most Powerful Idea in the World*, explains how these factors created the worst famine in European history, telling the story with wit and drama. "Rosen argues persuasively that natural disasters are most catastrophic when humankind's actions give them a push. The depredations committed in battle by Englishmen and Scots were augmented by years of bad weather: the result was that people died in droves." *Library Journal* "Rosen is a terrific storyteller and engaging stylist; his vigorous recaps of famous battles and sketches of various colorful characters will entertain readers. Rosen's principal goal, however, is not to horrify us, but to make us think. While vividly re-creating a bygone civilization, he invites us to look beyond our significant but ultimately superficial differences and recognize that we too live in fragile equilibrium with..."



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