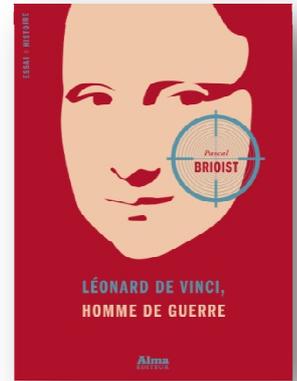


Pascal Brioiist
Léonard de Vinci, homme de guerre
Essay/History



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As a military engineer in the service of Cesare Borgia, Leonardo da Vinci devoted most of his time to matters of war. This book tells the story of Leonardo among the noise and fury of the battlefield that was part of the Italian Renaissance.

Offering his services to Ludovico il Moro, duke of Milan, Leonardo da Vinci boasted of ten aspects of his talents as an engineer: bridge-building, siege engines, fortifications, bombards, tanks, catapults and more. Painting was last on his list. Using overlooked and often completely new sources, the historian Pascal Brioiist follows the career of this ambitious man who travelled Italy in the service of warlords and politicians. Whether designing weapons for use by foot soldiers against cavalry or perfecting gunpowder, nothing seemed impossible to this indefatigable military engineer. Leonardo was fascinated by Cesare Borgia and became one of his closest collaborators. Pascal Brioiist brings to life the tremendous vitality, brutality and sophistication of the Italian Renaissance during this period in Leonardo's life. He also shows us the traumas that Leonardo suffered through his experience of the massacres and destruction of war. This is a very different Leonardo da Vinci from the visionary and 'ecologist' that some people like to imagine.

THE AUTHOR

A specialist in cultural history, Pascal Brioiist has also produced important work on the history of science and technology. A professor at François Rabelais University in Tours, together with Hervé Drévilion and Pierre Serna he published *Croiser le fer* (2002), a history of the sword in combat. He was also behind the scientific design of the Parc Léonard de Vinci at Le Clos Lucé in Amboise.

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