

# The Days of the Warlords

*Paul A. Blaum*

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#7938311 in Books University Press Of America 1994-10-25Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.44 x .38 x 5.36l, .0 #File Name: 0819196576142 pages | File size: 52.Mb

**Paul A. Blaum : The Days of the Warlords** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Days of the Warlords:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good book on an overlooked subject.By Tom Speight (tspeight@anselm.edu)This short but very good book is a summary and analysis of mostly internal events in the Byzantine Empire. The main subject is the rise to dominance of the Phokas and Skleros "warrior families," who came to dominate the command positions Empire's army during this, the military apogee of the Empire. The book is fairly concise, though it is a little thin on background details and context, making it most suitable for someone who knows what's going on already. Ostrogorsky's "History of the Byzantine State" can fill in any holes here, though. The in-depth analysis is very good. All in all, a very good book on an often-overlooked period of history.

This book, while it deals primarily with civil conflicts between the Byzantine Emperor Basil II and the warrior-aristocrats Bardas Phocas and Bardas Sclerus, casts considerate light on Christian-Muslim relations in the Middle East during the century immediately preceding the crusades. These interactions-sometimes hostile, sometimes surprisingly intimate-occurred during that one period between the mid-tenth and mid-eleventh century when Shi'ite Islam, not Sunni Islam, dominated the Muslim world. The ethnic and secretarian fragmentation that marks present-day Islam was already well in place at the end of the tenth century.

About the Author Paul A. Blaum is a writer and an editor with the Department of Public Information at Pennsylvania State University.