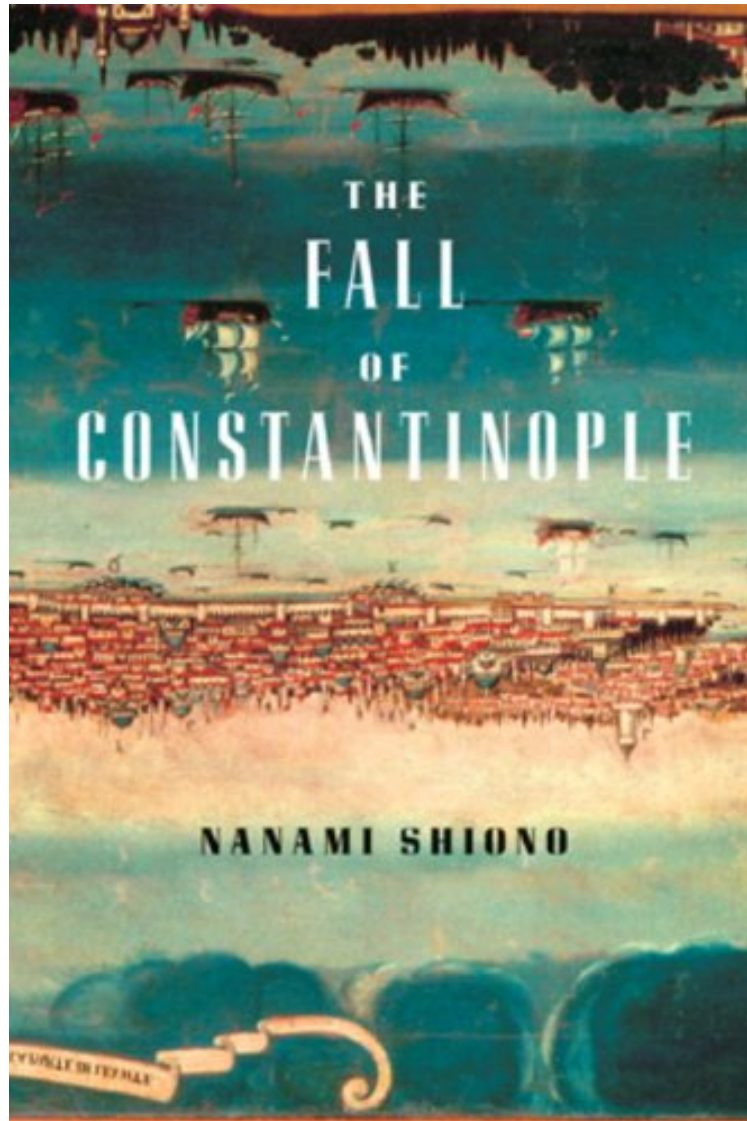


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## The Fall of Constantinople

*Nanami Shiono*

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**Nanami Shiono : The Fall of Constantinople** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fall of Constantinople:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, shorter description of the eventsBy G. StuccoGood, shorter description of the events. Better yet, 1453 by Crowley. I recommend all books by Shiono: her writing style is enjoyable.9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. amazing history novelBy Julius CaesarI love Nanami Shiono and I read this book in Japanese first. She is such a great writer. Any translation can't be exact, especially from

Asian language to English is not easy and vice versa. We lose the atmosphere and nuances of each sentence or the image we share when we hear a certain vocabulary. It's not the translator's but us who don't know enough about each other's culture. Still the story line of book is great and very entertaining. If you're interested in history and want to know more about the war between muslim and christian, this book will definitely get you some good insights. 9 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Simplistic By Bothell Reader This book, and its 2 companion volumes, are very simplistic accounts of pivotal moments in renaissance mediterranean history. As history they are very limited. There are no notes, no bibliographies, no indexes and very limited maps. Worse, for books purporting to be history, their writing style is juvenile and contrived, more suited to maybe a sixth grade class room than adult history. The books are marred by made up conversations and situations, to perhaps illustrate history, but certainly nothing that was found in whatever research the author might have done. I can't really see how this writer is the most loved historian in Japan, based on these books. Perhaps the translator has simplified the language and ideas, who knows. So, if you have a grade school or junior high child who wanted an introduction to these events, they might be useful, but for adult reading they should be bypassed. All in all, very disappointing efforts for someone who claims to be a historian.

The Roman Empire did not meet its end when barbarians sacked the City of Seven Hills, but rather a thousand years later with the fall of Constantinople, capital of the surviving Eastern Empire. The Ottoman Turks who conquered the city also known to us as Byzantium would force a tense century of conflict in the Mediterranean culminating in the famous Battle of Lepanto. The first book in a triptych depicting this monumental confrontation between a Muslim empire and Christendom, *The Fall of Constantinople* brilliantly captures a defining moment in the two creeds' history too often eclipsed by the Crusades.

About the Author Nanami Shiono is the preeminent author of popular history in Japanese today. In survey after survey, the most powerful Japanese politicians and industrialists (many of whom she counts as personal friends) name her as their favorite author, and she enjoys a degree of influence in public discourse that few authors anywhere could hope to match. In 1970, the same year she won the first of many literary awards for her early masterpiece *Cesare Borgia, or Elegant Cruelty*, she moved permanently to her adopted home of Italy. Although she first rose to prominence as an author of works set in Renaissance Italy, her expertise has widened to include the Mediterranean as a whole, as well as ancient Rome (which she treats in her bestselling fifteen-volume history, *The Tale of the Romans*). The *East Mediterranean Trilogy*, completed in 1987, remains among her most enduringly popular works. The first volume, *The Fall of Constantinople*, is available from Vertical, as well as *The Siege of Rhodes* and the last volume, *The Battle of Lepanto*.