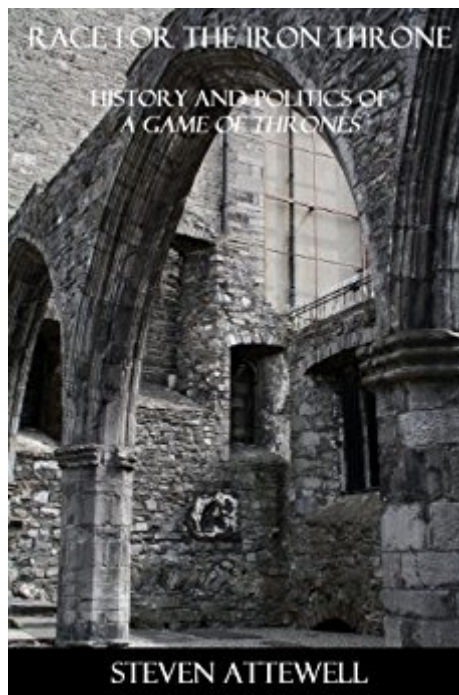


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Race For The Iron Throne: Political And Historical Analysis Of "A Game Of Thrones"



Synopsis

A GAME OF THRONES How would you like to read A Game of Thrones with a PhD by your side? Steven Attewell, creator of Race for the Iron Throne (racefortheironthrone.wordpress.com), is one of the most insightful scholars in political theory and history, but instead of devoting his talents to academia, he's delving into George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire saga to give the most comprehensive deconstruction and explanation yet offered. Each one of Thrones's 73 chapters is broken down in meticulous detail in four key areas. The Political and Historical Analyses explore the political ramifications that each character's decisions entail while digging into the real-world historical incidents that inspired Martin's narrative twists and turns. What If? offers up a tantalizing look at how these political and historical elements could have played out in dozens of alternative scenarios, underscoring the majesty and complexity of Martin's storytelling. And Book vs. Show looks at the key differences both good and bad between the story as originally conceived on the printed page and as realized in HBO's Game of Thrones. At nearly 204,000 words, it's literally impossible to imagine a more exhaustive or authoritative reading companion for any novel ever before published. Note: there are spoilers for all five published novels in the Song of Ice and Fire series.

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Race for the Iron Throne

political, historical, and hypothetical examination of all of A Game of Thrones

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About the author

Steven Attewell is the author of Race for the Iron Throne, a blog that examines the history and politics of the Song of Ice and Fire series and HBO's Game of Thrones. He has a recent PhD in History from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he studied the history of public policy and was a political and union activist. In addition to Race for the Iron Throne, Steven is also a co-podcaster on Game of Thrones at the Lawyers, Guns, and Money podcast, writes about public policy at the Realignment Project, and is a co-author of the upcoming Tower of the Hand: A Hymn for Spring anthology book.

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Customer Reviews

If you have read all the books, seen all the episodes multiple times, and are counting down to next week's episode then this is the book you need to read. The GOT universe is rich and complex, and the story lines are so intricate and move so quickly that it's nice to slow down and revisit the series with Attewell's chapter by chapter recaps. Attewell adds an interesting layer and fresh take on GOT with his political, economic, and historical analysis as well as a comparison of the show and the books. The What If sections offer interesting hypotheticals that read like a post-show conversation with your smartest friends. Overall a fun and interesting book that reads well and brings the best part of the GOT throne into sharper focus.

Despite his unfortunate misspelling of the name "Stephen," Mr. Attewell gives solid literary and historical perspective on both the Song of Ice and Fire, and the companion show "Game of Thrones." As a history geek myself, I especially enjoy the correlation of actual historic characters

and events. As a political wonk, I enjoy the way he assesses and compares the various strengths and failings of the characters as political players. The comparison of the book to the show is also spot on and highly enjoyable. If you enjoy the books or the series, or both, you will find your enjoyment enhanced by this. Highly recommended.

Even before the HBO series, *Game of Thrones* was already a modern classic of the genre. But what *Race for the Iron Throne* explores are the political and historical roots of the series. Witty and insightful, this book does not stop at comparing the characters to their historical analogues but also provides cultural context to their decisions and explores how very differently things could have turned out. I highly recommend this book to fans of Martin's books, the tv series, or simply fans of medieval history.

For those hooked on "Thrones" this is a good companion book. The author clearly knows his way around Martin's mythical world of Westeros, and the comparisons with 16th century England and the reign of the British kings, along with other metaphors from history, make this something a lot more substantial than a fan boy book. I've seen every show and read the novels more than once (I admit it took some effort to wrap my head around GRR's heavily mythical and fantastic world at first, and I have met some people who just gave up - but it did come together for me after just a little trying) and unusual for an essay type book, this one bears re-reading once or twice. Unfortunately, please know the book only goes up to Season 3 with reference to the TV series, which means that really a volume 2 from the same author, would really be ideal for the fullest understanding of all 5 books and seasons. The author's discussion of the characters and events often hits dead center, answers many questions the reader might have, and is one of the best companion books so far. Very good reading and some pretty good explanations, and intelligent speculation about the many, many character's actions, motivations, desires, fears, and reasoning - in some passages you can almost see inside a given character's head for a time, so here and there in the book are quite a few revealing moments. Until S6 starts again in June 16, this might help ease the withdrawal a little for GOT fans...

One of the most powerful aspects of the *Song and Ice and Fire* series is the way George R.R. Martin uses his detailed knowledge of medieval history and feudal politics to create a credible, lived-in world of real people and political dynamics. Readers of the books who don't share Martin's knowledge of the feudal world benefit from the visceral authenticity of the series, but miss much of

subtlety woven into the narrative. Attewell's brilliant work elucidates the obscure historical parallels in Martin's oeuvre, and highlights the understated political dynamics hinted at behind the narrative. It works as a fantastic companion piece to the novels for new readers and obsessive fans alike. Hardcore fans will find rereading the novels a much more enriching experience with Attewell's companion piece at their side. Those who have resisted the books as "unserious" fantasy will be pleasantly surprised at the layers of historical and political subtlety that Attewell brings out in Martin's work. And casual fans will find Attewell's clear explanations of the plot dynamics helpful in making sense of the often complicated narrative. If you enjoy Game of Thrones, this book will be the best six bucks you can spend.

This is an amazing piece of work filled with compelling analysis, intriguing theories, and fascinating historical parallels for the tales of ASOIAF. Well thought out, mostly well written (with a healthy dose of TV Tropes lingo and a very internet-friendly style), and surprisingly fun to read, its only flaws are from a lack of proofreading and editing as the writing is awash with typos, punctuation errors, and the occasional clumsy sentence. The entire book looks like it was written and published in a single draft, and the numerous links and references to previous pages clearly show its origins as a blog. Nonetheless, the entertaining and informative quality of the content make this a must for any hardcore fan, as well as casual fans who want a better grip on the books.

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