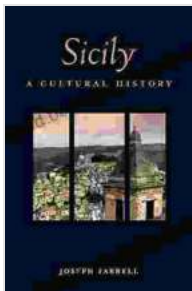


Sicily Cultural History: Interlink Cultural Histories

Sicily, a vibrant island in the Mediterranean Sea, boasts a rich and diverse cultural history. From prehistoric settlements to the Baroque era, the island has witnessed numerous civilizations and empires, each leaving their mark on the island's cultural tapestry. This article explores the interlink cultural histories that have shaped Sicily's unique cultural heritage.



Sicily: A Cultural History (Interlink Cultural Histories)

by Joseph Farrell

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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File size : 3396 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 376 pages



Prehistoric Sicily

The earliest evidence of human habitation in Sicily dates back to the Paleolithic era, around 500,000 years ago. During the Neolithic period (c. 6000-3000 BCE), the island was home to several indigenous cultures, including the Sicani and the Elymians. These cultures developed their own distinct languages, customs, and beliefs.

Phoenician and Greek Colonization

In the 8th century BCE, Phoenician traders from the Levant established settlements in Sicily. They founded the cities of Palermo, Marsala, and Mazara del Vallo, and introduced their alphabet, religion, and architecture to the island. In the 6th century BCE, Greek colonists arrived in Sicily and founded several cities, including Syracuse, Agrigento, and Selinunte. The Greeks brought with them their advanced civilization, including their philosophy, literature, and art.

Roman Period

In the 3rd century BCE, Sicily became a Roman province. The Romans brought with them their own language, law, and administration. They also introduced new agricultural techniques and infrastructure, such as roads and aqueducts. Sicily became a major center of Roman agriculture and trade, and its cities flourished.

Byzantine Period

After the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century CE, Sicily came under the control of the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantines introduced their own form of Christianity to the island, and built numerous churches and monasteries. They also continued to develop the island's economy and infrastructure.

Arab and Norman Periods

In the 9th century CE, Sicily was conquered by the Arabs. The Arabs introduced their own culture and religion to the island, and built several mosques and palaces. They also introduced new agricultural crops, such as citrus fruits and sugar cane. In the 11th century CE, Sicily was conquered by the Normans. The Normans introduced their own feudal

system and built numerous castles and cathedrals. They also patronized the arts and sciences, and Sicily became a center of learning and culture.

Spanish and Baroque Periods

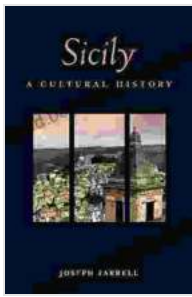
In the 13th century CE, Sicily came under the control of the Spanish. The Spanish introduced their own language and culture to the island, and built numerous churches and palaces in the Baroque style. Sicily became a major center of the Baroque movement, and its cities are filled with beautiful Baroque architecture.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Sicily is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which attest to the island's rich cultural history. These sites include the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, the Baroque towns of Val di Noto, and the Mount Etna volcano. These sites are a testament to the interlink cultural histories that have shaped Sicily's unique cultural heritage.

Sicily's cultural history is a complex and fascinating one. Over the centuries, the island has been home to numerous civilizations and empires, each of which has left its mark on the island's cultural tapestry. From prehistoric settlements to the Baroque era, Sicily's cultural history is a testament to the interlink cultural histories that have shaped the island's unique heritage.

- [Lonely Planet Sicily](#)
- [Rough Guides Sicily](#)
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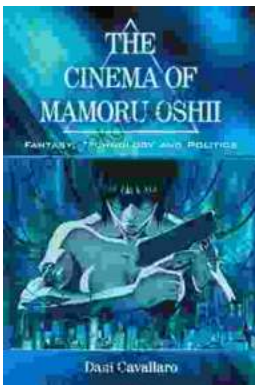


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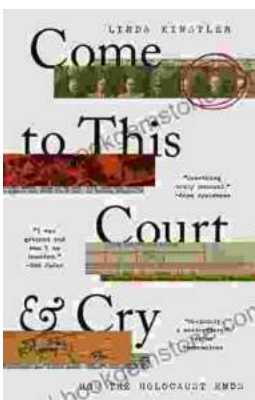
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