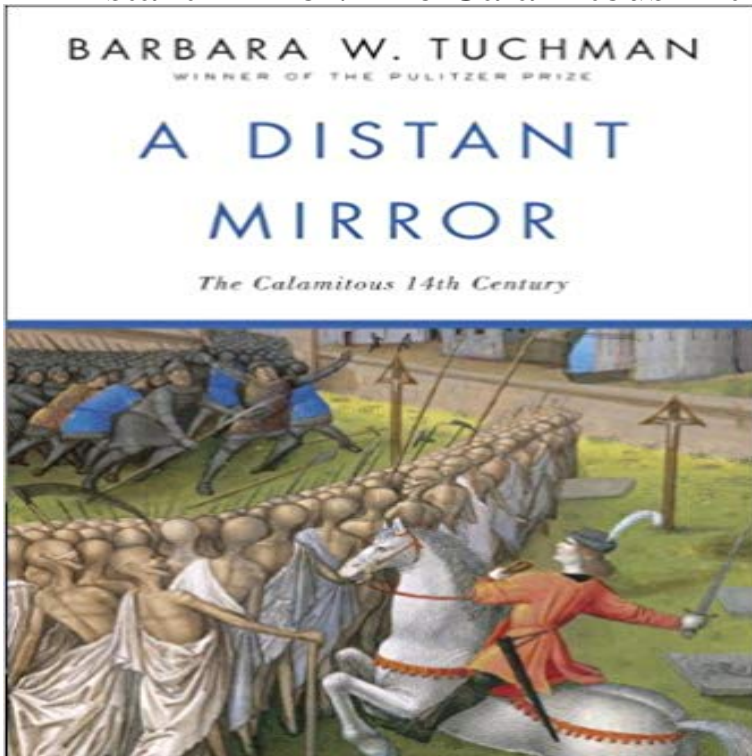


A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century



Barbara W. Tuchman the acclaimed author of the Pulitzer Prizewinning classic *The Guns of August* once again marshals her gift for character, history, and sparkling prose to compose an astonishing portrait of medieval Europe. The fourteenth century reflects two contradictory images: on the one hand, a glittering age of crusades, cathedrals, and chivalry; on the other, a world plunged into chaos and spiritual agony. In this revelatory work, Barbara W. Tuchman examines not only the great rhythms of history but the grain and texture of domestic life: what childhood was like; what marriage meant; how money, taxes, and war dominated the lives of serf, noble, and clergy alike. Granting her subjects their loyalties, treacheries, and guilty passions, Tuchman re-creates the lives of proud cardinals, university scholars, grocers and clerks, saints and mystics, lawyers and mercenaries, and, dominating all, the knight in all his valor and furious follies, a terrible worm in an iron cocoon. Praise for *A Distant Mirror* Beautifully written, careful and thorough in its scholarship . . . What Ms. Tuchman does superbly is to tell how it was. . . . No one has ever done this better. *The New York Review of Books* A beautiful, extraordinary book . . . Tuchman at the top of her powers . . . She has done nothing finer. *The Wall Street Journal* Wise, witty, and wonderful . . . a great book, in a great historical tradition. *Commentary* NOTE: This edition does not include color images.

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