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Queen Victoria's mysterious daughter: a biography of Princess Louise, Lucinda Hawksley (book review)

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BIOGRAPHY

Bellinger, Vanya Eftimova. *Marie von Clausewitz: The Woman Behind the Making of On War*. Oxford Univ. Nov. 2015. 304p. illus. notes. bibliog. ISBN 9780190225438. \$29.95; ebk. ISBN 9780190225452. BIOG

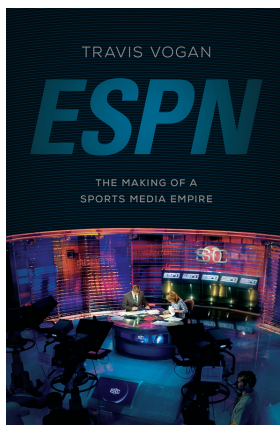
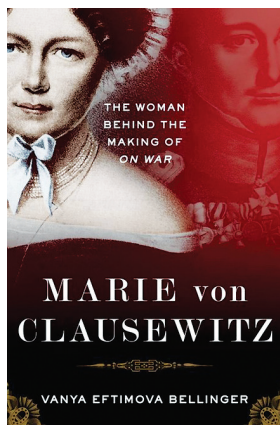
Carl von Clausewitz's *On War* is considered to be one of the most important treatises on military theory. What is not so well known about this seminal work, however, is the role played by Marie von Bruhl (1779–1836), the wife of the famed theoretician, in honing her husband's ideas and in editing and posthumously publishing the famed manuscript. In this first-ever, comprehensive biography, historian and journalist Bellinger aims to uncover Marie's contributions. This impressively researched and richly illustrated account details a modern intellectual partnership. Challenging previous Clausewitz biographers who minimize or misinterpret

Fox, Robin Lane. *Augustine: Conversions to Confessions*. Basic. Nov. 2015. 688p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780465022274. \$35; ebk. ISBN 9780465061570. BIOG

Fox (classics, Oxford Univ.; *The Classical World*; *Alexander the Great*) adds another weighty tome to his long list of impressive works on ancient history. This volume follows the life of the North African saint Augustine (354–430), beginning, as the author's previous work *Confessions* does, with his childhood. His complicated youth follows, in which the young man takes a concubine, fathers a son, and accepts a heretical Manichaean gospel. Augustine is then transformed many times, undergoing several conversions. Fox presents the various contexts and many philosophies that influenced his subjects, including a substantial discussion of Manichaean and Platonic philosophy; all the

Hawksley, Lucinda. *Queen Victoria's Mysterious Daughter: A Biography of Princess Louise*. Thomas Dunne: St. Martin's. Dec. 2015. 384p. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781250059321. \$27.99; ebk. ISBN 9781466863903. BIOG

Intending to write a biography on the artistic life of Queen Victoria's sixth child, Hawksley (*The Mystery of Princess Louise*) contacted the Royal Archives (UK), only to be informed that the files of Princess Louise (1848–1939) were closed to researchers. Intrigued, the author pressed further, and her project became an attempt to unravel the mysteries shrouding many aspects of the princess's life. Hawksley is on solid footing in her exploration of Louise as an unconventional princess out of step with both her family and her era. The author's pinpointing of the supposed reason for the official secrecy on her subject—the long-standing rumor that the princess bore and surrendered an illegitimate child—is less successful. While the suggestion has potentially plausible elements, the reliance on supposition and matching up dates rather than definite evidence means it never rises above the level of hypothesis. **VERDICT** This biography is strong in its presentations of its subject's personality and social circles but stumbles to fill in the gaps of Marie's life and hampered by Hawksley's decision not to include in-text citations. Interested readers might find Jehanne Wake's *Princess Louise: Queen Victoria's Unconventional Daughter* worth exploring.—**Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans**



Great minds behind military theory, Elizabeth II as a young lady, the birth of sports television

the nature of their marriage, Bellinger argues that Marie was instrumental to the development of Carl's thinking and brings to light understudied aspects of the couple's life and times. Included are important observations about early 19th-century class and gender relations, insights into the positions women held during the Napoleonic Wars, and clarifications as to the connections between Clausewitz and later German nationalists. Bellinger maintains that knowledge of Marie's responsibility advances the assertion that war is more than the sole preserve of the military and that all people must understand its significance as a political instrument. **VERDICT** This academic work is ideal for students of military, German, and women's history.—**Marie M. Mullaney, Caldwell Coll., NJ**

while comparing Augustine to his contemporaries, especially the rhetorician Libanius. Highly intriguing is the exposition on the role of Platonic philosophy in Augustine's metamorphosis, his allegorical biblical exegesis, and his mystical ascent toward divine union. **VERDICT** Fox presents a complex, ever-changing, articulate, introspective, and idealistic philosopher sinner, revealing elements from *Confessions* and the author's many other titles. The volume would be best for readers to have some familiarity with the ancient Mediterranean or early church history. While this mountain of a book requires dedication and discipline, knowledge awaits those who reach the summit.—**Jeffrey Meyer, Mt. Pleasant P.L., IA**

Hilton, Lisa. *Elizabeth: Renaissance Prince*. Houghton Harcourt. Nov. 2015. 400p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780544577848. \$27; ebk. ISBN 9780544577855. BIOG

In this readable and entertaining biography of Elizabeth I (1533–1603), Hilton (*Athenais*; *Queens Consort*) recounts the life of Anne Boleyn's daughter with Henry VIII, from childhood to old age in a series of thematic chapters, each one loosely centered on a facet of Elizabeth or her monarchy which, Hilton argues, defines her as a particularly “Renaissance” prince. While the author's discussion of Machiavelli in the opening chapters might lead readers to expect an argument based on the tenets of *The Prince*, this is not what she delivers. It is often difficult to tell what larger point Hilton is aiming to establish. While Hilton

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