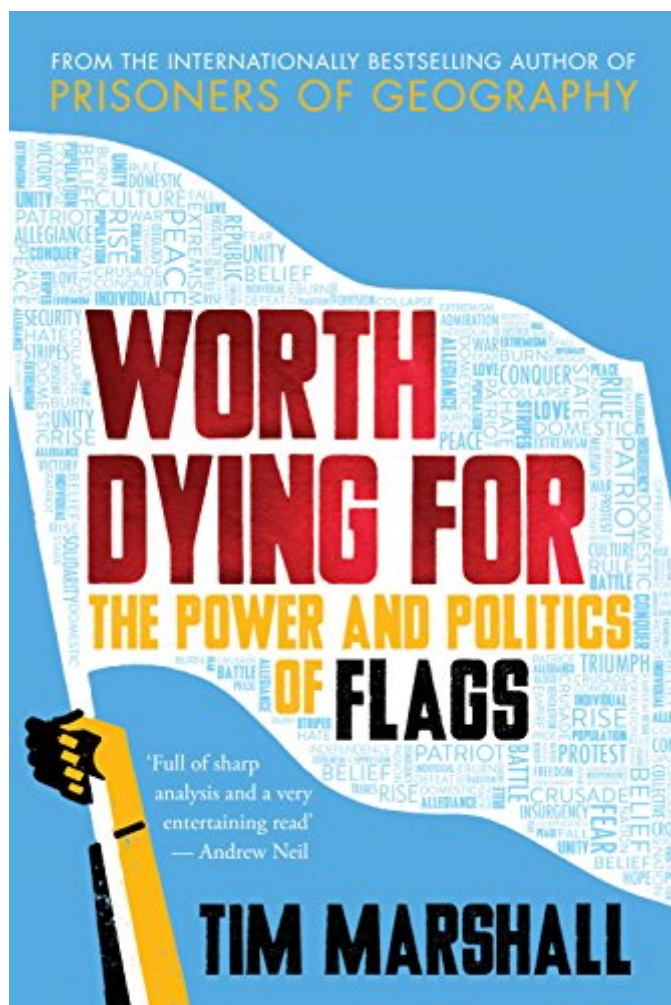


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# Worth Dying For: The Power And Politics Of Flags



## Synopsis

When you see your nation's flag fluttering in the breeze, what do you feel? For thousands of years flags have represented our hopes and dreams. We wave them. Burn them. March under their colours. And still, in the 21st century, we die for them. Flags fly at the UN, on the Arab street, from front porches in Texas. They represent the politics of high power as well as the politics of the mob. From the renewed sense of nationalism in China, to troubled identities in Europe and the USA, to the terrifying rise of Islamic State, the world is a confusing place right now and we need to understand the symbols, old and new, that people are rallying round. In nine chapters (covering the USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Africa, Latin America, international flags and flags of terror), Tim Marshall draws on more than twenty-five years of global reporting experience to reveal the histories, the power and the politics of the symbols that unite us and divide us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

great book

A decent entry into a very sparse collection of books about flags. However, the effort seemed rushed and often times faulty or too little information was given. As an introduction to the study of flags it leaves too much unexplained or undefined for too long. As a serious book for those more 'in the know' about flags and vexillology (the study of flags) it doesn't have quite enough new to add. When you add to that the generally casual tone and voice of the author, its hard to know who this book is for. Overall, however, it is nice to have a new book to add to the library of any serious fan of flags, but if you are well versed in world flag lore and categorization, this may not have anything to say to you.

Tim Marshall's *A Flag Worth Dying For* resembles Tim Marshall's best-selling *Prisoners of Geography* insofar as it is a book which rests upon the author's extensive experience as a reporter travelling the globe and imparts a great deal of eclectic knowledge in a very engaging and readable manner, although here the material is more geo-historical than geopolitical. It is not, despite its title, a book about regimental flags but, as the subtitle informs the reader, about *The Power and Politics of National Symbols*, specifically the ways in which flags and their symbols can rally some and repel others. Its nine chapters cover the Stars and Stripes, the Union Jack, the flags of Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America, international flags (such as the Olympic flag and the LGBT Rainbow flag), and flags of terror (including that for Daesh and other jihadist groups). The book does not claim to be comprehensive. There are, after all, apparently 193 nation-states and Marshall has a good eye for focusing on the material most likely to be found interesting. Having said that, at times a little more detail would not go amiss. Given that Marshall writes that the Stars and Stripes "is the representation of what they [Americans] themselves describe as one nation under God" it is surprising, for example, that his discussion of the pledge of allegiance makes no reference to Eisenhower's introduction of that phrase. Similarly, it is a little strange that Marshall refers to "the Nuremberg Flag Laws of September 1935" rather than to the 1935 Flag Law or to the 1935 Nuremberg Laws of which the Flag Law was a part (along with the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour). In the final analysis, however, such comments are rather churlish and carping as Marshall wears his learning lightly and has again produced a book which is as entertaining as it is informative, although it is definitely

the kind of book best enjoyed being dipped into rather than consumed in a single sitting.

Very good. It arrived earlier than advised. My only issue is that on your on-line booking, it does not clearly, or prominently, distinguish between a hard cover or paper cover copies of this book. As a result I purchased by accident the more expensive hard cover copy. Perhaps you could make such options more prominent. Thanks, Ralph Bartlett

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