

2-1-2017

Book Review of The Black Prince of Florence

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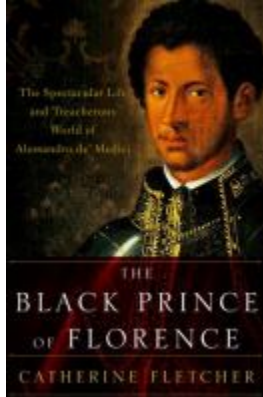
Citation Information

Maxson, Brian Jeffrey. 2017. Book Review of The Black Prince of Florence. *Choice*. Vol.54(6).

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[The Black Prince of Florence : the spectacular life and treacherous world of Alessandro de' Medici](#)



[Fletcher, Catherine.](#) Oxford, 2016

308p bib index, 9780190612726 \$29.95, 9780190612733

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This book offers a biography of Duke Alessandro de' Medici (1510–37) based upon extensive new historical documentation and told in an enviably accessible and entertaining prose style. Although the evidence is inconclusive, it is probable that Alessandro was among the first rulers of African descent in Western Europe. He briefly ruled the city of Florence from 1532 until his assassination some five years later. Fletcher (Swansea Univ., UK) rightfully points out that, despite a recent influx of scholarly interest by historians such as Nicholas Baker and Stefano dall'Aglio, Alessandro has been largely forgotten by the general public. The author thus seeks to introduce him into the popular imagination. The book begins with a look at Alessandro's rise to prominence through the efforts of his uncle Pope Clement VII, continues with Alessandro's rule in Florence while his papal protector was alive, and concludes with the final years of Alessandro's life after Pope Clement's death. Fletcher succeeds admirably in offering an enjoyable, colorful narrative of early modern politics and society. In addition, the book offers scholars numerous new details about Alessandro's life and rule, even though most of these details largely reinforce current scholarly views.

Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries.

Reviewer: [B. J. Maxson](#), East Tennessee State University

Recommendation: Recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects: [African and African American Studies](#)

Subject: [Social & Behavioral Sciences - History, Geography & Area Studies - Western Europe](#)

Choice Issue: feb 2017 vol. 54 no. 6

Choice Review #: 54-2930