

**SIR WALTER  
RALEIGH**

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Sir Walter Raleigh by I. A. Taylor

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**I. A. TAYLOR**

**SIR WALTER  
RALEIGH**



SIR WALTER RALEIGH

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LORD CHATHAM . . . . .	„ A. S. MCDOWALL



SIR WALTER RALEIGH

What makes a hero? An heroic mind  
Express'd in action, in endurance proved :  
And if there be pre-eminence of right,  
Derived through pain well suffer'd, to the height  
Of rank heroic, 'tis to bear unmoved,  
Not toil, not risk, not rage of sea or wind,  
Not the brute fury of barbarians blind,  
But worse—ingratitude and poisonous darts  
Launch'd by the country he had served and loved.

—Sir HENRY TAYLOR, *Heroism in the Shade*.



## PREFACE

IN this short life of Sir Walter Raleigh the attempt is made to offer to those lacking leisure or inclination for the study of the long and exhaustive biographies which exist, a sketch of a brilliant historical figure.

Within so small a compass it is obvious that much has necessarily been omitted which might fitly claim a place in a more elaborate and ambitious work, the selection of facts or episodes being determined rather by the amount of light thrown by them on the personality of the central figure than by their national or general importance. It is however hoped that nothing has been left out which is essential to the comprehension of the character of England's great sea-captain, or of the spirit in which his work was performed.

Amongst later writers I have been principally indebted to Mr. Edwards' *Life*, with its volume of collected letters, and to Mr. Stebbing's biography ; while Major Martin Hume's more recent researches amongst Spanish archives furnish additional important information with regard to the intrigues to which Raleigh's ultimate ruin was largely due.

I. A. T.

## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER I. (1552-1576).

	PAGE
Birth and Parentage—Boyhood—Oxford—A Soldier in France - - - - -	1

### CHAPTER II. (1576-1581).

Home in England—First Expedition by Sea—Life in London—Ireland—Massacre of Del Oro - - - -	10
--	----

### CHAPTER III. (1582-1588).

Life at Court—The Queen's Favourite—Rapid Advancement—Captain of the Guard—Exploring and Colonising Expeditions—The Earl of Essex's Rise and Raleigh's Decline - - - - -	24
--	----

### CHAPTER IV. (1588-1590).

The Invincible Armada—The Catholic Persecution—Raleigh's Part in the Preparations for Defence—Defeat of the Armada—Portuguese Expedition—Reprisals—Ireland—Raleigh as a Poet—Return to Court - -	44
--	----

### CHAPTER V. (1590-1592).

At Court Again—Changes There—Essex's Marriage—Raleigh Interferes in Favour of Religious Toleration—Panama Expedition Planned—Elizabeth Throgmorton—Disgrace and Imprisonment—Provisional Release— <i>Madre de Dios</i> - - - - -	57
--	----

## CHAPTER VI. (1592-1595).

	PAGE
Absence from Court—Sherborne—Parliament—"Sir Walter Raleigh's School of Atheisme"—Guiana . . . . .	74

## CHAPTER VII. (1596-1597).

Preparations for War—Cadiz—The Queen's continued Displeasure—Final Reinstatement at Court . . . . .	87
---	----

## CHAPTER VIII. (1597-1601).

Raleigh and Cecil—Friendly Relations with Essex—Island Voyage—Essex's Displeasure—Return to England—Raleigh as Peacemaker—Fall of Essex . . . . .	97
---	----

## CHAPTER IX. (1601-1603).

Elizabeth's End Approaching—Visit to Basing—Biron Envoy to her Court—Raleigh's Multiplied Employments—His Views on Irish Matters—Intrigues with James—Cecil and Raleigh—Elizabeth's Death . . . . .	120
---	-----

## CHAPTER X. (1603).

James's Accession—Raleigh Out of Favour—Deprived of Office—Arrested—In the Tower—Trial at Winchester—Conviction . . . . .	134
---	-----

## CHAPTER XI. (1603-1616).

Reprieve—The Tower—Prison Life and Occupations—Literature—Prince Henry—His Death—Companions in the Tower . . . . .	152
--	-----

## CHAPTER XII. (1616-1618).

Release—Terms of It—Preparations for Expedition to Guiana—Spanish Ambassador, Gondomar—Project for Sack of Genoa—Negotiations with France—The Gulana Expedition—Walter Raleigh's Death—Failure—Return to England . . . . .	170
--	-----