

Questions for The Borgias and their enemies 1431-1519 by Christopher Hibbert  
Book discussion February 21, 2024, Host Paul Voorhes

1. Was the book difficult to follow or comprehend with all the various characters, places, kingdoms, duchies and towns described?
2. Were you shocked at the debauchery and lawlessness described in this book within the Papal world?
3. Burchard documented similar behavior in 5 Popes; is there any way of knowing how pervasive this was throughout history?
4. Given that the Vatican is not subject to any other Italian law or jurisdiction, is there reason to believe that anything has changed in 500 years?
5. Cesare seemed to be focused on gaining territory and power, whereas Rodrigo seemed to be focused on family success and female conquests. Is there any explanation for this?
6. How did Cesare rise to so much power and wealth?
7. What led to Cesare's downfall?
8. There was little discussion in the book about where the huge sums of money used by the Vatican came from. Is it possible that it all came from church member offerings?
9. Some reviewers believe Alexander VI was treated too harshly by this author. Is there any basis for this given Burchard's contemporary records?