



# Éminence: Cardinal Richelieu and the Rise of France

*Jean-Vincent Blanchard*

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Chief Minister to King Louis XIII, Cardinal Richelieu was the architect of a new France in the seventeenth century and the force behind the nation's rise as a European power. One of the first statesmen to clearly understand the necessity of a balance of powers, he has captured the imagination of generations, both through the story of his life and through Alexandre Dumas's portrayal of him as a ruthless political mastermind in the classic *The Three Musketeers*.

Jean-Vincent Blanchard's rich and insightful new biography brings Richelieu fully to life in all his complexity. His careful understanding of politics as spectacle speaks to contemporary readers; much of what he accomplished was promoted strategically through his great passion for theater and literature. *fminence* offers a rich portrait of a fascinating man and his era, and gives us a keener understanding of the dark art of politics.

"Blanchard's captivating biography vividly captures the rise to power of a seminal figure who was instrumental in creating France as we know it."-***Publishers Weekly* (starred review)**

"Lovers of intrigue and derring-do will enjoy Jean-Vincent Blanchard's *Eminence* ... [His] lively style will appeal to general readers, while history buffs will appreciate his careful footnotes and plethora of primary sources."-***The Baltimore Sun***

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