



Europe: A History

By Norman Davies

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Here is a masterpiece of historical narrative that stretches from the Ice Age to the Atomic Age, as it tells the story of Europe, East and West. Norman Davies captures it all—the rise and fall of Rome, the sweeping invasions of Alaric and Atilla, the Norman Conquests, the Papal struggles for power, the Renaissance and the Reformation, the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, Europe's rise to become the powerhouse of the world, and its eclipse in our own century, following two devastating World Wars. This is the first major history of Europe to give equal weight to both East and West, and it shines light on fascinating minority communities, from heretics and lepers to Gypsies, Jews, and Muslims. It also takes an innovative approach, combining traditional narrative with unique features that help bring history alive: 299 time capsules scattered through the narrative capture telling aspects of an era. 12 -snapshots offer a panoramic look at all of Europe at a particular moment in history. Full coverage of Eastern Europe—100 maps and diagrams, 72 black-and-white plates. All told, Davies's Europe represents one of the most important and illuminating histories to be published in recent years.

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Europe:A History By Norman Davies Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

With *Europe: A History*, University of London professor Norman Davies has undertaken the near impossible: a synthetic one-volume overview of Europe from prehistory through the present. Remarkably, he has succeeded. *Europe: A History* is a conventional narrative, proceeding forward in time at a gradually decelerating pace. (The beginning covers millions of years of prehistory, while the final chapter discusses the 46 years between World War II and the book's publication.) But Davies's writing--vigorous, incisive, and confidently knowledgeable--carries the reader along, while the steady sweep of the main narrative is broken up by "capsules," boxed passages examining particular places, customs, or issues that cut across chronological lines. Davies, who has written two books on Polish history, also gives the eastern part of Europe its due coverage, unlike many of his predecessors, and manages to include commoners and the persecuted or ignored in his story along with the mighty and the royal. *Europe: A History* won't please everybody, but it's a highly intelligent, superbly readable overview that is certain to become a standard text.

From Publishers Weekly

The pre-eminent scholar of Polish history, Davies (*God's Playground* and *Heart of Europe*) expands his focus to all of Europe. While the book is bulky, its size is hardly adequate to a complete history of the continent from pre-history to the dismantling of the Soviet Union. In addition, as one might expect, Davies has taken great pains to treat countries other than England, France and Germany as legitimate parts of Europe?not just as the thresholds over which barbarians crossed. ("For some reason it has been the fashion among some historians to minimize the impact of the Magyars," Davies writes when discussing what would become central Europe. "All this means is that the Magyars did not reach Cambridge.") The book works because his subject is not the constituent countries but the continent as a whole. Thus, while Elizabeth I gets one brief mention in passing, Aristide Briand, the French foreign minister who tried to effect a Franco-German reconciliation until the Nazis won power, gets several paragraphs. Aside from defining what Europe is and giving all countries their due, Davies also tries to show the joys of an inclusive reading of historical subjects (he disparages excessive specialization and writes admiringly of the *Annales* school). A master of broad-brushstroke synthesis, Davies navigates through the larger historical currents with the detail necessary to a well-written engaging narrative.

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From Library Journal

Historian Davies (*Heart of Europe*, 1984) is perfect for this ambitious project, a panoramic history of Europe from prehistoric times to the present. He reminds readers that East and West have much in common, beginning with a long, conjoined history of events, personalities, movements, and concepts. Narrative chapters alternate with tableaux of specific events; there are numerous digressive inserts. The prose is elegant throughout; Davies's comments are always insightful and frequently witty. (Of the Western historians' dismissal of the Magyars as "not a creative factor in Western history," he comments: "All this means is that the Magyars did not reach Cambridge.") The author muses on "the extreme contrast between the material advancement of European civilization and the terrible regression in political and intellectual values." At last, a truly pan-European history that rests firmly on solid scholarship and exhibits wisdom and literary elegance; highly recommended.?David Keymer, California State Univ., Stanislaus

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Miller:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled Europe:A History can be great book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Annette Dixon:

Why? Because this Europe:A History is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will zap you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Sunny Weaver:

The book untitled Europe:A History contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the girl idea with easy technique. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice examine.

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