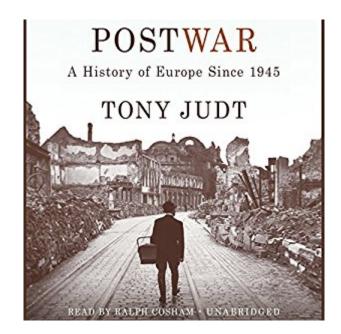
The book was found

Postwar: A History Of Europe Since 1945





Synopsis

A Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and Named One of the Ten Best Books of the Year by the New York Times Book Review. Almost a decade in the making, this much-anticipated grand history of postwar Europe from one of the world's most esteemed historians and intellectuals is a singular achievement. Postwar is the first modern history that covers all of Europe, both east and west, drawing on research in six languages to sweep listeners through 34 nations and 60 years of political and cultural change-all in one integrated, enthralling narrative. Both intellectually ambitious and compelling to read, thrilling in its scope and delightful in its small details, Postwar is a rare joy. Tony Judt (1948-2010), the author of 11 books, was Erich Maria Remarque professor of European studies at New York University and director and founder of the Remarque Institute.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition Listening Length: 43 hours Program Type: Audiobook Version: Unabridged Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc. Audible.com Release Date: January 7, 2011 Language: English ASIN: B004IDNQOW Best Sellers Rank: #83 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Europe #690 in Books > History > Europe

Customer Reviews

This is, in many respects, an outstanding book. Judt accomplishes the daunting job of providing a solid narrative overview of European history (excluding Russia/Soviet Union)from the end of WWII to the present. Accompanying the narrative is a great deal of astute analysis, both of major trends and of specific episodes. The book is divided into 4 major periods; the immediate post-war era of reconstruction and the onset of the Cold War, the great boom of the 50s and 60s with its major demographic, social, and economic changes, the recessional period of the 70s and 80s, and the most recent period after the fall of the Soviet Union. The major theme is a multi-generational effort to build a Europe that avoids the mistakes that led to the catastrophes of the WWI-WWII period. Judt provides a guardedly positive view of European success. The factors that led to the catastrophe of the first half of the 20th century were strong nationalism and what might be called neo-mercantilism,

authoritarian/totalitarian states, powerful ideologies (particularly Marxism), and great internal social discord. Judt sees modern Europe, with democratic and pacific states, its emphasis on economic integration, and social welfare systems aimed at guaranteeing a minimum amount of social amity, as largely escaping the problems that led to WWI and WWII.Judt deals very well with the major events (and often their social consequences) that propelled Europe along this pathway. The crucial role of the US, and in an ironic way, of the Soviet Union, helped to rescue Western Europe from post-WWII devastation and provided an international framework that demanded western european cooperation.

The three main themes of this account of postwar Europe is the death of ideology, the role individuals in shaping history, and the birth of the European Union and a new way of life that rejects the extremes of Soviet Communism and American Capitalism. Tony Judt makes the case that the era of political ideologies was ending in the last half of the twentieth century. In Western Europe the birth of the welfare state and the combining of the left and right on various issues resulted in the end of the political extremism. While in Eastern Europe, Communism was unable to reform itself as seen in the failed uprisings in Hungary and Czechosolvakia ending in its final collaspse in the period from 1989 to 1991. Moreover the repression of the Communist regimes combined with their economic mismanagement soiled the reputation of Communism in both Eastern and Western Europe. Despite these faults, Judt mantains that it was Gorbachev and his reforms which resulted in the fall of Communism. Judt's view of Gorbachev supports his thesis about the role of individuals in shaping history. Judt writes that Stalin in implementing harsh Communist governments throughout Eastern Europe discouraged Western European nations from pursuing a neutral course during the start of the Cold War. While Juan Carlos in Spain was able to transform Spain from being an authoritrain country into a democracy. Finally Milosevic and not any organized nationalist ideology helped to enflame the Serbs into committing war crimes in Bosnia during the nineties. The third theme of this book is the growth of the European Union that started as customs union for agricultural goods and then unifed its monetary policy in the seventies which resulted in a common currency in 1999.

Download to continue reading...

Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945 The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene since 1945 The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations Mercedes-Benz since 1945 Vol. 4: The 1980's American Film and Society since 1945, 4th Edition Flying Boats and Amphibians Since 1945 The Liberation of Europe 1944-1945: The Photographers who Captured History from D-Day to Berlin To Hell and Back: Europe 1914-1949 (The Penguin History of Europe) Fascism and the Right in Europe 1919-1945 Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe Redevelopment and Race: Planning a Finer City in Postwar Detroit (Great Lakes Books Series) Dislocated Memories: Jews, Music, and Postwar German Culture American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland (Politics and Society in Modern America) Grand Central: Original Stories of Postwar Love and Reunion The Self in Black and White: Race and Subjectivity in Postwar American Photography (Interfaces: Studies in Visual Culture) Rollin' and Tumblin' : The Postwar Blues Guitarists The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit (Princeton Classics) A History of US: War, Peace, and All That Jazz: 1918-1945 A History of US Book Nine The Fate of Africa: A History of the Continent Since Independence The Rise and Fall of American Growth: The U.S. Standard of Living since the Civil War (The Princeton Economic History of the Western World)

<u>Dmca</u>