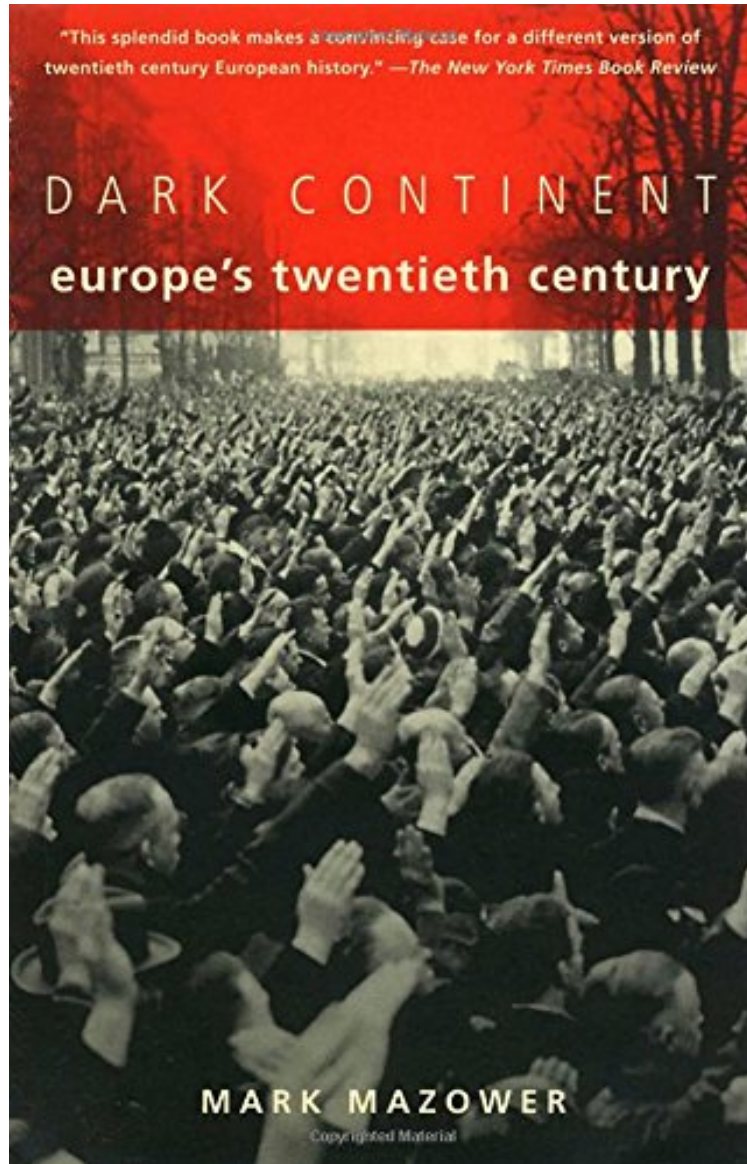


[Free] Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century

Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century

Mark Mazower

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Mark Mazower : Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For those that pretend to know Europe's (recent) history. By Luiz H.S.de Vasconcellos At the beginning of the Twenty-First Century, when there is so much happening and questioning our ability to think with confidence, it is only quite natural that one should look for events past in search of History's perspective. The author has done a superb job analysing events of a dark era in a dark continent. It is a must read. 1 of

1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent history by Mazower By H. Stegall Comprehensive but nuanced work that lets one know that the current state of Europe was likely if not inevitable. The idea of Europe is still developing out of its historic darkness. BTW I highly recommend A Short History of the Balkans by this author, as well as his Governing the World. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By C Armstrong The best work covering Europe in the Twentieth Century.

"A useful, important book that reminds us, at the right time, how hard [European unity] has been, and how much care must be taken to avoid the terrible old temptations." --Los Angeles Times Dark Continent provides an alternative history of the twentieth century, one in which the triumph of democracy was anything but a forgone conclusion and fascism and communism provided rival political solutions that battled and sometimes triumphed in an effort to determine the course the continent would take. Mark Mazower strips away myths that have comforted us since World War II, revealing Europe as an entity constantly engaged in a bloody project of self-invention. Here is a history not of inevitable victories and forward marches, but of narrow squeaks and unexpected twists, where townships boast a bronze of Mussolini on horseback one moment, only to melt it down and recast it as a pair of noble partisans the next. Unflinching, intelligent, Dark Continent provides a provocative vision of Europe's past, present, and future-and confirms Mark Mazower as a historian of valuable gifts.

.com As the European Union introduces a common currency to world financial markets, Mark Mazower's Dark Continent critically examines the notion of "Europe." The Euro notwithstanding, Mazower argues that the "'Europe' of the European Union may be a promise or a delusion, but it is not a reality." Renouncing the notion of an essential "Europe," Mazower instead explores the conflicts which dominated the continent in the 20th century and the social value systems which informed them. Mazower orders his examination chronologically, commencing with the collapse of Europe's continental empires following World War I and the initial European experiments in democracy and national self-determination which followed. He continues with analyses of state interventions in family health and the importance of healthy progeny, the financial crisis of the 1920s, the Hitler regime, the transformed democracy that emerged following World War II, the gradual erosion of the social state in the 1980s, and, finally, the collapse of communism. He consistently displays a firm grip of European history, directing his argument to readers with a foundational knowledge of the events that shaped 20th century Europe rather than historical novices unfamiliar with the period. Provocatively insightful, Dark Continent makes a convincing argument for a European 21st century characterized by continuity and harmony through divergence. "If Europeans can give up their desperate desire to find a single, workable definition of themselves," Mazower concludes, "they may come to terms more easily with the diversity and dissension which will be as much their future as their past." --Bertina Loeffler From Publishers Weekly Mazower (Inside Hitler's Greece) shapes his well-written history of Europe's 20th century as a struggle among liberal democracy, communism and fascism. Avoiding the pitfalls of Marxist interpretation on the one hand and capitalist triumphalism on the other, he shows how the failure of liberal democracy after WWI led to the experiment with fascism, which was defeated (principally by the Communists) at an enormous cost. In the first half of this century, he writes, between 60 million and 70 million Europeans died violently in wars or civil unrest, but the figure for the period after the defeat of fascism is under one million. Mazower takes this as evidence that the Cold War was a social and economic, rather than a military, conflict. While this may be true of the Cold War in Europe, the assertion fails to take into account the proxy wars fought by the superpowers in Asia, Africa and Latin America. But this omission doesn't detract from the overall excellence of Mazower's work. The defeat of fascism and the fall of communism have left the field to liberal democracy, which is now faced with the problem it failed to solve in the beginning of the century: how to create a workable relationship between capitalism and representative government. Mazower argues that Europeans can best work this out if they realize that their national differences are greater than any common culture and that Europe has enjoyed its greatest period of peace and prosperity precisely during the period in which it has lost its primacy in world affairs. Maps. Tables not seen by PW. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA masterful account of Europe's cursed century. When the smoke cleared from the ruins of the Second World War, many observers assumed that Europe as it had been known for centuries had come to an end. From the physical destruction of cities to the moral catastrophe of fascism and Nazism, it seemed as though those on the Continent had committed a collective suicide. A new type of war coldhovered on the horizon, leading some to envision the planets complete and final destruction. But as British historian Mazower (Univ. of Sussex; Inside Hitler's Greece, 1993) makes clear, things weren't always like this. The century had begun with high hopes, dashed by the bloody conflict of the Great War. Moreover, Europe's reconstruction and the relatively peaceful close of the Cold War give reason for hope. More insightfully, Mazower stresses that the very concept of "Europe" has metamorphosed with startling rapidity over the last hundred years. And this ability to change may well prove to be the continent's saving grace, he avers. The book is organized around the major three-way ideological struggle of the century: that between liberal democracy, fascism, and communism. Both fascism and communism claimed not only to be on the side of history, but also to be offering an end to it. Liberal democracy, the most modest of ideologies, appears to have

weathered the storm best. Yet Mazower refuses to offer such platitudes as that liberal democracy "won" the Cold War or that weve therefore arrived at historys "end." Instead, as he explains in an epilogue, the task of "making Europe" continues to this day. Well written, with an excellent grasp of sources in several languages, this is a landmark study for the general reader. (10 maps) -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.