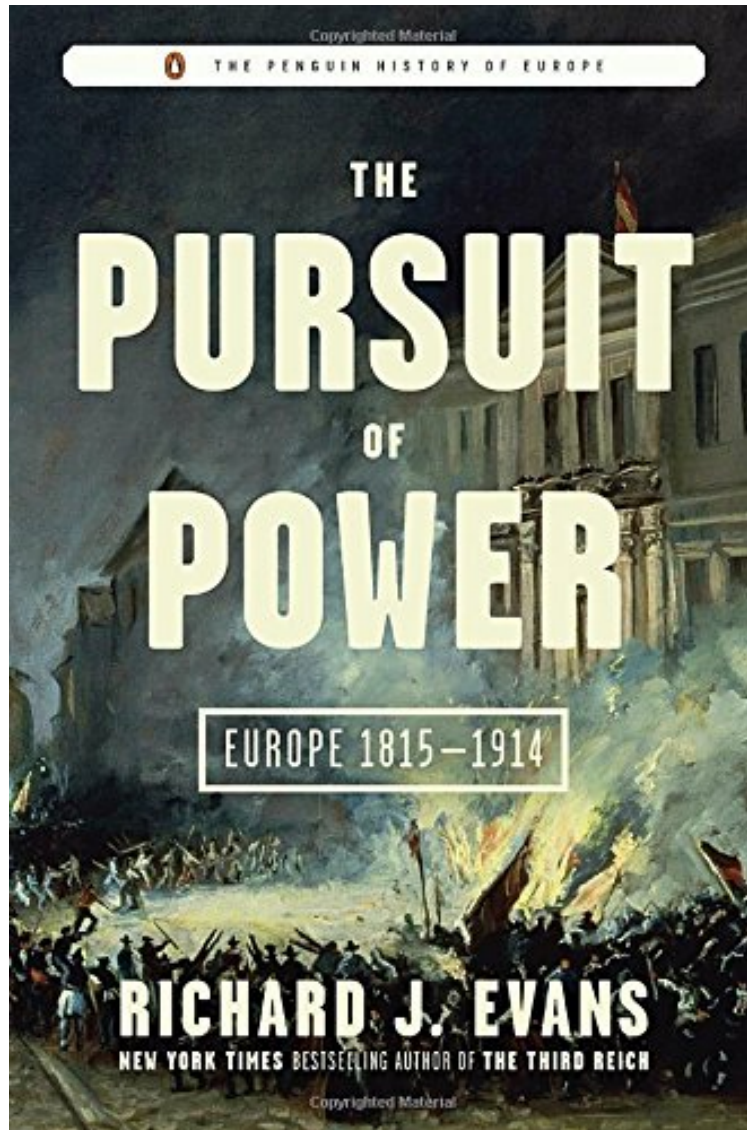


[FREE] The Pursuit of Power: Europe 1815-1914 (The Penguin History of Europe)

The Pursuit of Power: Europe 1815-1914 (The Penguin History of Europe)

Richard J. Evans

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#84476 in Books Evans Richard J 2016-11-29 2016-11-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.29 x 1.65 x 6.371, 2.74 #File Name: 0670024570848 pages The Pursuit of Power Europe 1815 1914 | File size: 22.Mb

Richard J. Evans : The Pursuit of Power: Europe 1815-1914 (The Penguin History of Europe) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pursuit of Power: Europe 1815-1914 (The Penguin History of Europe):

67 of 71 people found the following review helpful. The book does not disappoint. But the author over reaches by also trying ...By Biblio-NutI purchased this book on the basis of newspaper reviews and the author's considerable

reputation as an historian. I expected a readable history of the main currents in politics, society and the economy in Europe over the century covered. The book does not disappoint. But the author over reaches by also trying to cover the major developments in art, music, literature and the frontiers of science. That treatment is too often superficial and not related to the book's main focus. His treatment often comes off as no more than name dropping. Do we need to know that the French Symbolists and Impressionist paintings may have influenced the music of Debussy and Ravel? To show the spread of science, on pages 497 to 498 Evans rattles off a list of scientists and their achievements, but without drawing connections to their work or the impact on the further advancement of science. For example, the significance of the work of the Curries, Rontgen and Rutherford (mentioned) and Max Planck (not mentioned) ushered in the exploration of the atom, which would dominate the physical sciences in the 20th century. The book is organized into sections and subsections in which Evans explores various themes. Information and facts can come from all directions to prove a generalization. That can sometimes be interesting, but also disconcerting. In discussing the changing concept of modern time Evans brings in racing tea clippers, the sinking of the Titanic, the depiction of time and motion in early 20th century paintings, experiments in the French cinema and Einstein's theory of special relativity (pages 393-394). The facts don't always integrate and the generalizations don't entirely convince. The narration is aided by 20 special maps and a lovely midsection of glossy color reproductions of art related to historical events. There is a 10 page guide to further reading. The book is directed at the general reader, so there are no scholarly notes. Even with its shortcomings and excesses, that only take up only a small part of the book, Evans has written a fascinating, readable narrative history of the European century before it plunged into world war.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A cultural history of 19th century Europe
By Phebe
This is a cultural history, not a political history. And as culture has many components, it starts over many times, detailing the culture of mechanization, feminism and social welfare, Empire, etc. anew each section. I didn't like this organization, though I can see the reason for it. The book is very, very long. And it seems rather shallow to me, perhaps because I like targeted history that takes one subject, sets it in context, and develops it exhaustively. So I like Evans' histories of the Third Reich. Cultural history has its place, but the title Pursuit of Power, Europe 1815 -- 1914 implies political history so I was slow to catch on. In the future I want to know what kind of history I am reading before I embark on a book of this length.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Book to understand the Modern World.
By Michael L Penuel
This was a good book about what was to me the missing century between Napeleon and the Gearar War. It else really helped me understand the roots of modern liberalism and progressive politics. It really helps explain how the world was leading to Great War.

An Economist Best Book of the Year
Sweeping . . . an ambitious synthesis . . . [Evans] writes with admirable narrative power and possesses a wonderful eye for local color . . . Fascinating.
Stephen Schuker, The Wall Street Journal
From the bestselling author of The Third Reich at War, a masterly account of Europe in the age of its global hegemony; the latest volume in the Penguin History of Europe series Richard J. Evans, bestselling historian of Nazi Germany, returns with a monumental new addition to the acclaimed Penguin History of Europe series, covering the period from the fall of Napoleon to the outbreak of World War I. Evans's gripping narrative ranges across a century of social and national conflicts, from the revolutions of 1830 and 1848 to the unification of both Germany and Italy, from the Russo-Turkish wars to the Balkan upheavals that brought this era of relative peace and growing prosperity to an end. Among the great themes it discusses are the decline of religious belief and the rise of secular science and medicine, the journey of art, music, and literature from Romanticism to Modernism, the replacement of old-regime punishments by the modern prison, the end of aristocratic domination and the emergence of industrial society, and the dramatic struggle of feminists for womens equality and emancipation. Uniting the eras broad-ranging transformations was the pursuit of power in all segments of life, from the banker striving for economic power to the serf seeking to escape the power of his landlord, from the engineer asserting societys power over the environment to the psychiatrist attempting to exert sciences power over human nature itself. The first single-volume history of the century, this comprehensive and sweeping account gives the reader a magnificently human picture of Europe in the age when it dominated the rest of the globe.

The Pursuit of Power...unpacks the fascinatingly complex and interconnected range of historical forces at work between 1815 and 1914. . . [A] skillful interweave of political conflict and transition, economic transformation social upheaval and cultural change.
The New York Times
Book "An outstanding volume that leaves no stone unturned in providing a taut narrative of this important era of modern European history. Using dense and well written narrative and cogent analysis of cause and effect, Professor Evans has provided another excellent contribution to [the Penguin History of Europe] series."
New York Journal of Books "Wonderfully researched, highly readable, engrossing . . . The Pursuit of Power is required reading for anyone looking to understand what is at the foundation of todays global economy, the difficulties between nations, or for those simply wondering how Europe as a whole came to its current form."
Portland Book "A massive and masterful account . . . This is a beautifully written, wide-ranging study that explores in depth the political, social, and economic factors that shaped and continue to shape modern Europe and the

wider world. Booklist, (starred review) An impressive and richly documented new book . . . A distinguished scholar of Germany, Mr. Evans is just as sure-footed across the continent . . . The book is particularly illuminating on how social trends after 1848—the spread of education, the standardization of languages, railway development and the mass production of newspapers—led to the rise of political forces like nationalism and democracy . . . Mr. Evans is a skilled synthesizer with a strong eye for narrative . . . the book's real success lies with its timeliness. Europe is rendered not as a geographical space—its eastern borders have always been hard to define—but as a collective entity with a shared history. European leaders invited ruin upon themselves when they forgot that in 1914. They should never do it again. The Economist Sweeping, panoramic history . . . Splendid . . . Evans wants above all, as he puts it, to convey the flavor of the period, in its mixture of strangeness and familiarity, and as far as possible to allow contemporaries to speak for themselves. This he does beautifully, enlivening his straightforward narratives with short sketches of little-known but fascinating personalities . . . fine scholarship. Financial Times Magnificent . . . masterly . . . This outstanding and authoritative synthesis, weaving social, political, diplomatic, cultural, engineering, scientific and economic history, is eminently readable and so carefully crafted that I was always reluctant to put it down. It will help readers appreciate the period of Europe's growing dominance in the world as seen from a variety of perspectives and better understand some of the roots of World War I. BookPage Transnational history at its finest . . . social, political and cultural themes swirl together in one great canvas of immense detail and beauty. The Times "Dazzlingly erudite and entertaining." Dominic Sandbrook, The Sunday Times About the Author Richard J. Evans was born in London and educated at Oxford University. He has taught at Columbia University and Birkbeck, University of London, and since 2014 has been the Regius Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Cambridge. His many publications include an acclaimed three-volume history of the Third Reich and a recent collection of essays, *The Third Reich in History and Memory*. A Fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Society of Literature, he is a past winner of the Wolfson History Prize, and was twice a History Honoree at the Los Angeles Times Book Awards. In 2012 he was appointed Knight Bachelor in the Queen's Birthday Honors List, for services to scholarship.