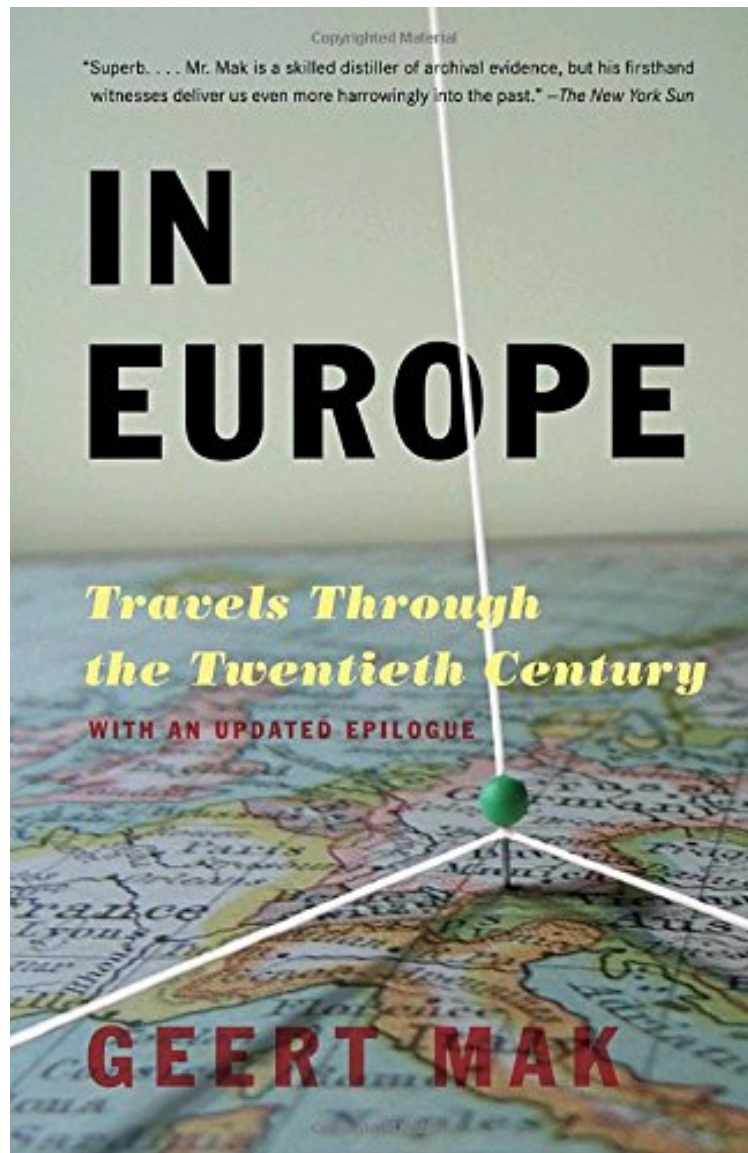


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In Europe: Travels Through the Twentieth Century

Geert Mak

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#594428 in Books 2008-06-10 2008-06-10Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.90 x 5.30l, 1.37 #File Name: 0307280578896 pages | File size: 26.Mb

Geert Mak : In Europe: Travels Through the Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Europe: Travels Through the Twentieth Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy G Andrewsvery insightful read. It shows a everyday approach to the history and culture of Europe.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Unusual and excellentBy Jack RafuseA friend told me about this book, but it was still a pleasant surprise. It is about travels, as the subtitle suggests; but it's about the sociology of the various cities, as well. It describes the urban character, brings in

history, and spins all the elements together in a beautifully written way. It's not a "can't put it down" book, but it's a very worthy "constant companion" volume. You'll enjoy it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Man's inhumanity to man By Morgan A remarkably clear and detailed account of the sheer brutality of the twentieth century in Europe. Some may argue that it says nothing new but a lot of it was new to me. We are still vulnerable to the insanity of leaders. Warning : This can be very depressing. I would put it on a list of 'must reads'

From the First World War to the waning days of the Cold War, a poignant exploration on what it means to be European at the end of the twentieth-century. Geert Mak crisscrosses Europe from Verdun to Berlin, Saint Petersburg to Srebrenica in search of evidence and witnesses of the last hundred years of Europe. Using his skills as an acclaimed journalist, Mak locates the smaller, personal stories within the epic arc of history—talking to a former ticket-taker at the gates of the Birkenau concentration camp or noting the neat rows of tiny shoes in the abandoned nursery school in the shadow of Chernobyl. His unique approach makes the reader an eyewitness to a half-forgotten past, full of unknown peculiarities, sudden insights and touching encounters. Sweeping in scale, but intimate in detail *In Europe* is a masterpiece.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . On January 4, 1999, Mak, a journalist and one of the Netherlands' most popular authors, set out from Amsterdam on assignment for his newspaper, the *NRC Handelsblad*, to crisscross Europe in the final year before the millennium to discover what shape the continent was in. And crisscross he did: Vienna, London; Stalingrad (now Volgograd), Chernobyl, Lourdes, Budapest; Srebrenica and dozens more. For his columns, collected here, Mak used his reporter's eye to describe the vividness of the countryside and cityscapes through which he traveled, his writer's ear to interview individuals who had experienced Europe's most terrible and terrific times, and his historian's pen to narrate the passing of that most extraordinary of centuries. What Mak discovered was that while Europe is turning itself into an ostensible union, there is unexpectedly little in the way of a shared historical experience. There is no European people, for instance, and every nation has conceived its own version of the catastrophic First and Second World Wars. Mak's brilliant compendium is difficult to define—is it a history book, a travelogue, a memoir?—but stands out as a remarkable, insightful, exhilarating exposition on that peculiar continent across the Atlantic. Map. (Aug. 7) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred * Sweeping in scope, brimming with luxurious and telling detail, electric in prose style, and deeply comprehending in its understanding of the subject, this Dutch writer's magnum opus is the result of a commission he accepted from the newspaper he worked for: a record of his year-long travels throughout Europe at the end of the millennium. His charge was to see if a workable definition of Europe still had relevance—specifically, if there exists sufficient commonality among the European nations to make a definition feasible. The second layer of his writings takes the form of his simultaneous consciousness of the history of each place he visited; it came home to him during his jaunts that "all the different stages of the twentieth century are being lived, or relived, somewhere." The history of the twentieth century, he discovered, was indelibly etched into how almost all Europeans have led their lives at any point in the century. Mak moves thoroughly but nimbly through both time and location, correlating now to then in particularly dramatic episodes, resulting in a beautiful way to learn about both European history and current events. Hooper, Brad Superb. . . . Mr. Mak is a skilled distiller of archival evidence, but his firsthand witnesses deliver us even more harrowingly into the past. The New York Sun An original, fresh and first-hand documented essay of recent European history. It's an ideal reading for anyone doing 'le grand tour' across the Old Continent. The Washington Post Dazzling, imaginative and mesmerizing. The Tucson Citizen Subtle. . . It is a testament to Mak's warmth and skill as a writer that even in a chronicle of unrelenting barbarity he has portrayed a humanity worth saving. Time