



The End of the European Era: 1890 to the Present

Felix Gilbert, David Clay Large

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The Fifth Edition retains these strengths while embracing recent developments and current research. The text covers a century of rapid and tumultuous change, from increased population and migration in the early 1900s through the ongoing unrest in the Balkans.

The End of the European Era: 1890 to the Present Details

Date : Published January 3rd 2002 by W. W. Norton & Company (first published January 1st 1971)

ISBN : 9780393976427

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Format : Paperback 668 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, European History, Reference



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From Reader Review The End of the European Era: 1890 to the Present for online ebook

Maria - Fotini says

A good book, with a few, but annoying inaccuracies.

Fito.lpz says

I'm not an expert or too involved with history, but I understood and liked the book. nice written with interesting data. I had to read it for a course and I really enjoyed.

Kalliope says

I read this book years ago and have now reread the first part, the one related to WW1. The “Present” alluded to in the title is the 1970s.

Felix Gilbert (1905-1991) was a half German half British historian who became American in the 1930s. His mother was the granddaughter of the musician Felix Mendelssohn (so we should not be surprised at Gilbert's given name). His expertise was really the Renaissance and his book Machiavelli and Guicciardini: Politics and History in Sixteenth Century Florence is also in my TBR.

I have limited myself to the years until the end of the First War, as part of my reading around the debacle that we are commemorating this year.

This book is almost like a textbook. It is so very clear and so broad in its range. It is clear in the writing, in the development of ideas and arguments, and it touches on the Financial, Demographic, Political, Social, Cultural, and Military aspects of this complex period.

After a few chapters on some general aspects, which were either shared or in which the European countries differed, he then groups these powers according to two big buckets. Some had a Parliamentary Government (UK, France, Spain and Italy) and some functioned under an Authoritarian Government (Germany, Russia, Austro-Hungary). Once the players are presented he traces the Dance of Alliances in which dancers kept changing partners as each new diplomatic crises arose: the First Moroccan crisis, the Bosnian one, the Second Moroccan crisis, the First Balkan wars, etc, and onto the Final Outbreak.

The war itself is developed with a similar clarity, discussing the geographic theatres as conceived by the various powers, and bringing in very plainly the determinant role the Russian revolution and the later entry of the US had on the conflict.

Gilbert's choice of introducing the players along the two axes of Parliamentary-Authoritarian proves very

appropriate as he then later expounds on the domestic political changes undergone by the various countries. In all of them there was either an abrupt change of Cabinet or an even more abrupt transformation materialized in full-fledged revolutions.

The book is also nicely illustrated, and most important, comes with a series of maps tracking the shifting of frontiers during the succeeding years of warfare.

Gilbert's volume then for me acts as the neutral scaffolding on which I can place other readings with various interpretations of this war.

Vheissu says

This is a good if superficial history of Europe in the 20th century, suitable for Freshmen or readers who want a broad introduction to the subject. I had only one or two quibbles regarding the authors' claims, mostly having to do with World War II in the Pacific, which isn't even the main topic at hand. This is a good place to start if one is completely unfamiliar with European history and politics.

Fed says

It is a great book, but it is easy to get the big picture until you read all chapters about that period of time.

Jeff D. says

Has an amazing couple of chapters in the beginning summarizing the position of the Great Powers coming out of the previous century, but then quickly tapers off into a formless narrative randomly strung together by bland, perfunctory, and aimless facts. Ultimately, it's lack of cohesion ends up feeling like the writers had an unwillingness to impose any sort of unifying theme in order to appeal to the academic and self-conceited "universalist" taste.

I recommend reading up to its second part, "The Peace that Failed", and then picking up Hobsbawm's excellent "The Age of Extremes 1914-1991" for the rest of what it could have been had the writers not cared more about their academic acceptability than their service to the public.

MT says

It's got action! It's got excitement! It's got drama! It even has Portugal! I mean it's got like half a page of Portugal in it. So you know, if you think Portugal is going to get equivalent play as the rest of them, read something else called Special Time Europe History, where everyone is equal and everyone gets equal play. Shit, even *Romania* has more action!

Not having a dig Romania, you're ok.

Alex Makoyan says

Quite an indepth view of the early 20th century.

Courtney says

Gilbert, Felix; et al.
The Norton History of Modern Europe

In compilation only.
