

CONCISE
HISTORY
OF THE
MODERN
WORLD



A HISTORY OF
MODERN EUROPE

FROM 1815 TO THE PRESENT

ALBERT S. LINDEMANN

 WILEY-BLACKWELL

Contents

[Preface: The Dilemmas and Rewards of a Concise Historical Overview](#)

[List of Maps](#)

[List of Figures](#)

[Acknowledgments](#)

[Introduction: What Is Europe?](#)

[“Christendom” and Europe](#)

[Geographical Definitions](#)

[Europe’s Unusual Seas: The Mediterranean and Baltic](#)

[Europe’s Unusual Races](#)

[European Languages](#)

[Europe’s Religious Mixes](#)

[The Differing Rates of Growth in Europe’s Regions](#)

[Notes to the Reader](#)

[Part I Romanticism and Revolt: The Seedtime of Modern Ideologies, 1815–40](#)

[1 The Legacy of the French Revolution](#)

[France’s Preeminence](#)

[The Changes Made by the Revolution](#)

[The Revolutionary Mystique](#)

[The Opening Stages of the Revolution](#)

[The Causes of the Revolution: Precedents](#)

[The Ambiguous Ideal of Equality](#)

[Civil Equality for Jews?](#)

[The Many Meanings of Fraternity](#)

2 The Congress of Vienna and Post-Napoleonic Europe: 1815–30

A Uniquely European Meeting

The Major Powers: Goals and Compromises

Napoleon Returns: The Hundred Days

The Issue of Poland

Other Territorial Settlements

Accomplishments of the Congress: Short-Term, Long-Term

The Repressive Years in Britain

Metternich's Repressions

3 The Engines of Change

Conceptualizing Historical Change

The Industrial Revolution and Its Preconditions

The British Model of Industrialization

Industrialization in Other Countries

Resistance to Industrialization

Technological Innovation and Industrialization

The Implications of Industrial Change

4 The Seedtime of Ideology: A Century of "Questions"

Europe's Major "Questions" and Its Belief in Progress

The Elusive Genesis and Evolution of Europe's Isms

Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism

Edmund Burke: The Conservative Tradition and Its Opponents

Feminism and the Woman Question

The Evolution of Liberal Theory and Practice: Radicalism and

Utilitarianism

Classical Liberalism

Mill on Socialism and Feminism

Fourier's Fantastic but "Scientific" Vision of Socialism

The "Practical" Socialist, Robert Owen

Saint-Simon, Prophet of Modernism

The Communist Tradition

Romanticism and Classicism

Part II From the 1820s to the Great Depression of the 1870s and 1880s

5 Liberal Struggles, Victories, Dilemmas, Defeats

The Revolution of 1830 in France

Unrest in the 1830s

Agitation to Repeal the Corn Laws

The Great Hunger in Ireland

The Darker Vision of Thomas Malthus

Again, Revolution in France

Reform in Britain: The Chartist Movement

Revolutions of 1848 and the End of Metternich's Europe

The Republican Provisional Government and the "National Workshops"

Rising Class Conflict and the "June Days"

The National Question Outside France

Growing Divisions among the Revolutionaries

6 Nationalism and National Unification

Problems of Definition

Ideas of German Nationality

People, Language, and State: Herder and Hegel

Slavic Identities

Southern Europe: Latin Identities

New Power Relations in Europe: The Wars of Mid-century

[The Unification of Italy](#)

[The Unification of Germany](#)

[7 Mid-century Consolidation, Modernization: Austria, Russia, France](#)

[The Habsburg Empire](#)

[The Russian Empire](#)

[France's Second Empire](#)

[8 Optimism, Progress, Science: From the 1850s to 1871](#)

[The Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune](#)

[The Classic Age of British Liberalism](#)

[Britain's Social Peace, Political Stability, and Economic Productivity](#)

[Liberalism, Population Growth, and Democracy](#)

[The Irish Question](#)

[Darwin and Darwinism](#)

[Part III From Depression to World War: The 1870s to 1914](#)

[9 The Depressed and Chastened 1870s and 1880s](#)

[The Spread of Marxism: Controversies about the Meaning of Marxism](#)

[The Development of Social Darwinism and Evolutionary Thinking](#)

[Russian Revolutionary Movements in the 1870s and 1880s](#)

[The Appearance of Modern Racial-Political Antisemitism](#)

[Antisemitism in Germany](#)

[The Weakness of Antisemitism in Italy and Britain](#)

[Antisemitism in France: Renan and the Scandals of the 1880s](#)

[10 Germany and Russia in the Belle Epoque: 1890–1914](#)

[A Rising Germany](#)

[Liberalism Challenged, Mass Politics, and the Second Industrial Revolution](#)

[The Influence of Friedrich Nietzsche](#)

[New Aspects of the German Question](#)

[The Evolution of German Social Democracy: The Revisionist Controversy](#)

[Russia under Nicholas II](#)

[The Appeals of Marxism in Russia and the Emergence of Leninism](#)

[The Russo-Japanese War, 1904–5](#)

[Revolution and Reaction in Russia, 1905–14](#)

[11 France and Britain in the Belle Epoque: 1890–1914](#)

[France in Turmoil](#)

[The Dreyfus Affair](#)

[French Socialism](#)

[Edwardian Britain](#)

[The Boer War](#)

[The Woman Question](#)

[12 The Origins of World War I](#)

[Growing International Anarchy, Hypernationalism, Polarization of Alliances](#)

[An Inevitable War?](#)

[The Role of Personality and Chance](#)

[The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand](#)

[From Euphoria to Stalemate Warfare](#)

[Part IV The European Civil War: 1914–43](#)

[13 World War I: 1914–18](#)

[Stalemate Warfare in the West and Expansion in the East](#)

[1916: The Battles at Verdun and the Somme](#)

[1917: A Turning Point](#)

[Autumn 1917 to Autumn 1918: The Last Year of War and Germany](#)

Collapse

November 1918: The Balance Sheet of War

14 Revolution in Russia: 1917–21

A Proletarian Revolution?

The March (February) Revolution: Provisional Government and Soviets

Lenin's Return: The Paradoxes of Bolshevik Theory and Practice

The Mechanics of the Bolshevik Seizure of Power

The Constituent Assembly

Civil War in Russia: The Red Terror

The Failure of Revolution in the West

What "Really Happened" in Russia between November 1917 and March 1921?

15 The Paris Peace Settlement

The Settlements of 1815 and 1919 Compared; the Issue of German Guilt

Popular Pressures, "New Diplomacy," Russia's Isolation

Wilson's Role: The Fourteen Points

The Successor States and the Issue of Self-Determination

The Creation of New Nation-States: Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia

Dilemmas and Contradictions of Ethnic-Linguistic States

Minority Treaties

League of Nations Mandates

16 The Dilemmas of Liberal Democracy in the 1920s

Containing Germany: The Weakness of the League of Nations, 1919–29

The Dilemmas of American Leadership: Isolationism

Reactionary Trends and the Woman Question

The Negative Impact of the Versailles Treaty: Undermining German

Democracy

The Evolution of Liberal Democracy in Germany

Developments in the Third Republic

The Brief Rule of the British Labour Party

The Stock-Market Crash, November 1929: The Beginning of the Great Depression

17 Stalinist Russia and International Communism

Stalin and Stalinism

The 1920s: Lingering Dilemmas and the Industrialization Debate

Stalin's Victory in the Struggle for Power

Stalin and the Jewish Question in the Bolshevik Party

Collectivization and the Five-Year Plan

The Blood Purges

1939: The Balance Sheet: Paradoxes and Imponderables

18 The Rise of Fascism and Nazism: 1919–39

The Origins of Italian Fascism

Mussolini's Assumption of Power

The Evolving Definition of Fascism: Initial Relations with Nazism

The Spread of Fascism Outside Italy, 1922–33

Nazism: The Basis of Its Appeal

The Nature of Hitler's Antisemitism

Hitler in Power

A Moderate Solution to the Jewish Question?

Nazi and Soviet Rule: Comparing Evils

19 The Origins of World War II and the Holocaust: 1929–39

European Diplomacy, 1929–34

Hitler's Retreats, the Stresa Front

The Great Turning Point, 1934–5: Comintern Policy and the Ethiopian War

[The Popular Front in France, 1935–9](#)

[The Spanish Civil War, 1936–9](#)

[The Era of Appeasement, 1936–8](#)

[Evaluating Appeasement](#)

[20 World War II and the Holocaust: 1939–43](#)

[Appeasement from the East and the Outbreak of World War II](#)

[The Opening Stages of World War II](#)

[War in the West, 1940](#)

[The War against Judeo-Bolshevism](#)

[The Turning of the Tide](#)

[Victories at Stalingrad and the Kursk Salient](#)

[Part V Europe in Recovery and the Cold War: 1943–89 and
Beyond](#)

[21 Victory, Peace, Punishment: 1943–6](#)

[The Problems and Paradoxes of Victory](#)

[Planning for Victory](#)

[Personal Diplomacy and Realpolitik](#)

[Winning the War: Myths and Realities](#)

[The Ambiguous Peace](#)

[The Holocaust's Final Stages: Vengeance](#)

[The Nuremberg Trials](#)

[Dilemmas and Paradoxes of Punishment](#)

[22 Europe's Nadir, the German Question, and the Origins of the Cold
War: 1945–50](#)

[War-time Deaths, Military and Civilian](#)

[The Unresolved German Question: Germany's Borders](#)

[Denazification](#)

[The Two Germanies, East and West](#)

[Schumacher and Adenauer](#)

[Social Democrats vs. Christian Democrats](#)

[Postwar Austria](#)

[The Origins and Nature of the Cold War](#)

[23 The Mystique of Revolution: Ideologies and Realities, 1945 to the 1960s](#)

[The Revolutionary Mystique in the Immediate Postwar Years](#)

[Democratic Socialism in Western Europe: Great Britain](#)

[Democratic Socialism in Western Europe: Scandinavia](#)

[The Revolutionary Mystique, the Cult of Personality, and “Real” Socialism](#)

[Titoism and the New Show Trials](#)

[Stalin’s Death and Khrushchev’s “De-Stalinization”](#)

[Revolts in Poland and Hungary, 1956](#)

[The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962](#)

[East Germany and the Berlin Wall](#)

[24 The End of Imperialism, and European Recovery: 1948–68](#)

[European Exhaustion and the End of Empire](#)

[India and the Middle East](#)

[New Dimensions of the Jewish Question](#)

[“French” Algeria](#)

[The Vagaries of Historical Memory: The Role of the Cold War](#)

[The Establishment of the Fourth Republic in France](#)

[Restoring Liberal Democracy in Italy](#)

[European Unification: The First Steps](#)

[De Gaulle’s Vision: The Fifth Republic](#)

[25 Europe in a New Generation](#)

[Communism with a Human Face: Czechoslovakia, 1968](#)

Young Rebels in Western Europe

France: The “Events of May”

Feminism in the New Generation

26 Détente, Ostpolitik, Glasnost: A New Europe

Shifting International Relationships: Frictions and Contretemps in the Soviet Union and United States

The Impact of the Oil Embargo of 1973: “Stagflation”

The Restive Soviet Bloc in the 1970s and 1980s

Poland and Solidarity

West Germany’s Ostpolitik: Management of Modern Capitalism

Gorbachev and Glasnost, 1985–9

The Disintegration of Communist Rule

From Mystique (1989–90) to Politique (1991–2012)

From Soviet Union to Russian Federation

The Unification of Germany

The Breakup of Former Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia

Western Europe: From Common Market to European Union

27 Europe in Two Centuries: An Epilogue and General Assessment

Europe’s Evolving Identity

European Liberties and Toleration

The Irish Question

The Woman Question

The Social Question and the Role of the State

The Eastern Question and the End of Empires

The German Question

Americanization, Globalization, and the European Model

The Jewish Question

The New Enemy: Islam

Environmentalism under Capitalism and Communism

[The Demographic Question and European Xenophobia](#)

[The Sovereign Debt Crisis: The Dilemmas of the European Union](#)

[Index](#)

Concise History of the Modern World

Covering the major regions of the world, each history in this series provides a vigorous interpretation of its region's past in the modern age. Informed by the latest scholarship, but assuming no prior knowledge, each author presents developments within a clear analytic framework. Unusually, the histories acknowledge the limitations of their own generalizations. Authors are encouraged to balance perspectives from the broad historical landscape with discussion of particular features of the past that may or may not conform to the larger impression. The aim is to provide a lively explanation of the transformations of the modern period and the interplay between long-term change and "defining moments" of history.

Published

A History of Modern Latin America

Teresa A. Meade

A History of Modern Africa, second edition

Richard J. Reid

A History of Modern Europe

Albert S. Lindemann

A History of Modern Europe

From 1815 to the Present

Albert S. Lindemann

 **WILEY-BLACKWELL**
A John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Publication

This edition first published 2013

© 2013 Albert S. Lindemann

Blackwell Publishing was acquired by John Wiley & Sons in February 2007. Blackwell's publishing program has been merged with Wiley's global Scientific, Technical, and Medical business to form Wiley-Blackwell.

Registered Office

John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK

Editorial Offices

350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5020, USA

9600 Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 2DQ, UK

The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK

For details of our global editorial offices, for customer services, and for information about how to apply for permission to reuse the copyright material in this book please see our website at www.wiley.com/wiley-blackwell.

The right of Albert S. Lindemann to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted in accordance with the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted by the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Designations used by companies to distinguish their products are often claimed as trademarks. All brand names and product names used in this book are trade names, service marks, trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. The publisher is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book. This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is sold on the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services. If professional advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication data is available upon request.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Cover image: Liberty leading the People, 19th century print after Delacroix's 1830 painting.

© Ivy Close Images / Alamy

Cover design by www.simonlevyassociates.co.uk

Preface

The Dilemmas and Rewards of a Concise Historical Overview

Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it.

(attributed to George Santayana)

We Communists have no difficulty in predicting the future – it's the past that keeps changing on us!

(anonymous)

Memory is like a crazy old woman, storing colored rags and throwing away good food.

(attributed to Austin O'Malley)

In the nineteenth century, Europeans produced a dazzling civilization, a culmination of centuries that was once termed “the rise of the west.” Europe influenced the rest of the world to an extent that few, if any, previous civilizations had. Europeans were admired and imitated but also feared and hated by much of the rest of that world. The empires of individual European countries, especially those of Britain and France, ruled over hundreds of millions of non-European peoples, often with a heavy hand. Europeans came to believe in their inherent superiority to other peoples, and there was no denying their scientific discoveries, military power, and all-round creativity. Yet, driven by the demon of the extreme left and right, European civilization nearly committed suicide, pulling much of the rest of the globe into two massive conflicts termed “world” wars, resulting in the deaths of tens of millions and incalculable miseries for millions more.

A familiarity with that history is obviously desirable for any educated person in the early twenty-first century, but such a familiarity is not easily gained. The volumes of Wiley-Blackwell's Concise History of the Modern World series are designed for readers with “no prior knowledge” of the topics covered, but those volumes also have the goal of offering “vigorous interpretation” and insights from “the latest scholarship.” Any presentation of modern European history with those requirements must pay especially rigorous attention to priorities, leaving out much that would find a place in a longer volume for a different audience. In particular, any history intent on presenting penetrating analysis and provocative interpretive perspectives must be substantially different from an inclusive, fact-filled chronological narrative. At any rate, most modern historians have long since moved away from presenting “just the facts” in an “objective” way. Professional historians see their discipline as question-driven, involving debate and ambiguity, rather than simply one in which facts are accurately and objectively presented. Again, the professional historian's approach to history involves priorities, unavoidably stirring up debate about the nature of those priorities.

The above three epigrams suggest many of the challenges – and pitfalls – associated with writing a concise overview that is readable and yet avoids condescension. The first quotation is the most widely known and familiar. Attributed to George Santayana, it is a simplification of his actual words (“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to fulfill it”); the following pages will have much to say about the “lessons of history” – lessons that have often turned out to be simplistic and misleading, if not utterly false, leading to new tragedies. The second quotation, while obviously tongue-in-cheek, makes a point

about the past that is tacitly accepted by all historians – not that historical facts can be crudely ignored, as was notoriously the case under Communist rule, but rather that what interests us about the past subtly evolves. We are constantly discovering new details about the past, and partly because of that new information we continually reformulate the questions we ask about that past. This is not to assert that the past itself changes; it is rather to recognize that we look for new things, while losing interest in things that had once fascinated us.

The third of the above quotations observes how our memory tends to be attracted to the gaudy and garish, passing over “good food” – in other words, avoiding more valuable memories, especially if they are awkward ones. That quotation also touches on one of the major issues for those writing modern history: the widening gap between “popular” history and history written by professional historians, the first colorful and highly readable but also tending to be conceptually shallow, the second generally less readable but more intellectually challenging. That division has a convoluted relationship with what have been termed the “old” and “new” approaches to the writing of history. The venerable or “old” tradition in history-writing concerned itself primarily with the role of great men and with those areas in which such men predominated (politics, diplomacy, and warfare, but also scientific inquiry and economic enterprise, to name just a few). “New” history has its own honorable tradition in its concern to “revise” or radically reconceptualize how we understand the past, to achieve fresh perspectives on it – and is especially proud in announcing its move away from the earlier focus on great men.

The distinction between old and new history is so fraught with definitional problems that the term may pose more of an obstacle to understanding than an aid to it. Those writing from an “old” perspective are also constantly in search for new interpretations, while most of those writing “new” history by no means completely ignore the more long-standing concerns. Nonetheless, the terms “old history” and “new history” are entrenched and do have some thought-provoking implications. The difference between old and new history, for example, has been described as involving a shift “from victors’ history to victims’ history” – tendentiously, no doubt, but pointing nonetheless in fruitful directions. How much should historical narratives concentrate on “elites” (the powerful, the famous, the creative) in contrast to the mass of the population (the previously neglected, powerless, mundane and inarticulate)? Does the historian properly direct most attention to an ascendant Britain or to declining Spain (in other words, to the successful model that others sought to emulate or to the failing one that others sought to avoid)? Which is it more important to understand: the personal lives of Hitler or Stalin, or the lives of the lower classes in Germany and Soviet Russia? Women constitute half of the population; should they then take up half of any general historical narrative? Elites are by definition a very small part of the population; should they then constitute a very small part of historical accounts? Anyone who believes that history should include “all of the above” cannot expect to find a concise volume that does so.

“New” history tends to favor “history from below,” dismissing “history from above” as limited and too focused on elites (which, at least for some observers, are implicitly bad, while “the people” are implicitly good). Impersonal forces are similarly seen as far more significant than the decisions of “great men”; the face of the common people, the writers of new history maintain, is more worthy of attention than previously recognized by those writing “old” history. These issues connect in a pertinent way with a major theme of the following pages; that is, how Europe over two centuries rose to such impressive heights, then fell to such appalling depths, yet then recovered to an amazing degree. Is that story best conceptualized “from above,” as one involving choice by identifiable historical actors and powerful elites (overwhelmingly males), who then are in some sense to be

considered primarily responsible for the depths into which Europe descended? Or, in contrast, should the emphasis be from below, on great impersonal forces and the “anonymous” masses, relegating those elite actors to relative insignificance, like leaves on the surface of a powerfully rushing river?

Modern Europe’s civil war of 1914 to 1945, especially the mass murder of Jews that occurred in its last years, looms as the dark star of its history, potently drawing our attention and seeming to influence our interpretation of nearly all other developments. Who (or what) was responsible for the terrible catastrophes of those years? How could so many millions have perished? How could Germany, previously considered one of Europe’s most highly civilized areas, oversee a mechanized, mercile genocide of the Jews under its power, to say nothing of the many millions of other “inferior” peoples? How could Soviet Russia, its Communist leaders claiming to represent the humane values of the Enlightenment, oversee even more murderous measures over a longer period, resulting in tens of millions of deaths of its own citizens?

Are those calamities to be presented as avoidable, if political leaders or other elites had made different choices, or were those calamities ultimately inevitable, the result of impersonal forces that overwhelmed individuals? If we dismiss the “great men” of this period – Stalin, Hitler, Churchill – as unimportant compared to the workings of the economy or the strivings of the great masses of humanity, what kind of historical narrative might result? To turn the accusing finger in a different direction, might the rise in the power of the masses – ignorant, gullible, short-sighted – be seen as fundamental to Europe’s tragedies, whereas “great” men became important only insofar as they could manipulate those masses?

Such questions have no easy answers. This volume may be seen as an exploration of the kinds of blends or syntheses of old and new history that are desirable and – let us be realistic – possible in a concise volume. There is a related question that cannot be ignored in a history of modern Europe: “Eurocentrism” is one of the many sins charged against “old” versions of history. A history of Europe is by definition centered on Europe, but what is more broadly implied in the charge of Eurocentrism is that historians of Europe (and, by extension, people of European descent) have seen the rest of the world from a blinkered perspective, failing to view non-Europeans with the proper sympathy and respect. For many, especially in the intellectual climate of recent years, sympathy and respect are absolute requirements when dealing with history’s victims – the weak, vulnerable, or previously denigrated. Similarly, any suggestion of a critical stance in regard to history’s “losers” is dismissed as mean-spirited.

There is, however, this dilemma: Some of those claiming to present “new” perspectives have reproduced the tendencies of “old” history in elevating *their* favored group, and, even more, in failing to evaluate it searchingly. But surely the goal of reassuring one group or another that their members are wonderful and their enemies nasty is not consistent with the highest ideal of historical analysis. In this, as in other regards, there are obvious connections with the culture wars of recent decades and the way one approaches history.

The word “sympathy” can imply many things, but it tends to pull in different directions than critical analysis does. The ideal in these pages has been to extend sympathy to all – while also subjecting all to searching analysis. It is an ultimately unachievable ideal, of course, but nonetheless sympathetic understanding must be distinguished from rationalization or apologetics. That many Europeans of the nineteenth century considered themselves superior to non-European peoples is only too obvious, just as European elites considered themselves superior to the European lower orders. European imperialism and the struggle against it are major themes of this volume, as are the related themes

European racism and the struggle against it. In the history of other areas of the world, imperialist expansion and concepts roughly comparable to European racism were common enough, but European civilization came to have more concentrated power and a greater range of influence throughout the world than any previous civilization – and, of course, most of us have a fresher memory of it.

A key focus, then, of these pages is on the reasons for the admiration that Europeans attracted, as well as reasons for the related hatred they inspired. As noted above, the Europeans' growing sense of superiority to the rest of the world was in certain regards based on reality. Their physical power, as measured in weaponry in relation to that of non-Europeans was often overwhelming. Yet the fierce dynamism of European civilization helped to carry it to the edge of self-destruction. It grew to awe-inspiring power, characterized by unparalleled material wealth and military might. Its scientific discoveries impressed its most determined opponents, as did its music, visual art, and literature. European ideologies spread widely. But Europe descended, between 1914 and 1945, into shocking irrationality and cruelty, and the mass murder of its own peoples.

Most observers today reject the nineteenth-century belief, often termed "triumphalism," that Europeans and those of European descent were bringing higher moral values and an obviously superior level of civilization to the rest of the world. In a now-famous put-down, the Indian leader Mohandas Gandhi, when asked about European civilization, observed that "it would be a nice idea." Nonetheless, there remains the issue of whether the contrasting assertion – that the West's influence on the rest of the world was mostly destructive – is any more valid. World history is after all a story of mutual influences, but not usually of mutual benevolence. Europe's arrogance and cruelty were hardly unprecedented, though its power and world influence may well have been.

List of Maps

- [Map 1.1](#) Physical map of Europe.
- [Map 2.1](#) Europe, 1815.
- [Map 6.1](#) Unification of Italy.
- [Map 6.2](#) Unification of Germany.
- [Map 7.1](#) Languages and ethnicities of the Habsburg Empire.
- [Map 11.1](#) Imperialism in Africa.
- [Map 13.1](#) Europe during World War I.
- [Map 15.1](#) Europe, 1919.
- [Map 21.1](#) Nazi-dominated Europe, 1942.
- [Maps 22.1–22.3](#) Germany's changing borders. *Top*: Interwar Germany, 1919–39. *Middle*: Greater Germany (Grossdeutsches Reich), 1941–5. *Bottom*: Truncated, divided Germany, 1949–90.
- [Map 24.1](#) Palestine, 1948.
- [Map 27.1](#) Europe, 2010.

List of Figures

- [Figure 2.1](#)** The journey of a modern hero, to the island of Elba. Hand-colored etching, 18.9 × 22.7 cm, published by J. Phillips, London, 1814. The text coming from the donkey's bottom reads: "The greatest events in human life is turn'd to a puff." *Source:* Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC. Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-04308.
- [Figure 3.1](#)** Woman using spinning jenny, invented by James Hargreaves in 1764. Wood engraving, c. 1880. *Source:* Universal History Archive/Getty Images.
- [Figure 7.1](#)** Napoleon III (by Franz Xaver Winterhalter, 1805–1873). The portrait suggests nobility and an association with Emperor Napoleon I, whereas Napoleon III was often cruelly caricatured by his contemporaries, most famously by Karl Marx. *Source:* DEA / G. Dagl Orti / De Agostini / Getty Images.
- [Figure 8.1](#)** Darwin portrayed as an ape (or an "orang-outang") in a cartoon in the *Hornet* magazine, March 22, 1871. The caption read "A Venerable Orang-Outang. A Contribution to Unnatural History." *Source:* © Classic Image / Alamy.
- [Figure 9.1](#)** Karl Marx in his final years, in a photograph that became iconic. *Source:* akg-images.
- [Figure 10.1](#)** "Dropping the Pilot" by Sir John Tenniel. The "pilot," Bismarck, is being dismissed, while the bumptious and incompetent young Kaiser Wilhelm II is taking over. *Source:* *Punch*, 1890. © INTERFOTO / Alamy.
- [Figure 11.1](#)** The caption reads: "What better place than in the bosom of the family?" Dreyfus was demonized by much of the French right, who thought Devil's Island was the right place for him. *Source:* Private Collection / Roger-Viollet, Paris / The Bridgeman Art Library.
- [Figure 12.1](#)** Gavrilo Princip is paraded by his Austrian captors after assassinating Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Sarajevo, Bosnia, June 28, 1914. *Source:* © Pictorial Press Ltd / Alamy.
- [Figure 13.1](#)** France, World War I, Battle of the Somme (July 1 to November 15, 1916), the British front. The battle developed along a front of some thirty kilometers, on both sides of the Somme river, between the German army and the Franco-British forces. It was the first time in military history that tanks were used. *Source:* Album / Prisma / akg-images.
- [Figure 14.1](#)** Rasputin, surrounded by ladies at the court of the tsar, 1910. *Source:* © World History Archive / Alamy.
- [Figure 15.1](#)** The "Big Four" world leaders at the World War I peace conference, Paris, May 27, 1919. From left to right: Prime Minister David Lloyd George, Premier Vittorio Orlando, Premier Georges Clemenceau, and President Woodrow Wilson. *Source:* © GL Archive / Alamy.
- [Figure 17.1](#)** Lenin and Stalin, after Lenin's first stroke. This photograph was used to emphasize the closeness to Lenin that Stalin claimed. *Source:* SSPL / Getty Images.
- [Figure 18.1](#)** Adolf Hitler, September 1936. The business suit reflects his efforts at this time to appear as a respectable statesman, not a radical demagogue. *Source:* © [ullsteinbild](#) /

- [**Figure 20.1**](#) Hitler: “The scum of the earth, I believe?” Stalin: “The bloody assassin of the workers, I presume?” Cartoonist David Low’s “Rendezvous,” originally published in the *Evening Standard*, September 20, 1939. *Source*: British Cartoon Archive, University of Kent, www.cartoons.ac.uk/London Evening Standard.
- [**Figure 21.1**](#) Nazis arresting Jews in Warsaw Ghetto. Frightened Jewish families surrender to Nazi soldiers at the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943. In January of that year, the residents of the ghetto rose against the Nazis and held their ground for several months, but were defeated after fierce fighting in April and May. Photo from Jürgen Stroop’s report to Heinrich Himmler from May 1943. *Source*: Wikimedia Commons.
- [**Figure 21.2**](#) The Big Three: Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Josef Stalin at the Yalta Conference, February 4–11, 1945. *Source*: © Trinity Mirror / Mirrorpix / Alamy.
- [**Figure 23.1**](#) “I’m sorry, kids! It was, like, just an idea I had!” Roland Beier: Marx cartoon, 1990. *Source*: © Roland Beier.
- [**Figure 24.1**](#) Arriving in Palestine. A soldier of the British Parachute Regiment with newly arrived Jewish refugees at a port in the British Mandate of Palestine, 1947. *Source*: Popperfoto /Getty Images.
- [**Figure 26.1**](#) Willy Brandt kneeling at a monument to the Jewish dead, Warsaw, 1970. *Source*: © Interfoto / Alamy.
- [**Figure 26.2**](#) Still smiling after a very hectic day in the Big Apple, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa display their endurance as they attend a reception in their honor, December 8, 1987. *Source*: © Bettmann / CORBIS.

Acknowledgments

Writing a book can seem a lonely undertaking. Facing a blank screen each day (or worse, a screen filled with endlessly revised previous drafts), one mutters, “How did I get into this?” In my case the answer is a simple one: I was asked by Christopher Wheeler, publisher at Wiley Blackwell, if he could interest me in writing a concise, readable history of modern Europe. In no small part due to his delicate flattery, my initial resistance was overcome. (A more complex answer is that, having taught the subject for many years, I had long contemplated writing such a book, and this was the chance to put up or shut up.)

It was not lonely, then, at the beginning. Christopher and I exchanged many emails, discovering that we were largely in agreement about the dimensions of the volume. About six months later I delivered a detailed proposal. Five scholarly readers were then asked to offer their reactions to it. These turned out to be gratifyingly supportive. Thereafter, many more readers were asked to look over the gradually emerging draft chapters. Among those readers were students in my university classes, colleagues at my university and elsewhere, non-academic friends, and last but by no means least my wife, Barbara, also a professor of History – the first and last reader of all my books and articles.

A contract was negotiated, but not long thereafter Christopher accepted a position at Oxford University Press. His successor at Wiley Blackwell, Tessa Harvey, proved gracious and professional even when progress seemed worryingly slow. I again exchanged countless emails with Tessa, Isobel Bainton, Anna Mendell, and Gillian Kane. It would be hard to imagine a more efficient, sensitive, and supportive group of editors.

The complete draft of the manuscript in its initial form was too long, so I thoroughly revised it, deleting tens of thousands of words that I had so sweated to produce, but I finally got much closer to the agreed-upon goal of a “concise” history. This draft yet again went through a rigorous vetting process, most notably by development editor Sarah Wrightman, whose sensitivity to what I was trying to accomplish gave me a welcome boost. The eagle eye of copy-editor Hazel Harris caught typos and inconsistencies, but more significantly she showed a remarkable talent for flagging unclear passages. Caroline Hensman and Charlotte Frost offered invaluable assistance with the often complex issues associated with selecting maps and illustrations.

Rather than feeling lonely, then, I had good reason to agree heartily that it “takes a village” to (raise a child or) write a book of this sort. Yet, with all these many helping hands, there did remain an undeniable solitude, for an author must be, in the immortal words of a recent American president, “the decider.” Many readers offered knowledgeable suggestions, but those suggestions often contradicted the equally knowledgeable suggestions of other readers. Not all readers could come fully to grips with the implications of that terrifying word “concise.” While it is true, then, that it takes a village, it is also the case that “too many cooks spoil the broth.” A single author’s voice is crucial to producing a readable and coherent narrative, and that author cannot avoid making decisions about what should be included, or, more painfully, what had to be excluded. Such a process, even for the most confident and experienced writer, will likely involve bouts of frustration and self-doubt – if finally also a giddy moment of satisfaction and exhaustion at wrestling the thing to the ground.

It is customary in the acknowledgments page to end by thanking everyone who helped yet at the same time firmly recognizing that any remaining errors or inadequacies are the author’s responsibility. I hope my comments above adequately convey those sentiments. But I must sincerely

declare to all those mentioned above – beyond the usual boilerplate and blarney – that it would have been inconceivable to complete it without you, and I offer you my sincerest thanks.

- [click Mind of Mahamudra \(Advice from the Kagyu Masters\) book](#)
- [read La Soliste \(Docteure Irma, Tome 3\)](#)
- [Corporate Bodies and Guilty Minds: The Failure of Corporate Criminal Liability pdf, azw \(kindle\), epub](#)
- [Bakkian Chronicles, Book I - The Prophecy here](#)
- [Olive Magazine \(October 2015\) book](#)
- [read Brick Flicks: A Comprehensive Guide to Making Your Own Stop-Motion LEGO Movies online](#)

- <http://chelseaprintandpublishing.com/?freebooks/The-Mercy-of-the-Night.pdf>
- <http://berttrotman.com/library/Dante-s-Paradiso--The-Vision-of-Paradise-from-The-Divine-Comedy.pdf>
- <http://test.markblaustein.com/library/Python-for-Kids--A-Playful-Introduction-to-Programming.pdf>
- <http://betsy.wesleychapelcomputerrepair.com/library/Bakkian-Chronicles--Book-I---The-Prophecy.pdf>
- <http://academialanguagebar.com/?ebooks/Olive-Magazine--October-2015-.pdf>
- <http://nexson.arzamashev.com/library/Brick-Flicks--A-Comprehensive-Guide-to-Making-Your-Own-Stop-Motion-LEGO-Movies.pdf>