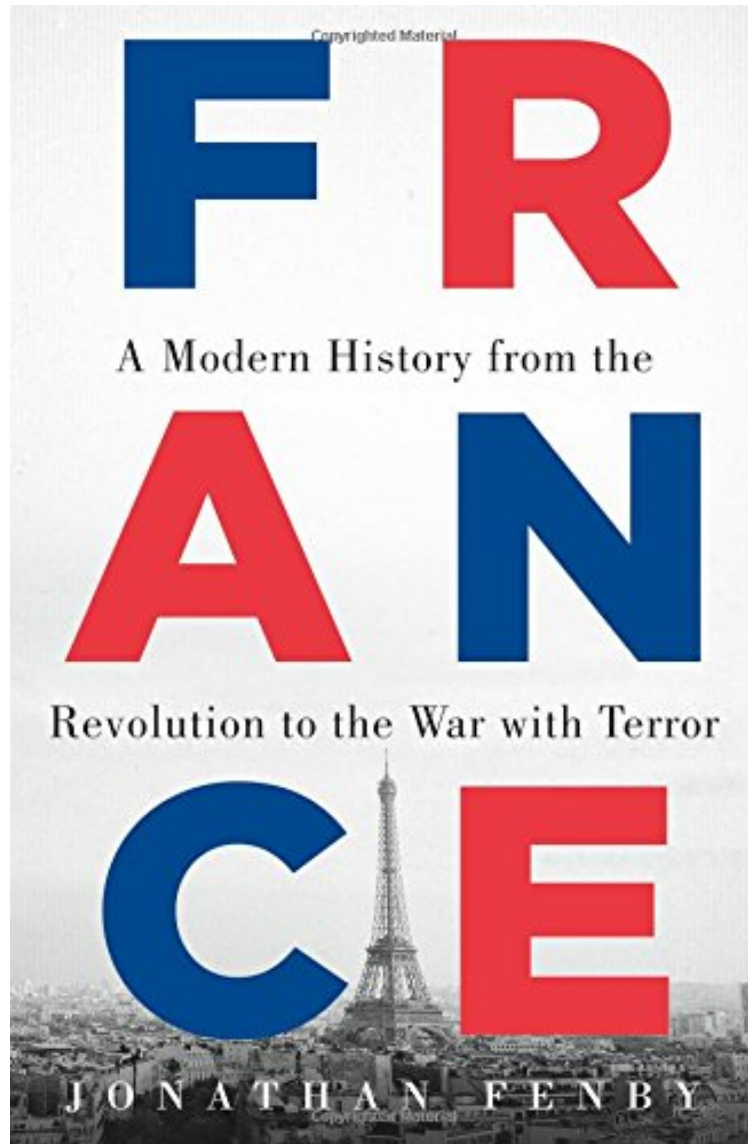


France: A Modern History from the Revolution to the War with Terror

Jonathan Fenby

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#341474 in Books Fenby Jonathan 2016-11-08 2016-11-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.51 x 1.85 x 6.311, .0 #File Name: 1250096839576 pages France A Modern History from the Revolution to the War with Terror | File size: 54.Mb

Jonathan Fenby : France: A Modern History from the Revolution to the War with Terror before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised France: A Modern History from the Revolution to the War with Terror:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read on modern France By Daniel Weitz This book is terrific, and covers events thru the terrorist attacks in the Spring of 2016. It has a section of photographs and an excellent set of bibliographical notes for further reading. The book is an outstanding read, and difficult to put down. Its concentration on contemporary events, and how France ended up in its current predicament is enlightening. Characters such as Louis-Philip and the literary and scientific figures become 'real-people'. The book is at its best in two areas: showing continuity through political changes, with leaders moving to and fro from party to party in what the author describes as a conservative nation with a tradition of left-wing rebellion; and most importantly discussing the 'morosite' that afflicts modern France with its loss of confidence and Moslem immigrants that are a major problem. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great history By Faxoncat Great book 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Sloppy Errors and Inaccurate History By Brandon OBrien As a frequent reader of history books, I find that the books I most enjoy are historically accurate while being engaging and well-written. So many history books manage the former but fail in the latter. Fenton's book is the opposite. As I work my way through the book, it has managed to keep me interested and engaged. Unfortunately, only 50 pages in, I've already found 3 factual errors that make me question the reliability of the rest of the book. Page 15: Marie Antoinette went to the scaffold in October, not November, as Fenby claims. Page 41: Fenby states that the Duke of Berry is the eldest son of King Charles X. He was actually the younger son. The childless Duke of Angoulme was the older son and the heir to the throne. Page 49: Charles X did not have the Expiatory Chapel built in memory of his brother Louis XVI. Construction began in 1816 at the direction of Louis XVIII. It was completed during the reign of Charles X in 1826. Perhaps these are inconsequential errors. Still, they were errors that I was able to pick up on without even having to consult other historical sources. What a shame that such mistakes could be allowed to be published.

With the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815, the next two centuries for France would be tumultuous. Critically acclaimed historian and political commentator Jonathan Fenby provides an expert and riveting journey through this period as he recounts and analyzes the extraordinary sequence of events of this period from the end of the First Revolution through two others, a return of Empire, three catastrophic wars with Germany, periods of stability and hope interspersed with years of uncertainty and high tensions. As her cross-channel neighbor Great Britain would equally suffer, France was to undergo the wrenching loss of colonies in the post-Second World War era as the new modern world we know today took shape. Her attempts to become the leader of the European union was a constant struggle, as was her lack of support for America in the two Gulf Wars of the past twenty years. Alongside this came huge social changes and cultural landmarks, but also fundamental questioning of what this nation, which considers itself exceptional, really stood and stands for. That saga and those questions permeate the France of today, now with an implacable enemy to face in the form of Islamic extremism which so bloodily announced itself this year in Paris. Fenby will detail every event, every struggle, and every outcome across this expanse of 200 years. It will prove to be the definitive guide to understanding France.

"Well narrated...Mr. Fenby is a commonsensical yet sensitive analyst...a useful compendium of France's failed political responses to its stunningly fractious history since 1789." - Wall Street Journal
Quelle histoire!... A good feel for political atmosphere... This book is a feast of tidbits about French history The writing is consistently lively in this way, the presentation jazzed up with sidebars and timelines. - New York Times
Book "For all the confusion, twisting and turning of politics, student revolts, and peasant uprisings, France has survived, and Fenby dutifully guides us through. A capable history sure to appeal to all lovers of France." - Kirkus
s "his humorous stories ... are delightful" - Publishers Weekly
general readers will find excellent value in this effort to understand this influential nation. - Booklist
Fenby's accessible prose utilizes non sequitur and a light touch to good effect. He successfully conveys to general readers two centuries of intricate political and economic facts and figures in a well-recommended, thoroughly engrossing narrative - Library Journal
"I recommend this history to those who appreciate the playful ironies of French culture. Historical novelists will find a rich vein of information not only within its detailed discussion of revolution and republics, but also in its notes and bibliography." - Historical Novels About the Author
JONATHAN FENBY is a former editor of the UK Observer and of the South China Morning Post. He is the author of several books including the acclaimed *The General: Charles de Gaulle and the France He Saved* and *Chiang Kai-shek: China's Generalissimo and the Nation He Lost*. In 2013 Jonathan was awarded the Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur by the French government for his contribution towards understanding between Britain and France.