

## **Europe Since 1945 A Concise History**

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***The United States and Western Europe Since 1945* Geir Lundestad 2005-08-11 Based on new and existing research by a world-class scholar, this is the first book in twenty years to examine the dynamics of the entire American-West European relationship since 1945. The relationship between the United States and Western Europe has always been crucial and recent events dictate that it is becoming ever more so. In this important new work, Geir Lundestad analyses the balance between the cooperation and conflict which has characterized this relationship in the post-war period. He examines talk of transatlantic drift, and the strain now apparent between the USA and the nation states of Western Europe. In the concluding section, Lundestad offers a topical view of the future of transatlantic interaction. Throughout the work Lundestad's much cited 'empire by invitation' thesis is both put into practice and extended in time and scope. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in one of the most important and enduring international relationships of the last sixty years.**

***The German Wars* Michael Palmer 2010-11-15 *The German Wars: A Concise History, 1859-1945* outlines the history of European warfare from the Wars of German Unification to the end of the World War II. The title aside, the book is not be another history of the German military; it takes a much broader approach looking at political, social, economic, and military developments across Europe, and the United States during the period. The "German War" part of the title is there because Germany plays the central part in the story. But the key element threading its way through this volume is the Industrial Revolution.**

***French Foreign Policy since 1945* Frédéric Bozo 2016-08-01 When Charles de Gaulle declared that "it is because we are no longer a great power that we need a grand policy," he neatly summarized France's predicament on the world scene. In this compact and engaging history, author Frédéric Bozo deftly recounts France's efforts to reconcile its proud history and global ambitions with a realistic appraisal of its capabilities, from the aftermath of World War II to the present. He provides insightful analysis of the nation's triumphs and setbacks through the years of decolonization, Cold War maneuvering, and European unification, as well as the more contemporary challenges posed by an increasingly multipolar and interconnected world.**

***A Concise History of Sweden* Neil Kent 2008-06-12 Neil Kent's book sweeps through Sweden's history from the Stone Age to the present day. Early coverage includes Viking hegemony, the Scandinavian Union, the Reformation and Sweden's political zenith as Europe's greatest superpower in the seventeenth century, while later chapters explore the Swedish Enlightenment, royal absolutism, the commitment to military neutrality and Pan-Scandinavianism. The author brings his account up to date by focusing on more recent developments: the rise of Social Democracy, the establishment of the welfare state, the country's acceptance of membership in the European Union and its progressive ecological programme. The book successfully combines the politics, economics and social and cultural mores of one of the world's most successfully functioning and humane societies. This is an informative and entertaining account for students and general readers.**

***Postwar* Tony Judt 2011-01-11 FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER AWARD A magisterial and acclaimed history of post-war Europe, from Germany to Poland, from Western Europe to Eastern Europe, selected as one of New York Times Ten Best Books of the Year Europe in 1945 was drained. Much of the continent was devastated by war, mass slaughter, bombing and chaos. Large areas of Eastern Europe were falling under Soviet control, exchanging one despotism for another. Today, the Soviet Union is no more and the democracies of the European Union reach as far as the borders of Russia itself. *Postwar* tells the rich and complex story of how we got from there to here, demystifying Europe's recent history and identity, of what the continent is and has been. 'It is hard to imagine how a better - and more readable - history of the emergence of today's Europe from the ashes of 1945 could ever be written...All in all, a real masterpiece' Ian Kershaw, author**

**of Hitler**

**European Integration Mark Gilbert 2020-08-19** Now in a fully revised and updated edition, this book remains the standard for concise histories of the European Union. Mark Gilbert offers a clear and balanced narrative of European integration since its inception to the present, set in the wider history of the post-war period. Gilbert concludes by considering the Union's future in light of the mood of crisis that has taken hold in the EU in the aftermath of the global recession, the refugee crisis, and Brexit.

**A Concise History of Italy Christopher Duggan 1994-04-21** A concise history of Italy from the fall of the Roman empire in the west to the present day.

**A World in Flames Martin Kitchen 2014-01-14** A concise account of the war - including the war in Asia and the Pacific as well as the European arena. Covers the formation of the victorious Grand Alliance and to the problems that beset it, and to Nazi Germany's relations with its allies.

**Return to Diversity Joseph Rothschild 2000** Written by one of the world's foremost authorities on East Central Europe, *Return to Diversity* has proven to be an invaluable guide for readers of modern European history and politics. This third edition introduces a new co-author, Nancy M. Wingfield, and has been fully updated to take into account recent and ongoing developments in the region.

**The European Economy Since 1945 Barry Eichengreen 2008-07-21** In 1945, many Europeans still heated with coal, cooled their food with ice, and lacked indoor plumbing. This book presents an account of the extraordinary development of Europe's economy since the end of World War II. It argues that the continent's history has been critical to its economic performance.

**A Concise History of Poland Jerzy Lukowski 2006-07-06** The second edition of this guide to Poland has been updated to take account of the years from 1989-2005. This period marked its liberation from the Soviet Union, the birth of Poland's 'Third Republic' and, recently, its accession to the European Union in 2004. Poland's history has been marked by its resilience. Once a dominant force in central and eastern Europe and home to a remarkable experiment in consensual politics, it was excised from the map by its neighbours in 1795. Resurrected in 1918, partitioned afresh during the Second World War, it survived to become a satellite of the Soviet Union. Yet in the 1980s, it was Poland which blazed the trail in casting off communism, and was finally able to reassert its Christian heritage. With its updated bibliography and new chronology, the book is the ideal companion for all looking for a comprehensive survey of this fascinating country.

**A Concise History of Austria Steven Beller 2006** For a small, prosperous country in the middle of Europe, modern Austria has a very large and complex history, extending far beyond its current borders. In a gripping narrative supported by beautiful illustrations, Steven Beller traces the remarkable career of Austria from German borderland to successful Alpine republic.

**Coming Home to Germany? David Rock 2002** The end of World War II led to one of the most significant forced population transfers in history: the expulsion of over 12 million ethnic Germans from Central and Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1950 and the subsequent emigration of another four million in the second half of the twentieth century. Although unprecedented in its magnitude, conventional wisdom has it that the integration of refugees, expellees, and Aussiedler was a largely successful process in postwar Germany. While the achievements of the integration process are acknowledged, the volume also examines the difficulties encountered by ethnic Germans in the Federal Republic and analyses the shortcomings of dealing with this particular phenomenon of mass migration and its consequences.

**A Concise History of the World Since 1945 W. M. Spellman 2006-01-24** W.M. Spellman explores the past half century focusing on key topics such as human migration, science and technology, international business, religion and politics and Empire. Authoritative and well-written, this is an ideal introductory guide for anyone with an interest in World history and the issues and challenges facing the globe today.

**A Constructed Peace Marc Trachtenberg 2020-06-23** People still think of the Cold War as a simple two-sided conflict, a kind of gigantic arm wrestle on a global scale," writes Marc Trachtenberg, "but this view fails to grasp the essence of what was really going on." America and Russia were both willing to live with the status quo in Europe. What then could have generated the kind of conflict that might have led to a nuclear holocaust? This is the great puzzle of the Cold War, and in this book, the product of nearly twenty years of work, Trachtenberg tries to solve it. The answer, he says, has to do with the German question, especially with the German nuclear question. These issues lay at the heart of the Cold War, and a relatively stable peace took shape only when they were resolved. The book develops this argument by telling a story--a complex story involving many issues of detail, but focusing always on the central question of how a stable international system came into being during the Cold War period. *A Constructed Peace* will be of interest not just to students of the Cold War, but to people concerned with the problem of war and peace, and

*in particular with the question of how a stable international order can be constructed, even in our own day.*

***A Concise History of Russia Paul Bushkovitch 2011-12-05*** Accessible to students, tourists and general readers alike, this book provides a broad overview of Russian history since the ninth century. Paul Bushkovitch emphasizes the enormous changes in the understanding of Russian history resulting from the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. Since then, new material has come to light on the history of the Soviet era, providing new conceptions of Russia's pre-revolutionary past. The book traces not only the political history of Russia, but also developments in its literature, art and science. Bushkovitch describes well-known cultural figures, such as Chekhov, Tolstoy and Mendeleev, in their institutional and historical contexts. Though the 1917 revolution, the resulting Soviet system and the Cold War were a crucial part of Russian and world history, Bushkovitch presents earlier developments as more than just a prelude to Bolshevik power.

***Germany, 1871-1945 Raffael Scheck 2008-11-15*** At the end of the Second World War, the first unified German state collapsed, a disintegration with European and global ramifications. Ever since, historians have sought to explain what went wrong in German history. Many have focused on the violence which forged unification; others have highlighted the clash of authoritarian, anti-democratic, and anti-Semitic traditions with rapid industrialization and modernization. Germany, 1871-1945 presents a pragmatic interpretation of German history, from the unification to the end of the Nazi regime. This more open approach acknowledges the strong trend in German society towards modernization and democratization, particularly before 1914, while also highlighting the factors which propelled Germany toward World War I. The rise of the Nazis also demands a close analysis of the economic and political instability of the 1920s and early 1930s. Finally, a detailed assessment of the Third Reich explains how the regime's early successes fostered a loyalty and acceptance that remained hard to shake until disaster was obvious and unavoidable.

***A Concise History of European Monetary Integration Horst Ungerer 1997*** Ungerer provides a comprehensive, yet concise and accessible history of European monetary integration over the past half century, from the European Payments Union (EPU) to the realization of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) as mapped out by the Maastricht Treaty. Monetary integration is essential to the completion of a single market and the realization of and closer political cooperation in Europe. Ungerer demonstrates this point while giving readers the only up-to-date account and analysis of European monetary integration currently available. The book will be an important resource not only for scholars and students of European economic and political integration, but also for professionals in a wide range of fields within international business and finance.

***The Shortest History of Europe John Hirst 2010*** Chinese civilisation was for a long period more advanced than European. From China, Europe acquired printing, paper-making, the compass, gunpowder and locks for canals. Yet it was in Europe that steady economic growth first occurred and then the Industrial Revolution. And it was in Europe that representative government and individual rights, those other hallmarks of modernity, first developed. What is it about Europe? Celebrated historian John Hirst offers a fascinating exploration of the qualities that made Europe a world-changing civilisation. The Shortest History of Europe begins with a rapid overview of European civilisation, describing its birth from an unlikely mixture of three elements- classical learning, Christianity and German warrior culture. Over the centuries, this unstable blend produced highly distinctive characters - pious knights and belligerent popes, romantics spouting folklore and revolutionaries imitating Rome - and its coming apart provided the dynamic of European history in modern times. Meanwhile the common people were tilling the soil, until they became the first to enjoy the prosperity of an industrialised urban society. The Shortest History of Europe is a clear, humorous and thought-provoking account of a remarkable civilisation.

***A Concise History of Modern Europe David S. Mason 2011-01-16*** Highlighting the most important events, ideas, and individuals that shaped modern Europe, A Concise History of Modern Europe provides a readable, succinct history of the continent from the Enlightenment and the French Revolution to the present day. Avoiding a detailed, lengthy chronology, the book focuses on key events and ideas to explore the causes and consequences of revolutions—be they political, economic, or scientific; the origins and development of human rights and democracy; and issues of European identity. Any reader needing a broad overview of the sweep of European history since 1789 will find this book, published in a first edition under the title Revolutionary Europe, an engaging and cohesive narrative.

***European Socialism William Smaldone 2013-08-08*** This accessible text offers a concise but comprehensive introduction to European socialism, which arose in the maelstrom of the industrial and democratic revolutions launched in the eighteenth century. Striving for sweeping social, economic, cultural, and political change, socialists were a diverse lot. However, they were united by principles asserting the social and political equality of all people, ideas that won the adherence

of millions and struck fear in the hearts of their numerous opponents. William Smaldone shows how, over the course of 200 years, socialists successfully promoted the democratization of European society and a more equitable division of wealth. At the same time, he illustrates how conflicts over the means of achieving their aims divided them into rival "socialist" and "communist" currents, a rift that undercut the struggle against fascism and helped lay the groundwork for Europe's division during the Cold War. Although many predicted the demise of socialism as a potent force after the end of the Cold War, the Soviet Union's dissolution, and the rise of neo-liberal ideology, recent developments show that such a judgment was premature. The author argues that the growth of new socialist parties across Europe indicates that socialist ideas remain vibrant in the face of capitalism's failure to solve chronic social and economic problems, especially following the deep global crisis that began in 2008. Combining an analytical narrative with a selection of primary texts and visual images, this book provides undergraduate students with a brief, readable history, including an overview of how socialist political movements have evolved over time and stressing the rich diversity that has characterized socialism's foundations from its beginning.

**A Concise History of Germany Mary Fulbrook 1999**

**History of Europe Rohit Majumdar 2020-08-14** A concise textbook on the history of Europe viewed through the lens of economy, technology, information politics and war. History of Europe helps students, teachers and enthusiasts of history to gain an understanding of the genesis of modern Europe. The book has been structured in an unconventional yet logical manner, keeping in mind the difficulty students face while relating facts and time periods in history. It is segregated into four modules, which bring in multiple angles to provide an all-encompassing perspective of European history along with a parallel understanding of world history, thus establishing a holistic framework of the events. The modules cover Renaissance to pre-Napoleonic era, holocausts to consolidation of global sustainability, Cold War era, and the conflict and culture in European globalization since 1989. Thorough integration maps, illustrations and special vignettes make the textbook interactive, informative and illustrative for students to easily internalize and recollect the major events and their causes and consequences. **Key Features:**\* A unique learning experience of history through extensive chronological detailing and multiple parallels of events\* Includes forty-one maps, which act as visual guides to the geography of politics, campaigns, battles and expansion of empires\* Commentary sections summarizing the key themes and examining global and comparative developments going beyond the geographic framework\* First-hand notes and commentaries of the First and Second World Wars and eyewitness accounts\* Extensive source citations along with weblinks and suggestions for further reading

**A Political History of Western Europe Since 1945** Derek W. Urwin 2014-07-22 Taking a thematic approach, Derek Urwin addresses the major political and economic developments in western Europe since World War II, right up to the present day. The book covers issues and developments in national politics, and the movement towards greater unity in Western Europe and the role of Europe in global politics and in the international economy. The text has been revised throughout and updated to take account of the political consequences of the ending of the Cold War and the troubled progress of European integration since Maastricht. The Fifth Edition has lost nothing of its predecessor's clarity and accessibility and in its updated form will win the book a host of new admirers.

**The European Union Since 1945** Alasdair Blair 2014-05-12 The European Union faces a crossroads in the twenty-first century. While there is evidence of declining enthusiasm for European integration, the EU plays an increasingly vital role in tackling problems that can no longer be dealt with at member state level. In recent years, the EU has developed a stronger foreign, security and defence policy, and has had to face up to the challenges of tackling organised crime, human trafficking and drug smuggling. In this fully updated new edition, Alasdair Blair examines the economic, political, social and personal factors that have shaped the process of European integration from the end of the Second World War until the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. Written in a clear and jargon-free style, the book explores: The context of European integration and expansion The relations between the European Union and its member states The institutional evolution of the European Union Methods of decision-making Key policies of the European Union The future direction of the European Union Comprehensive and accessible, this book is an essential guide to understanding the relevance of the European Union in the twenty-first century.

**Surpassing Realism** Mark Gilbert 2004-09-08 A second edition of this book is now available. A true global giant, the European Union is a unique confederation of 15 member-states whose collective economic power is second only to that of the United States. Already encompassing 375 million citizens, the EU will soon grow to include a further 10 states from Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. To understand the future of this remarkable experiment in regional cooperation,

**we must first trace its past. This engaging text provides a concise political history of European integration from the end of World War II to the present. The "European project" raises fascinating and important questions: How did Europe's states overcome their traditional rivalries and quarrels to build supranational institutions? What were the economic and geopolitical forces that drove them? Which statesmen contributed most to defining the European project? What are the issues that confronted the EU in the last decade and what problems will the EU face as its leaders consider even more advanced forms of political integration? All these questions are addressed by this text, which offers a clear and readable account of the complex historical process by which Europe's unique polity has been built. 2004 update: "A Fiasco But Not a Disaster" by Mark Gilbert, courtesy of World Policy Journal, Vol. 21 (Spring 2004) [www.worldpolicy.org](http://www.worldpolicy.org)**

**The Routledge History of East Central Europe since 1700 Irina Livezeanu 2017-03-16 Covering territory from Russia in the east to Germany and Austria in the west, The Routledge History of East Central Europe since 1700 explores the origins and evolution of modernity in this turbulent region. This book applies fresh critical approaches to major historical controversies and debates, expanding the study of a region that has experienced persistent and profound change and yet has long been dominated by narrowly nationalist interpretations. Written by an international team of contributors that reflects the increasing globalization and pluralism of East Central European studies, chapters discuss key themes such as economic development, the relationship between religion and ethnicity, the intersection between culture and imperial, national, wartime, and revolutionary political agendas, migration, women's and gender history, ideologies and political movements, the legacy of communism, and the ways in which various states in East Central Europe deployed and were formed by the politics of memory and commemoration. This book uses new methodologies in order to fundamentally reshape perspectives on the development of East Central Europe over the past three centuries. Transnational and comparative in approach, this volume presents the latest research on the social, cultural, political and economic history of modern East Central Europe, providing an analytical and comprehensive overview for all students of this region.**

**A Concise History of the World Since 1945 W. M. Spellman 2020-09-16 This lively synthesis of global history since the end of World War II offers a gripping account of an interdependent world and the challenges facing individuals in the 21st century. The narrative is arranged around two key tensions: the struggle between socialism and free-market capitalism and the interaction between cultural fragmentation and the competing integrative force of globalization. Considering the historical experience of Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as the West, it addresses the ever-expanding gulf between the developed North and developing South, and the environmental impact of development on the planet's delicate ecosystems. Authoritative and well-written, this is an ideal introductory guide for undergraduate and postgraduate students taking courses on global history since 1945. It is also a fascinating primer for anyone with an interest in global history and the issues affecting the globe today. New to this Edition: - Updated to cover events since 2006, including the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, China's economic and military advance to great power status, the refugee crises and the global financial crisis of 2008 - New material on the international drugs trade, global opioid crisis and healthcare implications - Expanded material on social media - Updated material on environmental issues, considering US disengagement from traditional global partners in the area of climate change and the Trump administration's distrust of climate science and executive roll-back of established environmental laws - More social history, especially coverage of women and recent developments around issues of sexuality - Expanded section on Islam to include developments within the mainstream (as opposed to radical) tradition worldwide and current historiography**

**A Concise History of France Roger Price 1993-01-21 Traces the history of France from the early middle ages to the 1990s, discussing political power, economic activity, social structures, the impact of war, and outstanding figures in French history**

**European Socialism William Smaldone 2019-10-16 This accessible text offers a concise but comprehensive introduction to European socialism, which arose in the maelstrom of the industrial and democratic revolutions launched in the eighteenth century. Striving for sweeping social, economic, cultural, and political change, socialists were a diverse lot. However, they were united by principles asserting the social and political equality of all people, ideas that won the adherence of millions and struck fear in the hearts of their numerous opponents. William Smaldone shows how, over the course of 200 years, socialists successfully promoted the democratization of European society and a more equitable division of wealth. At the same time, he illustrates how conflicts over the means of achieving their aims divided them into rival "socialist" and "communist" currents, a rift that undercut the struggle against fascism and helped lay the groundwork for Europe's division during the Cold War. Although many predicted the demise of**

**socialism as a potent force after the end of the Cold War, the Soviet Union's dissolution, and the rise of neo-liberal ideology, recent developments show that such a judgment was premature. The author argues that the growth of new socialist parties across Europe indicates that socialist ideas remain vibrant in the face of capitalism's failure to solve chronic social and economic problems, especially following the deep global crisis that began in 2008. Combining an analytical narrative with a selection of primary texts and visual images, this book provides undergraduate students with a brief, readable history, including an overview of how socialist political movements have evolved over time and stressing the rich diversity that has characterized socialism's foundations from its beginning. This new edition brings this text up to date and examines the European socialist movement in the face of 21st century challenges. It includes a new preface, including the 2017 American election, updated bibliographies, two new chapters and an afterword.**

**Twentieth-Century Europe 2014-02-03 Twentieth-Century Europe: A Brief History presents readers with a concise and accessible survey of the most significant themes and political events that shaped European history in the 20th and 21st centuries. Features updates that include a new chapter that reviews major political and economic trends since 1989 and an extensively revised chapter that emphasizes the intellectual and cultural history of Europe since World War II Organized into brief chapters that are suitable for traditional courses or for classes in non-traditional courses that allow for additional material selected by the professor Includes the addition of a variety of supplemental materials such as chronological timelines, maps, and illustrations**

**Europe Since 1945 J. Robert Wegs 1991 Provides a brief, comprehensive overview of postwar Europe. The book includes coverage of economic, social and cultural developments as well as political and diplomatic ones. It also takes account of the collapse of East European Communism and the current restructuring of the Continent.**

**A Concise History of the Third Reich Wolfgang Benz 2007-12-17 This is an authoritative history of the twelve years of the Third Reich from its political takeover of January 30, 1939 to the German capitulation in May 1945.**

**Europe since 1945 James Robert Wegs 1986 "As Europe has expanded its influence in world economic and political affairs, there has been an increased need to understand how Europe recovered from the devastation of World War II to become a major world player. This concise history offers a comprehensive overview of Europe's political, social, economic and cultural developments since 1945. J. Robert Wegs and Robert Ladrech balance a narrative of the major events and personalities of the post-war political scene with a critical assessment of key issues and themes, such as: - The development of the welfare state - European integration and the European Union - The Cold War - The rise and fall of the Soviet Empire - The political-economic turmoil in eastern Europe since 1989 - The place of Europe in the globalisation of the world's political-economic affairs The text also features further reading sections at the end of each chapter to aid more detailed study, and is enhanced throughout with tables, maps and illustrations. Written for students and general readers alike, this thoroughly revised, updated and expanded new edition is an ideal introduction for anyone with an interest in the history and politics of post-war Europe, east and west."--**

**A Concise History of Hungary Miklós Molnár 2001-04-30 A comprehensive history of the land, people, society, culture and economy of Hungary.**

**A Concise History of the Modern World William Woodruff 1993-07-20 In an ever-shrinking world, the need for a global perspective in dealing with the modern world has become acute. This book attempts to provide such a perspective by investigating the major changes in geopolitics and world economy during the past 500 years. However compact, it enables us to understand the present unravelling of Communism and the growing challenge from Asia to Western Superiority. It is shown that in so many ways the problems of the contemporary world spring from the unprecedented era of western domination, which the non-western world is now trying to unlive.**

**The World Since 1945 Keith Robbins 1998 This accessible and stimulating account of world history since 1945 provides a framework for making sense of the political and social developments of this period. The underlying theme of the book is the tension between the world conceived as a unity and the world conceived as a diversity. From this perspective, the author discusses the impulse towards globalization in the aftermath of the Second World War, the divisions inherent in the Cold War, and the shifting allegiances and conflicts in the decades which followed. He ends with an assessment of our position with regard to world unity and disunity as the millennium approaches.**

**A Concise History of Poland Jerzy Lukowski 2019-01-24 Poland is a tenacious survivor-state: it was wiped off the map in 1795, resurrected after the First World War, apparently annihilated again in the Second World War, and reduced to satellite status of the Soviet Union after 1945. Yet**

**it emerged in the vanguard of resistance to the USSR in the 1980s, albeit as a much more homogeneous entity than it had been in its multi-ethnic past. This book outlines Poland's turbulent and complex history, from its medieval Christian origins to the reassertion of that Christian and European heritage after forty-five years of communism. It describes Poland's transformation since 1989, and explains how Poland navigated its way into a new Commonwealth of Nations in the European Union. Recent years have witnessed significant changes within Poland, Eastern Europe and the wider world. This new edition reflects on these changes, and examines the current issues facing a Poland which some would accuse of being out of touch with 'European values'.**

**European Integration Mark Gilbert 2012 Rev. and updated ed. of: Surpassing realism: the politics of European integration since 1945. c2003.**

**A Concise History of Switzerland Clive H. Church 2013-05-23 Despite its position at the heart of Europe and its quintessentially European nature, Switzerland's history is often overlooked within the English-speaking world. This comprehensive and engaging history of Switzerland traces the historical and cultural development of this fascinating but neglected European country from the end of the Dark Ages up to the present. The authors focus on the initial Confederacy of the Middle Ages; the religious divisions which threatened it after 1500 and its surprising survival amongst Europe's monarchies; the turmoil following the French Revolution and conquest, which continued until the Federal Constitution of 1848; the testing of the Swiss nation through the late nineteenth century and then two World Wars and the Depression of the 1930s; and the unparalleled economic and social growth and political success of the post-war era. The book concludes with a discussion of the contemporary challenges, often shared with neighbours, that shape the country today.**