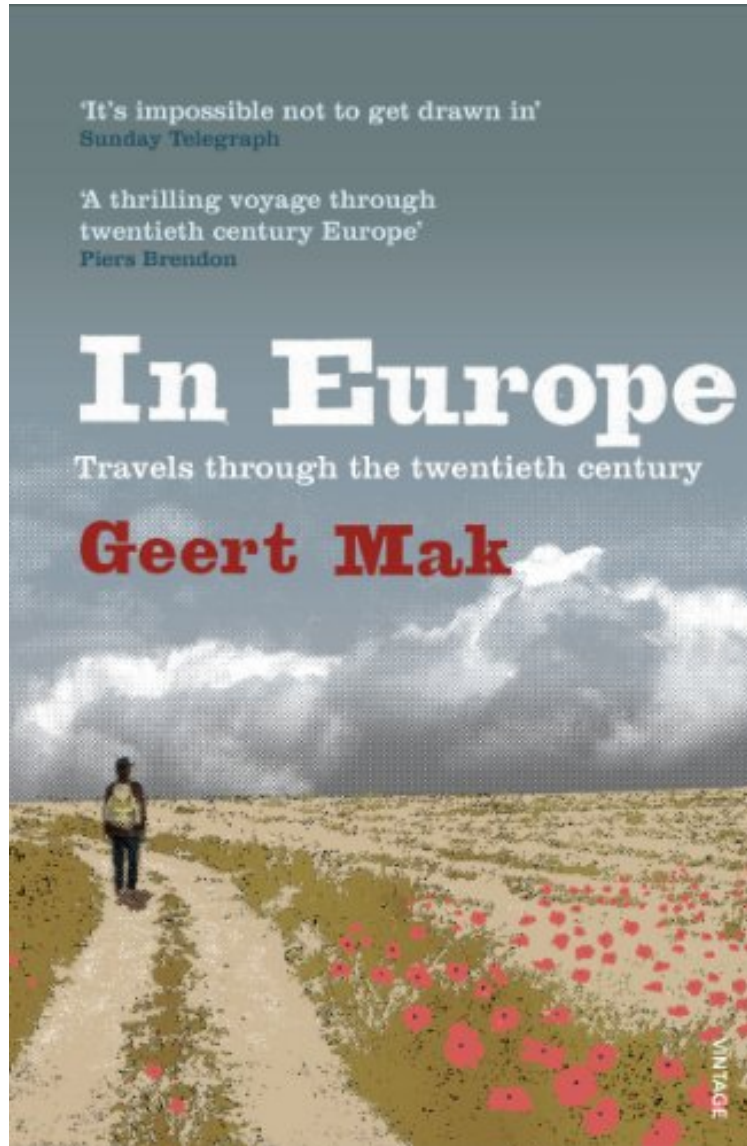


(Free download) In Europe: Travels Through the Twentieth Century

# In Europe: Travels Through the Twentieth Century

Von Geert Mak

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**Von 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:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Poetry in historyVon Helen HancoxGeert Mak's book is a masterpiece. It's not a complete and exhaustive account of the 20th Century in Europe, instead it reads in the form of a travelogue as Mak visits some of the significant places upon which events took place, for example Sarajevo and Berlin. It's not a dry and dusty recounting of facts, instead it's a warm and

readable insight into some of the people and events which were so pivotal for the history of Europe. Somehow he is able to find vignettes of events which illustrate the whole, interviewing people who, although unnoticed players in history, have their own insight into the events and their own experiences of how things affected them. What's outstanding about this book is the quality of the writing (and the translation too). Mak is able to distil complex events into fascinating pieces of writing and he regularly personalises situations that otherwise could seem too vague. I was particularly moved by the chapters on the First World War where he quoted various young men who were part of the fighting on both sides and showed that, for the individuals involved in the war, events were seen very differently from those in overall charge. In this book Mak often quotes short phrases in German which aren't translated and could cause some trouble for those who don't speak German; however most other languages have some kind of translation where they occur. This is a very big book and it's not something that you want to read through continuously. However I found myself dipping into it on a regular basis, 3-4 chapters at a time, and I always enjoyed it. There's a lot of history in Mak's book of which I was previously unaware, such as Lenin's return by train to Russia, and I was continually amazed that one man could have put the work together and could weave the threads of events into coherent wholes. There are few illustrations in this book (mainly maps showing his travels in each section of the book) but his wordsmith craft paints vivid enough pictures to make this book well worth the reading and a genuine triumph. Originally published for Curled Up With A Good Book Helen Hancox 20080 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. faszinierendes, journalistisches Geschichtsbuch Von -Kunde Die englische Kindle-Fassung, die ich gelesen habe, hat nur deshalb einen Stern weniger als fünf, weil mich die recht häufigen Schreibfehler gestört haben. Ansonsten finde ich das Buch faszinierend. Der journalistische Reisebericht durch das Europa an der Jahrtausendwende ist ein überzeugendes Konzept. Die historischen Exkurse an den jeweiligen Schauplätzen europäischer Geschichte wurden durch zahlreiche Interviews und persönliche Einschätzungen des Autors sehr lebendig und für den Leser verständlich. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Superb Von Heislitz I read the German version and the content is not only unique but utterly fascinating to anyone with a modicum of interest in history. I find it impossible to do the book justice in a few words. Suffice it to say that it is almost impossible to stop reading it without immediately wanting to continue. Normally, I would read another book in-between a book of a thousand pages, but this was not feasible.

Kurzbeschreibung Geert Mak spent the year 1999 criss-crossing the continent, tracing the history of Europe from Verdun to Berlin, St Petersburg to Auschwitz, Kiev to Srebrenica. He set off in search of evidence and witnesses, looking to define the condition of Europe at the verge of a new millennium. The result is mesmerising: Mak's rare double talent as a sharp-eyed journalist and a hugely imaginative historian makes *In Europe* a dazzling account of that journey, full of diaries, newspaper reports and memoirs, and the voices of prominent figures and unknown players; from the grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II to Adriana Warno in Poland, with her holiday job at the gates of the camp at Birkenau. But Mak is above all an observer. He describes what he sees at places that have become Europe's well-springs of memory, where history is written into the landscape. At Ypres he hears the blast of munitions from the Great War that are still detonated twice a day. In Warsaw he finds the point where the tram rails that led to the Jewish ghetto come to a dead end in a city park. And in an abandoned crèche near Chernobyl, where tiny pairs of shoes still stand in neat rows, he is transported back to the moment time stood still in the dying days of the Soviet Union. Mak combines the larger story of twentieth-century Europe with details that suddenly give it a face, a taste and a smell. His unique approach makes the reader an eyewitness to his own half-forgotten past, full of unknown peculiarities, sudden insights and touching encounters. *In Europe* is a masterpiece; it reads like the epic novel of the continent's most extraordinary century. 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 *Pressestimmen* 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