Blood, Class and Empire

By Christopher Hitchens

Genre : Europe

Release Date : 2013-07-15

Blood, Class and Empire by Christopher Hitchens is Europe Christopher Hitchens' iconclastic collection is the perfect companion to US-UK relations by the greatest Anglo-American writer of his generation. Since the end of the Cold War so-called experts have been predicting the eclipse of America's "special relationship" with Britain. But as events have shown, especially in the wake of 9/11, the political and cultural ties between America and Britain have grown stronger. Blood, Class and Empire examines the dynamics of this relationship, its many cultural manifestations-the James Bond series, PBS "Brit Kitsch," Rudyard Kipling-and explains why it still persists. Contrarian, essayist and polemicist, Christopher Hitchens notes that while the relationship is usually presented as a matter of tradition, manners, and common culture, sanctified by wartime alliance, the special ingredient is empire; transmitted from an ancient regime that has tried to preserve and renew itself thereby. England has attempted to play Greece to the American Rome, but ironically having encouraged the United States to become an equal partner in the business of empire, Britain found itself supplanted. A deeply engaging voice - witty, elegantly sceptical, and with real intellectual sinew. I can think of no-one I would rather read on this subject. - Ian McEwan

Top Books,

More Recommended Books

Thomas More

By : John Guy

Part One: The History (What do we know?) This brief historical introduction to Thomas More explores the social, political and religious factors that formed the original context of his life and writings, and considers how those factors affected the way he was initially received. What was his impact on the world at the time and what were the key ideas and values connected with him? Part Two: The Legacy (Why does it matter?) This second part explores the intellectual and cultural 'afterlife' of Thomas More, and considers the ways in which his impact has lasted and been developed in different contexts by later generations. Why is he still considered important today? In what ways is his legacy contested or resisted? And what aspects of his legacy are likely to continue to influence the world in the future?

La caída del Muro de Berlín

By : Ricardo Martín de la Guardia
30º aniversario de la caída del Muro de Berlín. 1989-2019. El 9 de noviembre de 1989 aconteció en Berlín uno de los hechos históricos más importantes de la historia contemporánea, la caída del Muro. Desde 1961, este había dividido la capital alemana en dos partes y, de forma simbólica, el mundo. Consecuencia directa de la Segunda Guerra Mundial y de la división del mundo en dos bloques hegemónicos, encabezados por Estados Unidos y la Unión Soviética, Berlín se convirtió en el símbolo de una Europa dividida y exponente de las heridas latentes de uno de los periodos más violentos e inciertos de la historia reciente. Ricardo Martín de la Guardia, con gran destreza y capacidad de análisis, traza un recorrido magistral sobre estos acontecimientos definitivos que marcaron inexorablemente el destino de Alemania, Europa y, en definitiva, de todo el mundo, y se asoma al presente desde el legado político, histórico y cultural que la «revolución» de 1989 ha dejado. Una obra fundamental para entender el siglo XX e indispensable para comprender el presente.

**Kurt Landauer**

By : Dirk Kämper


**One Hot Summer**

By : Rosemary Ashton

A unique, in-depth view of Victorian London during the record-breaking summer of 1858, when residents both famous and now-forgotten endured “The Great Stink” together. While 1858 in London may have been noteworthy for its broiling summer months and the related stench of the sewage-filled Thames River, the year is otherwise little remembered. And yet, historian Rosemary Ashton reveals in this compelling microhistory, 1858 was marked by significant, if unrecognized, turning points. For ordinary people, and also for the rich, famous, and powerful, the months from May to August turned out to be a summer of consequence. Ashton mines Victorian letters and gossip, diaries, court records, newspapers, and other contemporary sources to uncover historically crucial moments in the lives of three protagonists—Charles Dickens, Charles Darwin, and Benjamin Disraeli. She also introduces others who gained renown in the headlines of the day, among them George Eliot, Karl Marx, William Thackeray, and Edward Bulwer Lytton. Ashton reveals invisible threads of connection among Londoners at every social level in 1858, bringing the celebrated city and its citizens vibrantly to life.

**Blitzkrieg**

By : Lloyd Clark

The German campaign in France during the summer of 1940 was pivotal to Hitler’s ambitions and fundamentally affected the course of the Second World War. Having squabbled about fighting methods right up to the start of the campaign, the German forces provided the Führer with a swift, efficient and decisive military victory over the Allied forces. In achieving in just six weeks what their fathers had failed to accomplish during the four years of the First World War, Germany altered the balance of power in Europe at a stroke. Yet, as Lloyd Clark shows in this enthralling new book, it was far from a foregone conclusion. Blitzkrieg tells the story of the campaign, while highlighting the key technologies, decisions and events that led to German success, and details the mistakes, good fortune and chronic weaknesses in their planning process and approach to war fighting. There are
also compelling portraits of the officers who played key roles, including Heinz Guderian, Erwin Rommel, Kurt Student, Charles de Gaulle and Bernard Montgomery. Clark argues that far from being undefeatable, the France 1940 campaign revealed Germany and its armed forces to be highly vulnerable - a fact dismissed by Hitler as he began to plan for his invasion of the Soviet Union - and offers a gripping reassessment of the myths that have built up around one of the Second World War's greatest military victories.

**Italian Venice**

*By: R. J. B. Bosworth*

In this elegant book Richard Bosworth explores Venice—not the glorious Venice of the Venetian Republic, but from the fall of the Republic in 1797 and the Risorgimento up through the present day. Bosworth looks at the glamour and squalor of the belle époque and the dark underbelly of modernization, the two world wars, and the far-reaching oppressions of the fascist regime, through to the “Disneylandification” of Venice and the tourist boom, the worldwide attention of the biennale and film festival, and current threats of subsidence and flooding posed by global warming. He draws out major themes—the increasingly anachronistic but deeply embedded Catholic Church, the two faces of modernization, consumerism versus culture. Bosworth interrogates not just Venice’s history but its meanings, and how the city’s past has been co-opted to suit present and sometimes ulterior aims. Venice, he shows, is a city where its histories as well as its waters ripple on the surface.

**Hero Tales of the Far North**

*By: Jacob August Riis*

It is a history book. The Eighteenth Century broke upon a noisy family quarrel in the north of Europe. Charles the Twelfth of Sweden, the royal hotspur of all history, and Frederik of Denmark had fallen out. Like their people, they were first cousins, and therefore all the more bent on settling the old question which was the better man. After the fashion of the lion and the unicorn, they fought 'all about the town', and, indeed, about every town that came in their way, now this and now that side having the best of it. On the sea, which was the more important because neither Swedes nor Danes could reach their fighting ground or keep up their armaments without command of the waterways, the victory rested finally with the Danes. And this was due almost wholly to one extraordinary figure, the like of which is scarce to be found in the annals of warfare, Peder Tordenskjold. Rising in ten brief years from the humblest place before the mast, a half-grown lad, to the rank of admiral, ennobled by his King and the idol of two nations, only to be assassinated on the 'field of honor' at thirty, he seems the very incarnation of the stormy times of the Eleven Years’ War, with which his sun rose and set; for the year in which peace was made also saw his death.

**The Enemy at the Gate**

*By: Andrew Wheatcroft*

In 1683, two empires - the Ottoman, based in Constantinople, and the Habsburg dynasty in Vienna - came face to face in the culmination of a 250-year power struggle: the Great Siege of Vienna. Within the city walls the choice of resistance over surrender to the largest army ever assembled by the Turks created an all-or-nothing scenario: every last survivor would be enslaved or ruthlessly slaughtered. The Turks had set their sights on taking Vienna, the city they had long called 'The Golden Apple' since their first siege of the city in 1529. Both sides remained resolute, sustained by hatred of their age-old enemy, certain that their victory would be won by the grace of God. Eastern invaders had always threatened the West: Huns, Mongols, Goths, Visigoths, Vandals and many others. The Western fears of the East were vivid and powerful and, in their new eyes, the Turks always appeared the sole aggressors. Andrew Wheatcroft's extraordinary book shows that this belief
is a grievous oversimplification: during the 400 year struggle for domination, the West took the
offensive just as often as the East. As modern Turkey seeks to re-orient its relationship with Europe,
a new generation of politicians is exploiting the residual fears and tensions between East and West
to hamper this change. The Enemy at the Gate provides a timely and masterful account of this most
complex and epic of conflicts.

**The Secret History of Georgian London**

**By : Dan Cruickshank**

Georgian London evokes images of elegant buildings and fine art, but it was also a city where
prostitution was rife, houses of ill repute widespread, and many tens of thousands of people
dependent in some way or other on the wages of sin. The sex industry was, in fact, a very powerful
force indeed, and in The Secret History of Georgian London, Dan Cruickshank compellingly shows
how it came to affect almost every aspect of life and culture in the capital. Examining the nature of
the sex trade, he offers a tantalising insight into the impact of prostitution to give us vivid portraits
of some of the women who became involved in its world. And he discusses the very varied attitudes
of contemporaries - those who sympathised, those who indulged, and those who condemned. As he
powerfully argues, these women, and many thousands like them, not only shaped eighteenth-century
London, they also helped determine its future development.

**Bygone Punishments**

**By : William Andrews**

Volume 6 of a series describing outdated means of punishment and public humiliation.
Blood, Class and Empire. “A definitive account of the American ruling classes™ infatuation with British naval history . . . â€”The Guardian. â€œ[Blood, Class and Empire] is a mordant, episodic, brilliantly lucid history of transatlantic negotiations of power and cultural influence. Interrogating the assumptions behind Harold Macmillan™s pious belief that Britain™s twentieth-century role is to play civilizing Greece to America™s Rome, Hitchens shows how the British insinuated the ideology of Empire into America™s expansionist foreign policy . . . [It] combines an irresistible journalistic racine Blood, Class, and Nostalgia: Anglo-American Ironies is a 1990 book by Christopher Hitchens which aims to examine the so-called “Special Relationship” between the United States and Great Britain, with a focus especially on the 20th century. It was reissued in 2004 as Blood, Class and Empire: The Enduring Anglo-American Relationship, with a new preface by the author. The book is not and does not purport to be a history of the relationship; it is rather, as Hitchens describes it, a series of “incisions, made at selected crucial points.”[1] The book is dedicated to the author&