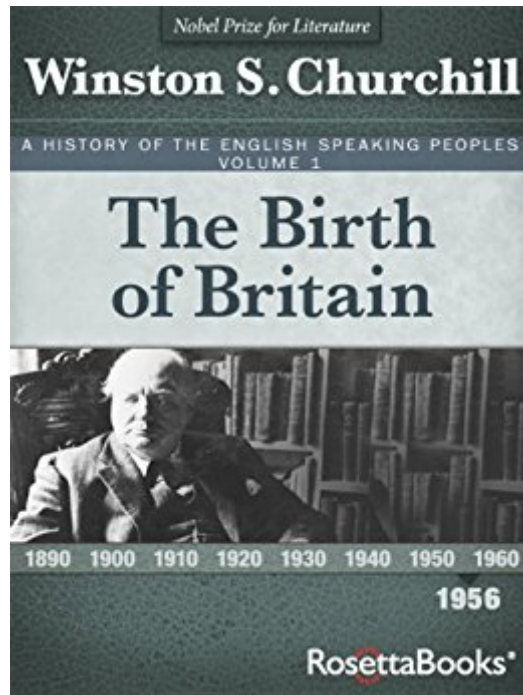


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A History Of The English-Speaking Peoples, Vol. 1: The Birth Of Britain



Synopsis

A vibrant account of the people who shaped Britain's early history, *The Birth of Britain* is the first of Churchill's popular and accessible four-volume *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*. Here, Churchill guides the reader through the establishment of the constitutional monarchy, the parliamentary system, and the people who played lead roles in creating democracy in England. Based on the research of modern historians as well as a wealth of primary source material, this history was respected by scholars as well as the public in its day—a testament both to its integrity as a work of historical nonfiction and its accessibility to laypeople. Churchill used primary sources to masterful effect in this work—quoting directly from ancient and medieval documents to provide valuable insights into the characters of many ancient and medieval figures who played a lead role in early British history.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Sir Winston Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953 "for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values." Over a 64-year span, Churchill published over 40 books, many multi-volume definitive accounts of historical events to which he was a witness and participant. All are beautifully written and as accessible and relevant today as when first published.

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Customer Reviews

The entire series provide more information and aligns the path civilization with essential context necessary to understand the not only history but the frequency of history being repeated.

Fortunately the island of England learn a little each time a mistake was made. This learning in small steps greater the foundation for global human rights still in the maturation process. This should be required reading for all high school students and read again by political inclined or political leaders regardless of party affiliation.

The book covers the period from the late 1600's to 1815 and deals mainly with English and American history and European history as it relates to them. The view point is different than that with which most Americans are familiar. England in the late 1600's and early 1700's is not an era most of us know much about. The effect of the rise and fall of Napoleon on U.S. and world history was something I was not aware of. The different perspective and events discussed are the good points of the book. However, it assumes knowledge most Americans might not have. The details of the succession of English monarch between Henry VIII and George I and of English parliamentary government are two examples. People are sometimes referred to by name and sometimes by title. For instance, William Pitt is often called Chatam as is his son. Glad I read this book, not sure I want to read the rest in the series.

I believe that it is presumptuous to review Nobel laureate and statesman Churchill. Let it suffice to say that I have read nothing better than this history. Churchill's command of the English language is legendary. His scholarship is exemplary. He breathes life and drama into the story of the English people. Again and again I was astonished to discover how our modern framework of law was formed in reaction to noble excess by the least of the monarchs of England. And our culture suffered from the strength of the best. Only Churchill could tell this story and drive home this lesson. This history should be required for everyone who inherited law in the English speaking world.

How extraordinary was Winston Churchill !! his use and choice of all English words, his expressions, his changing moods in his writing are so good that his winning of the Nobel Prize for Literature was a just reward.. He was a great man in that he had wonderful feelings for his fellow man. This book in the series is very interesting and although Atlee said it was history only as Churchill saw it, I do not think I have read any other accounts of events that were so well researched or such opinions of people given so thoroughly. From cover to cover I loved it

Anyone who is interested in western European history will find this book from the four volume set a delight. Its completion and publication was interrupted by WWII, and Churchill's six volume history of WWII. It is an easier read than the WWII history yet it strikes the right level of detail. Churchill had a firm understanding of the tactical and strategic elements behind the various wars that stained western Europe with blood through to the two world wars of the past century.

Critiquing Winston Churchill's writing requires a great deal of hubris. His writing is famous for its clarity and its sweep as he combines facts, perspective and often emotion in simple and powerful sentences. Some of the history in this series is undoubtedly a bit dated, but his conclusions are present with considerable objectivity. At no time does he ever attempt to simply dismiss any criticism or critique of the culture and the people about whom he writes so eloquently. His work was completed long before Marxist theory and orientation began to dominate so many histories. His writings are from an earlier time. But that does not mean that the passing fads of political thought and theory would have either daunted or disturbed him.

This is a well known definitive work. It uses highly eloquent and sometimes almost Victorian language as it is a product of an author schooled just past that age. However, the author is well acquainted with history and expresses it in a most interesting way. It heavily deals with the politics of the times, almost as if the author was acquainted with personalities personally, although that's impossible except towards the beginning of the 1900's. I've read books one to four, and they are each as fascinating. I generally needed to make good use of the excellent inbuilt Kindle dictionary, but really enjoyed the sometimes opinionated ride through history. It only slowed down to explain in great detail the political machinations & developments of citizen's rights, whereas wars and battles take place surprisingly swiftly. Recommended reading for English history buffs.

Erudite, beautifully written, and comprehensive - Churchill knew his history, his people, and his language. He's a pleasure to read, and provides outsiders with the context needed to understand the tangled connections between England, Rome, Western Europe, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

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