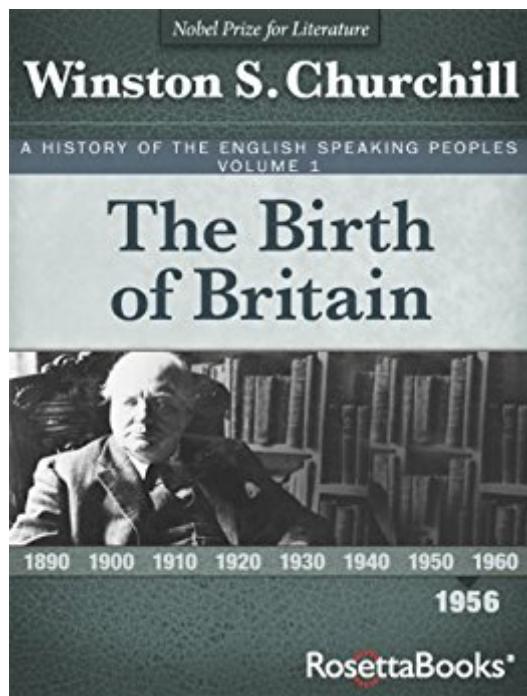


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A History Of The English-Speaking Peoples, Vol. 1: The Birth Of Britain



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

During the 1930's Winston Churchill was enduring his "wilderness years" and was quite prolific in his journalistic efforts. Mr. Churchill began this rather ambitious effort of the history of the English Speaking Peoples in 1937. This four volume effort wasn't published until the years of 1956-1958. You see Winston had to serve England as Prime Minister from 1939 to 1945. After that he had to write his Nobel Prize winning 6 volume compilation of World War II. During this time Sir Winston was the leader of the Conservative opposition party from 1945 to 1951. After that he again served as Prime Minister until 1955. Mr. Churchill didn't finish this history of the English Speaking Peoples until he was in his early 80's. One thing about Mr. Churchill, he didn't let any grass grow under his feet. As a great writer and historian, Mr. Churchill has always had a bias of the English language, laws and its history. Being the master of the English written word, it seems quite right that it was he to write this historical sketch of the English people. Winston goes into great depth of the birth of England and its subsequent development including all the detailed trials and tribulations. He details the narrative of the monarchy into the development of a Democratic form of government. The rather long history is divided into four books as follows: 1.) The Birth of Britain 2.) The New World 3.) The Age of Revolution 4.) The Great Democracies Churchill expounds of the development and governance of the British Empire. He also details much of American history, especially the minutiae of the Civil War. The writing is clear and concise. I think it rather remarkable that these volumes are still relevant today. I took delight in reading Mr. Churchill's last great historical writing. Here's to you Winston. Hear! Hear!!

After completing the four volume set of Churchill's History of the English Speaking Peoples, I was struck by not only how easy and interesting the writing was to pour through, but just how diverse, rich and relatively obscure the general knowledge of our history is. The series takes the reader from the raids by the Romans about 250 BCE to the end of the Boer Wars and the cusp of the First World War in 1905 (which, Churchill would dispute - as he calls out the war with France in the 1740-50 time frame as the first truly world war). Exploring the emergence of constitutional monarchy, the English language and laws, modern political thought, the Reformation, and more than a few deeper dives into military campaigns ranging from Caesar to Nelson to Robert E. Lee and Baden-Powell. Churchill's ability to convey 2000 years of history as "his story" and allow it to be a tale rather than an academic history commend this to a broad range of readers. Surprisingly light, this isn't a quick read, but certainly is approachable by almost any reader with interest. A must read.

If you were short changed on your history education, like most of us, this is a must read. This is the

kind of reading the can make the casual reader, an avid reader of histories. Most people don't know that Churchill had to write to earn a living. Along with his works on the Duke of Marlborough, The World Crisis (WWI) and his 6 volume work on WWII, this series stands out. I covers a lot of ground and leaves you wanting to read more.

I bought this as I got on a plane flight for a home. It is a good read that provides insights into events that shaped our world. The abridgment is aimed at the American audience, removing much of what Churchill had to say about our Revolution and Civil War (which the English apparently do not study in school), that the Editor summarizes in an appendix. However, it left me wishing I had the time to read the entire, unabridged set. The descriptions of England's religious wars bring to mind modern problems of the Middle East and South Asia.

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I've heard of Churchill's History and this abridged edition is good print size for an older person, reads well and I'm learning much of what I never knew.. Nice paperback and easy to hold while reading.

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