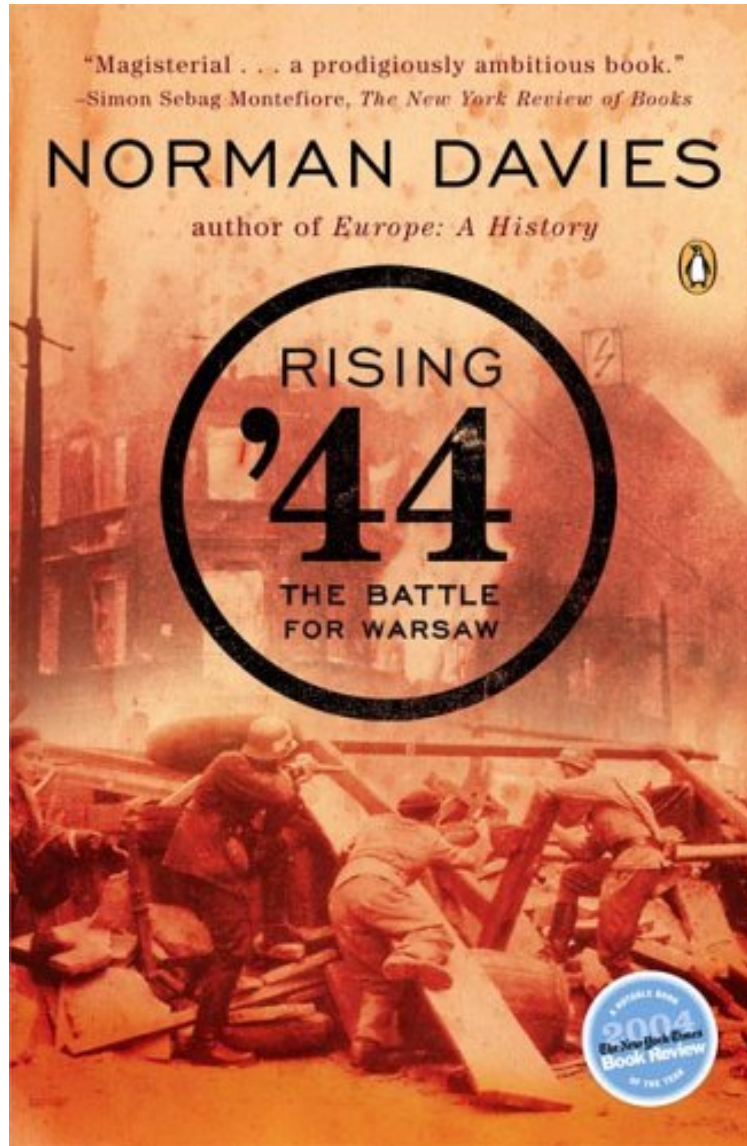


(Free and download) Rising '44: The Battle for Warsaw

Rising '44: The Battle for Warsaw

Norman Davies

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#677289 in Books Davies, Norman 2005-10-04 2005-10-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x 1.90 x 5.40l, 1.57 #File Name: 0143035401848 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Norman Davies : Rising '44: The Battle for Warsaw before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rising '44: The Battle for Warsaw:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended, but with some reservations By Danny Orbach This book has great merits, but also weaknesses that readers have to be aware of. Bottom line: I recommend it and applaud the author, notwithstanding my reservations. On the plus side, this is a thorough study, rigorous, well documented, fascinating, absorbing. Davies' retelling of the heroic, doomed Warsaw Rebellion is rich in detail, moving and

sometimes even heart wrenching. The author is in full command not only of Polish sources, but is also well familiar with the British side, making his research even more valuable. Davies is able to breath humanity into these men and women, and the numerous personal testimonies he brings are invaluable. In such a tragic book, there are also amusing moments, such as the description of the difficulties British statesmen had in pronouncing Polish names. The final conclusions are also illuminating: I especially like Davies' point that the tragedy of the Warsaw Rebellion marks a greater failure of the grand alliance. And yet, I have criticism as well. Davies is too bound and too invested in the self-celebratory, self-pitying Polish emigre narrative. He presents the Poles as heroic fighters and betrayed victims, which undoubtedly they were. But in doing so, he skims, ignores or whitewashes many of their shortcomings: the often predatory nature of the prewar regime, antisemitism which did not die out even during the war, the collaboration of many Poles with the German occupation regime. For example, he is pushing away the arguments on the Jedwabne Massacre with one short and inadequate paragraph. I recommend reading Joshua Zimmerman's book on the Polish underground and the Jews along with this one in order to balance the picture. Also, his remarks on revisionist Zionism are venomous without being nuanced or grounded enough. As an Israeli historian, I did not like that. I am also a military historian specializing in resistance. From my perspective, Davies is far too apologetic to mistakes and misjudgment in the AK leadership, especially by Bor and Monter, the two commanders of the uprising. To understand their misjudgments in a really complex military situation, one has to read Alexandra Richie's study of the uprising which is (in my opinion) better and more balanced. I do not intend to slight the heroism of the AK and its commanders, decent men who had to take decisions in impossible conditions. But we must learn from past military mistakes, and that necessitates bold criticism even on people we appreciate and adore. Finally, Davies' weird decision to use shortcuts for Polish names is irritating. Yes, Polish orthography is difficult. And yet, I want to know the real names of people and not only their nom de guerre (Bear Cub for General Okulicki) or weird shortcuts such as Premier Mick, Count R or Major K. And not, I don't want to look at the appendixes in order to find out the real names. Please write them in the main text, as almost all authors do. It is also enough to write once or twice that Poland was Britain's first ally in order to convey the sense of betrayal. Referring to Poland all throughout the first chapter as the "first ally" (the first ally's ambassador, the first ally's pilots) is annoying and a bit of an overkill. Narrate, Prof. Davies, don't preach. We get your point and appreciate it even without such cliches. Bottom line: I recommend this book notwithstanding the above reservations. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant historical study By Groucho Marxist Exhaustively researched and even-handed, "Rising '44" is, in my opinion, the definitive English-language book about the 64 days in 1944 when the Polish Underground -- primarily the Home Army -- rose up against their Nazi oppressors with no help from their allies. After the war, their reward was vilification and imprisonment by the Soviets while the West pretty much looked the other way. If I have a complaint about this book, it's Mr. Davies' use throughout the text of nicknames and/or Anglicized forms of Polish names -- I don't think he gives the reader enough credit. However, it's a minor issue (all full names are listed in an appendix) that doesn't lessen the impact of this important work. The Uprising should never have been relegated to a mere footnote in the history of WWII as a result of misinformation or no information at all. Mr. Davies has helped to ensure that the heroes of the Uprising receive their true due. Thank you, Mr. Davies. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book By L. P. This book should be a required reading (lektura) for all Poles and people with any part of Poles in them. It is not a dry description of what happened on day 1, day 2, etc. It was written for an English language reader and as such it assumes very little previous knowledge of the events. I believe this is its strength, it provides a true context/overview of geopolitical situation during WWII and especially in the summer of 1944. It very well portraits the deteriorating Poland's position vs. allies (UK and US) from 1939 on and the actual sell off of Eastern Europe by UK and US after Stalin assumed the weight of the war. There was no victory for Poland in 1944/45. The occupation continued until Solidarity was born in 1980 and free elections were held in 1989. This was the real end of WWII for Poland. Thank you Mr. Davis.

One of the most dramatic and shameful episodes in World War II was the doomed Warsaw uprising of 1944 an uprising that failed because the Allies betrayed it. Now that story comes to its full terrible life in this gripping account by the bestselling historian Norman Davies. In August 1944, encouraged by the advance of the Red Army, the Polish Resistance poured forty thousand fighters into the streets of Warsaw to reclaim the city from the hated Germans. But Stalin condemned the uprising as a criminal venture. For sixty-three days the Wehrmacht methodically set about crushing the rebellion and destroying the city. Following the battles desperate progress through the cellars and sewers of Warsaw, Rising 44 retrieves its subject from the shadows of history, revealing its pivotal importance to the outcome of World War II and the Cold War that followed.

From Publishers Weekly The Warsaw rising of 1944 not to be confused with the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943 pitted Polish insurgents of the Home Army against the Germans in a two-month battle that left the city in ruins. Almost as bitter are the historiographical controversies over the failure of the Allies, particularly the Soviets, whose army was idling nearby, to rescue the city. Davies (Europe: A History) offers an enthralling, impressionistic account of the

uprising, highlighted by vivid reminiscences from Polish and German participants, but the bulk of this sprawling book is concerned with the political background and aftermath. Delving into the diplomatic wranglings between the exiled Polish government in London, the Western Allies and Stalin, Davies sides with the anti-Communist interpretation of the episode as the opening chapter in the Soviet takeover of Eastern Europe. He denounces Stalin for deliberately allowing the non-Communist Home Army to be crushed, the Western Allies for acquiescing and British intellectuals for toeing the Communist line on Poland, and includes a pointed litany of Stalinist crimes in post-war Poland. Davies is correspondingly enthusiastic about the insurgents. He exonerates them of charges of anti-Semitism, reprints poems and songs about them and, working from iffy figures on German casualties, extols their combat prowess. Davies is persuasive on many points, and his somewhat romantic defense of the rising which failed in its objectives and triggered the German massacre of tens of thousands of civilians amply conveys its heroism, but may not convince readers of its wisdom. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist It has been the Poles' sad historical fate to be caught between two voracious powers, Germany on the west and Russia on the east. This was most tragically evident during the 1944 uprising against the Nazi occupiers in Warsaw. Professor Davies tells that story with passion, compassion, and a justifiable sense of outrage. By the summer of 1944, the Wehrmacht was a spent force in the east and had been pushed to the Vistula River by the Soviets. The Polish resistance, essentially loyal to the Polish government in exile, began a massive rebellion in the streets of Warsaw. Stalin's army, only a few miles away, refused to provide help. Given Stalin's cynicism and distrust of the exile government, that was not surprising, but the Americans and British, through a combination of indifference and incompetence, also failed the Poles. Davies uses many newly available sources, and the result is a stirring, emotionally draining saga of heroism, betrayal, and tragedy as the Nazis slowly squeezed the life out of the rebellion while reducing Warsaw to rubble. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Should be compulsory reading... Rips away at many of our lazy assumptions about the outcome of the Second World War." The Guardian, London [Davies] knowledge and his passion are displayed in this notable book. His research among Polish and Soviet sources is exhaustive... Max Hastings, Sunday Telegraph (London)