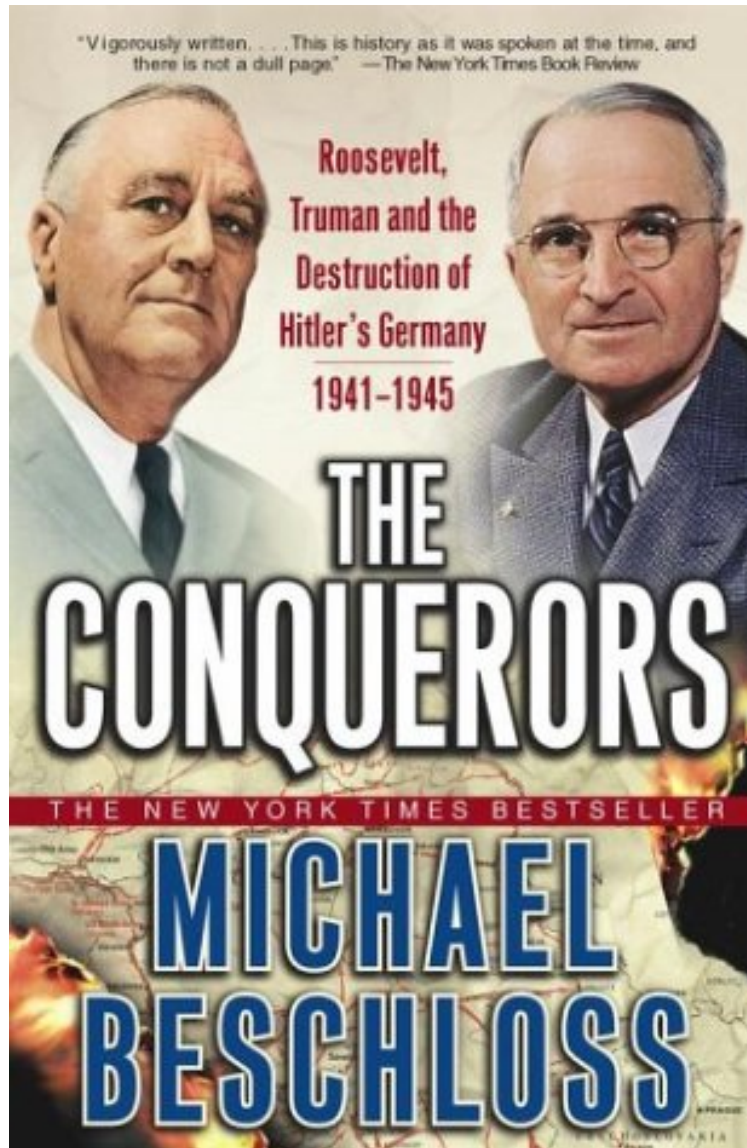


The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945

Michael R. Beschloss

ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1175967 in Books Simon Schuster 2003-10-07 2003-10-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.10 x 6.12l, 1.02 #File Name: 0743244540400 pages Great product! | File size: 38.Mb

Michael R. Beschloss : The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not recommended By John H. Evans The Conquerors: Roosevelt,

Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945 by Michael R. Beschloss This book was a deep disappointment. The subtitle, Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945, is a deception. Only in a footnote, two-thirds into the book is the reader actually told this book is concerned with Roosevelt and Truman's wartime statecraft on postwar Germany. The first half of the book covers the years 1943 until Roosevelt's death in April 1945, the Roosevelt years. But very little of it is about Roosevelt, but rather about the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau and Morgenthau's obsession with punishing Germany after the war. Historically this was a trivial issue, carrying no weight after the war, and it defies logic that Beschloss essentially wastes the time of the reader. Roosevelt had little interest in developing a detailed post-surrender policy for Germany, being content to allow facts on the ground to define US policy and Roosevelt was not about to repeat the mistakes of Versailles. Anyone who saw Roosevelt in the early months of 1945 knew he was dying. Plus, Soviet aggression in Europe after the German surrender dictated US policy to support, rebuild and re-arm Germany in the face of Russian aggression. Dedicating the first half of a history book to the trivial in-fighting of the administration [in the year before the war ended] over post-surrender Germany policy was simply irritating. But worse, Beschloss tells absolutely nothing about Roosevelt as war leader and de jure Commander in Chief of the Western Allies. For that incredible story I refer you to Nigel Hamilton's superb three volume work, FDR at War (as of this writing in October 2017, the third volume is yet to be published). All judgement and commentary by the author is reserved for the final chapter. The initial 90% is rattled out in a just the facts, Maam manor. I do not recommend this book.

10-4-2017 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

HISTORICAL INSIGHTS AND MAGNETIC APPEAL By Customer Roger Crowley is an author who combines very deep scholarship with a writing style that prevents you from putting his book down. This was my fourth book by Crowley, and I have read the first three twice each. The depth of detail and unwinding of historic personalities makes for a great NOVEL, but its not a "novel" - its an incredibly readable history book. The insights to the evolving leadership personality of the incorruptible Albuquerque is like a novel in itself, yet is only one part of the book. The revelations of tiny historical details are showcased for the historical turning points that effected world history. The TWO meetings of Bartholomew Diaz with Christopher Columbus, one to reject Portuguese sponsorship of his journey west, the other to debrief him on his return from America (he was held in Portugal before completing return to Spain) are huge historical turning points for both East and West. And the classical records he exploits to reconstruct actual conversations (the Portuguese, like the Dutch, kept records of everything) of supporting personnel as well as main historical figures, are masterful in drawing the reader in, and NOT releasing her.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The joys (?) and pitfalls of running the U.S. government during wartime. By RRSR first encountered Michael Beschloss on PBS, and was taken with his insightful comments on presidential politics. Since then I've read a couple of his books, including "Presidential Courage." Since I'm a great fan of books about World War II and U.S. Presidents, why would I need to read another one that covers well-trod ground? Because there are endless interpretations of who did what, why, when, etc. Beschloss provides information and interpretation beyond what I've learned before - about FDR's and Truman's governing style, their handling of critical issues, dilemmas regarding war aims and military policy, relationships with other leaders and with their cabinet members, etc. The major focus is on the war against Germany rather than Japan - questions of military strategy, relations with Churchill and Stalin, and particularly views on how Germany should be treated after the war. It's well known that Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau favored turning Germany into a pastoral state; the degree to which he pursued this goal, and his ongoing attempt to pin FDR down as favoring this view, were covered in great detail. Morgenthau's relations with other cabinet members, and the chaotic attempts to gain support for his views, show an administration in disarray concerning critical policy questions as the war drew toward an end. Beschloss also reveals FDR both as a master manipulator of his subordinates and a person who could either change his mind or rely on incomplete information in making decisions about the fate of Germany. Another intriguing aspect of this book is the gossipy revelations about certain members of FDR's administration - e.g., Henry Stimson, Edward Stettinius, Cordell Hull - and how FDR kept them all on edge either by ignoring their advice, or playing one off against the other, or making conflicting commitments. All in all, a picture of a very human administration, given to infighting and personality conflicts, rather than a smooth-running machine with cast-in-concrete goals and actions.

A New York Times bestseller, *The Conquerors* reveals how Franklin Roosevelt's and Harry Truman's private struggles with their aides and Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin affected the unfolding of the Holocaust and the fate of vanquished Nazi Germany. With monumental fairness and balance, *The Conquerors* shows how Roosevelt privately refused desperate pleas to speak out directly against the Holocaust, to save Jewish refugees and to explore the possible bombing of Auschwitz to stop the killing. The book also shows FDR's fierce will to ensure that Germany would never threaten the world again. Near the end of World War II, he abruptly endorsed the secret plan of his friend, Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, to reduce the Germans to a primitive existence -- despite Churchill's fear that crushing postwar Germany would let the Soviets conquer the continent. The book finally shows how, after FDR's death, President Truman rebelled against Roosevelt's tough approach and adopted the Marshall Plan and other more conciliatory policies that culminated in today's democratic, united Europe.

.com Long before an Allied victory was assured during World War II, the Big Three--Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin--began discussing how to prevent Germany from ever again threatening the world. The fact that Germany today is a peaceful, democratic ally of the U.S. is "one of America's great twentieth-century international achievements," writes esteemed historian Michael Beschloss. How such a transformation was accomplished is the subject of *The Conquerors*. Drawing on thousands of previously unreleased documents, secret audio recordings, private diaries, and other information recently made available, Beschloss details the complex diplomacy between the Allied leaders, including their differences over whether to demand Germany's unconditional surrender; how, if at all, to divide Germany after the war; and how to effectively punish Germany without creating the kind of resentment that led to the rise of Hitler. The relationship between the three leaders, and later, Truman, is fascinating, as Beschloss reveals private conversations, ulterior motives, and numerous back-channel deals that took place. Of particular interest is the maneuvering of Roosevelt and Churchill, who were both concerned that the Soviets would attempt a postwar power grab in Western Europe if given the chance. The book also deals with Roosevelt's reluctance to deal with Germany's systematic extermination of the Jews, and the role that his old friend and Treasury Secretary, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., played in pushing the President into action. After learning of the Holocaust, Morgenthau became obsessed with punishing Germany severely, drafting a plan that called for the complete destruction of their mines and factories as a way of forcing Germany into subsistence farming--ideas that put him at odds with Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, and many others in the administration. *The Conquerors* is a superbly written, if brief, treatment of the political events leading up to the defeat of Germany, with the main players brought vividly to life by Beschloss's keen eye for detail and his ability to expose the human strengths and weaknesses of the participants. -- Shawn Carkonen

From Publishers Weekly Beschloss provides an engaging, if not revelatory, narrative of key events leading up to the conferences at Yalta (Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin) and Potsdam (Truman, Churchill, Stalin) and the Allies' decisions about how to prevent future aggression by post-WWII Germany. In his preface, Beschloss makes much of the fact that this study draws on newly released documents from the former Soviet Union, the FBI and private archives. But Beschloss has unearthed nothing to change accepted views of how FDR developed and then began to implement his vision for postwar Germany. The tales Beschloss gathers here are no different from those already told in such books as Eric Larrabee's *Commander-in-Chief: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, His Lieutenants and Their War* (1987) and Henry Morgenthau III's *Mostly Morgenthau: A Family History* (1991). With reference to the latter volume, one of Beschloss's major subplots traces Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr.'s efforts to interest FDR in a draconian, retributive plan (the "Morgenthau Plan") to destroy what little might remain of Germany's infrastructure after the war. Wisely, FDR demurred. Although breaking no new ground, this book by noted presidential historian Beschloss (who has published a trilogy on Lyndon Johnson's White House tapes) will fill the bill for those who need a readable account of how American officials and their Allied counterparts came to draw the map of postwar Europe. 16 pages of bw photos not seen by PW.

Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Beschloss draws on newly opened archives to show how Roosevelt and Truman decided Germany's fate. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.