

Eric Dorn Brose. *A History of Europe in the Twentieth Century.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Pp. xii; 528. Paper, \$40.00; ISBN 0-19-51357-7.

Eric Dorn Brose has written a wonderful new survey of the tumultuous history of Europe in the twentieth century. This book is designed as a textbook for a course on twentieth-century European history. While the book is organized chronologically, the true strength of the book revolves around the five themes that reoccur throughout the text.

The first theme is "War and the Quest for Alternatives to War." This is a particularly important theme for a history of Europe in the twentieth century. Two particular periods, the interwar years (1919-1939) and the post World War II period, provide a good treatment about how some Europeans tried to preserve, maintain, and create peace. In a century filled with war, turmoil, and unprecedented death and destruction, this theme provides a refreshing alternative in many sections. The second theme concerns ethnic and racial harmony and belligerency where the author explores the problematic nature of national identity and nation-state structures. The third theme addresses the constant rise of authoritarian regimes and the struggle to establish and maintain democracy across Europe. The fourth theme discusses the rise of technology throughout the century and how different areas of Europe dealt with the changes it brought. The last theme analyzes the phenomenon of elite and popular culture.

In particular, chapters four and five (the interwar years) are two of the strongest chapters of the book where the author examines closely the attempts for keeping and maintaining peace, the interplay between countries trying to maintain their relative diplomatic positions, recover from economic distress, and avoid possible aggression. Another strength of this book that sets it apart from other treatments of modern Europe is its inclusion of events related to the Soviet Union. Russian and Soviet history are often marginalized in studies of Europe. Some debate whether or not Russia is even really a part of Europe, but certainly the story of Europe in the twentieth century is heavily shaped by events in the Soviet Union such as the revolutions and role in World War I, Stalinism and World War II, and the Cold War. Lastly, chapter eight links the events in Europe to the United States that will be particularly appealing to students in the United States.

This book surveys the history of twentieth-century Europe very well. The book is well organized, well written, and follows a strong chronological format that would make it a good text for a course on twentieth-century Europe. In an era that is so visual, it would be nice to have a few more visual images to supplement the text. In the end, this book would not only serve as a good classroom text, but it would also serve as a good reference book for instructors teaching about Europe in the twentieth century.

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