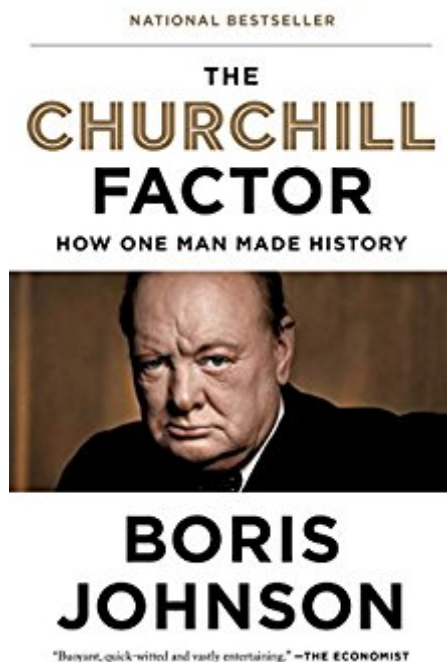


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The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History



Synopsis

From London's inimitable mayor, Boris Johnson, the story of how Churchill's eccentric genius shaped not only his world but our own. On the fiftieth anniversary of Churchill's death, Boris Johnson celebrates the singular brilliance of one of the most important leaders of the twentieth century. Taking on the myths and misconceptions along with the outsized reality, he portrays "with characteristic wit and passion" a man of contagious bravery, breathtaking eloquence, matchless strategizing, and deep humanity. Fearless on the battlefield, Churchill had to be ordered by the king to stay out of action on D-Day; he pioneered aerial bombing and few could match his experience in organizing violence on a colossal scale, yet he hated war and scorned politicians who had not experienced its horrors. He was the most famous journalist of his time and perhaps the greatest orator of all time, despite a lisp and chronic depression he kept at bay by painting. His maneuvering positioned America for entry into World War II, even as it ushered in England's post-war decline. His openmindedness made him a trailblazer in health care, education, and social welfare, though he remained incorrigibly politically incorrect. Most of all, he was a rebuttal to the idea that history is the story of vast and impersonal forces; he is proof that one person "intrepid, ingenious, determined" can make all the difference.

Book Information

File Size: 14585 KB

Print Length: 390 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1594633029

Publisher: Riverhead Books (November 13, 2014)

Publication Date: November 13, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00INIXTV8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #115,988 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Presidents & Heads

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Customer Reviews

Unlike most Churchill biographies by scholars, this is not a serious, ponderous read. It is witty, entertaining, fast-paced, and full of knowledge. Churchill does not need another biography, and Boris Johnson is standing on the shoulders of Martin Gilbert, Andrew Roberts, Roy Jenkins, John Lukacs, and many more. But he is a journalist at heart, and he reads rippingly well. In an early chapter, he describes the offer to "negotiate" with Hitler which was embraced by Lord Halifax and others, a key turning point in the war that John Lukacs wrote an entire book about. Mr. Johnson is a master of concision. He describes in the next chapter how the world would have looked if the offer had been accepted and Britain had in fact surrendered. The biography breezes easily through Churchill's early life and exploits, exploding myths and disappointing those of us who believed certain aperçus were Churchill's, like the "I'd drink it" story. Churchill's writing, his oratorical technique, his "John Bull" personality are given their respective due. There is even a tribute to the woman to whom Johnson attributed Churchill's quality of mercy: his beloved nanny, Mrs Everest. The American reader can enjoy the opportunity of learning much British slang, as Johnson is an irreverent correspondent, as well as words that the Oxford Concise describes as Brit., archaic. But the writing is a pleasure to read, the pace never flags. If you have not read a Churchill biography before, this is as good an introduction as any.

A great read! I couldn't put it down. I've read many scholarly works about Churchill, but this presents him as a living, breathing, imperfect but stunningly great man. Johnson's style of writing is fast paced and it's an easy read. Churchill comes off the pages, and he seems to be sitting there with you, chewing on his cigar as you read about him. It helps that I've been to Blenheim, the War Rooms and Chartwell, but Johnson brings these locations to life for the reader. This book goes a very long way in explaining to readers just what a debt we all owe Churchill, and can never possibly repay. I laughed aloud and cried while reading, and I say thanks from a grateful American, both to Churchill and to Boris Johnson for a job well done.

I have always had an admiring interest in Winston Churchill and own a good number of books about the great statesman. When I heard that the erudite Boris Johnson had written a book called "The

Churchill Factor" on the One Show, I immediately ordered it via , one for the fact that is about Winston Churchill and secondly because it was written by Boris. Like him or Loath him, I personally like him, Boris Johnson has written an entertaining, factual book without applying ladles of starch. Clearly Boris's oratory skills are almost matched by that of his writing. You can tell from the first page that this is going to be an enjoyable read and don't really want to put the book down. The book poses many "what if" scenarios which have been intelligently thought out and clarifies common misunderstandings. This is not just about the Second World War, but covers such subject as Europe, The Middle East, The Soviet threat and more. It's quite clear that Churchill has made quite an impression on Boris if not the entire British Nation and possibly the world but this is a warts and all book and shows his weaknesses as well as his strengths. Virtually every book I have read on Churchill has revealed new interesting fact and this is no exception but also debunks a few myths about the great man. Fortunately it is true that he said " I may be drunk, Miss, but in the morning I will be sober and you will still be ugly" which has to be one of the best put downs ever. Boris's writing style and use of words makes the whole book a most enjoyable experience. There are a number of photos in the book that may not render so well on a kindle. A Highly recommended read, worth the money and an absolute must for the Churchill fan.

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