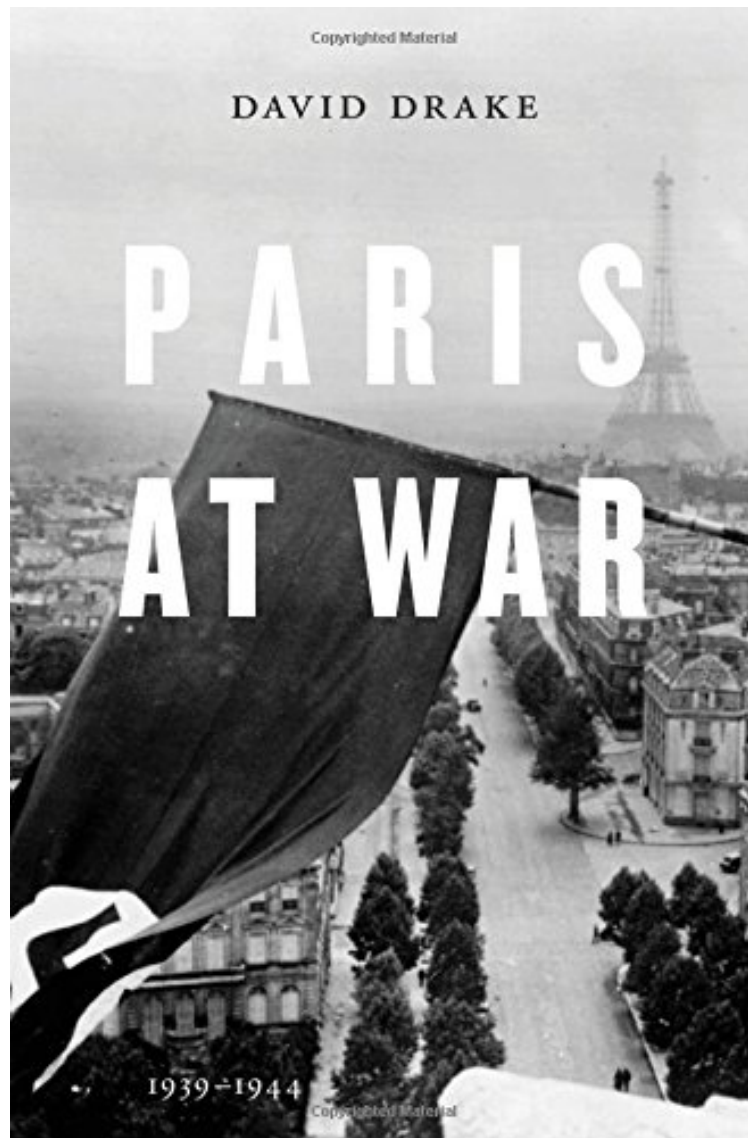


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Paris at War: 1939–1944

David Drake

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David Drake : Paris at War: 1939–1944 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paris at War: 1939–1944:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Priscilla MacNealEnjoying12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Psychological Drama of Occupation from Both Sides.By EdBThis is the third book I have read on the French Resistance during the German Occupation of France. This book focuses on the Parisians reaction to the occupation before, during and at the overthrow of the Germans in Paris. The author does a wonderful job of

presented various viewpoints of both French citizens and the German occupiers. I really was surprised how detailed the author was able to describe how various people reacted during the different stages of the occupation from the initial shock of the Armistice to the long years of occupation. This is a strong narrative history that held my interest the entire time. This book rates as the best book on the Occupation that I have read so far. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A MUST READ! By Patrick I agree with the previous reviewer that this is the best book on the subject. The author tells the remarkable story in an easy to follow narrative, filled with true-life monsters and heroes, but, most of all, the everyday people that populated Paris during those tragic years. The humiliation of defeat is followed by the years of hunger and cold, and the steadily rising terror inflicted by the occupiers on the population. As I read the book I felt the same hopeless despair that Parisians of the time must have felt, then a sense of hope as Mr. Drake tells of the Allies approach, and finally the joy of liberation. There were so many descriptions of the roundups, of innocent people being herded into buses and trains on their way to their grim destination, that it became desensitizing to some degree. And what became of the seemingly endless supply of French policemen and German soldiers who seemed so willing to do the work of the devil? Not enough of them were brought to justice, I'm sure. But Mr. Drake doesn't deal with anger or vindictiveness, he does what a good author does and simply tells the story. He does describe the fate of many of the major figures, a satisfying if a bit anticlimactic ending to the story. I've read many books on the subject - this is the best!

Paris at War chronicles the lives of ordinary Parisians during World War II, from September 1939 when France went to war with Nazi Germany to liberation in August 1944. Readers will relive the fearful exodus from the city as the German army neared the capital, the relief and disgust felt when the armistice was signed, and the hardships and deprivations under Occupation. David Drake contrasts the plight of working-class Parisians with the comparative comfort of the rich, exposes the activities of collaborationists, and traces the growth of the Resistance from producing leaflets to gunning down German soldiers. He details the intrigues and brutality of the occupying forces, and life in the notorious transit camp at nearby Drancy, along with three other less well known Jewish work camps within the city. The book gains its vitality from the diaries and reminiscences of people who endured these tumultuous years. Drake's cast of characters comes from all walks of life and represents a diversity of political views and social attitudes. We hear from a retired schoolteacher, a celebrated economist, a Catholic teenager who wears a yellow star in solidarity with Parisian Jews, as well as Resistance fighters, collaborators, and many other witnesses. Drake enriches his account with details from police records, newspapers, radio broadcasts, and newsreels. From his chronology emerge the broad rhythms and shifting moods of the city. Above all, he explores the contingent lives of the people of Paris, who, unlike us, could not know how the story would end.

David Drake writes a narrative of the capital during [World War II] that, by catching the mood of those Parisians who wrote diaries and journals of the Occupation, restores a humane sense of reality to a story that can easily be reduced to one of derring-do (on the part of resisters) or cloak-and-dagger machinations (on the part of Laval, his enemies on the Right, and the German officials who alternately loathed and manipulated him). Built up on a deep engagement with the practical problems of living in Paris, as well as an elegant account of how Nazi authorities squabbled over its management, Drake's book is hugely readable and satisfyingly detailed. (Julian Wright Times Literary Supplement 2016-01-18) Offer[s] a rich and immediate history of both occupied Paris and occupied Parisians? and leaves the reader fearing for the fates of those for whom death seemed certain. (Victoria Harris Times Higher Education 2016-01-07) David Drake's Paris At War: 1939–1944 is perhaps the best attempt, of a great many, to convey how daily life felt under Nazi occupation. A vast range of sources have gone into creating a portrait of grim times that is full of nuance and free, mercifully, of assertion. (Ian Bell Glasgow Herald 2015-11-28) A narrative that illuminates the day-to-day experiences of the rich and poor, collaborators, black marketers, Resistance fighters, Jews, and communists... Engaging and informative. (Glenn C. Altschuler Philadelphia Inquirer 2015-11-22) By incorporating excerpts from diaries and letters that until now had not been translated into English, Drake adds fresh perspective to events? Verdun hero Philippe Pétain's willingness to lead the collaborationist Vichy government, Charles de Gaulle's Free French resistance? that have been documented many times before... The message of this powerful book is that most Parisians were neither heroes nor collaborationists but ordinary people trying to survive. (Michael Magras Star Tribune 2015-11-20) David Drake's Paris at War: 1939–1944 is a remarkable book... Drake has revived the Occupation period with an obsessive and impressive sense of detail. Sometimes the book feels almost too close, too vividly evocative not to hurt... The force of Paris at War is that it brings together all of these disparate scenes to realize (in the stronger sense of the verb) their full weight. The book is an accumulation of moments, facts, words? a sum of more than 400 pages which has the feel of a definitive, though necessarily incomplete, monument... Paris at War should therefore be read attentively and in its entirety, for all its many nuances, its subtle patterns and motives, its skillful interpretation of Paris during an exceptionally traumatic period. (Elodie Roy PopMatters 2015-10-27) Above all, [Drake] has created a social history that brings alive a unique moment in Europe's recent past. (Dan Carrier Camden New Journal 2016-02-04) With access to the diaries of everyday citizens who lived through the Nazi occupation of Paris, Drake assembles a

valuable picture of 'personal history, remembered conversations, the minutiae of routine, fragments of memory.' ...Presenting the story chronologically, Drake creates an easily comprehensible, even exciting, narrative. The author vividly portrays the desperation of searching for food, fuel, and clothing, along with the dangers of arrest and false accusations... The passive resistance, the roundups, the collaborationists, and the young communists are all part of the lore of wartime Paris, and Drake does a solid job exploring how it all affected 'Parisians of all ages.' Students of French and World War II history will enjoy and learn from this well-written book. (Kirkus s 2015-07-15)A fascinating, quick-paced, and moving history with a strong narrative. Drake's Paris at War is the product of thorough and far-reaching research and sensitive interpretation. (Rod Kedward, author of France and the French: A Modern History)David Drake's gripping story moves away from well-known heroes and villains to the lives of ordinary Parisians and their daily struggle to survive the vagaries of the German occupation... He captures the sense of helplessness as citizens confronted repression, hunger, fierce winters and even Allied bombing. Rich in detail and eye-opening anecdotes, these pages make an important contribution to the scholarship of the occupation by remembering the most innocent and vulnerable victims of the darkest years of the City of Light. (Alan Riding, author of And The Show Went On: Cultural Life in Nazi-Occupied Paris)About the AuthorDavid Drake has taught at universities in London and Paris and has published widely on French intellectual and cultural history.