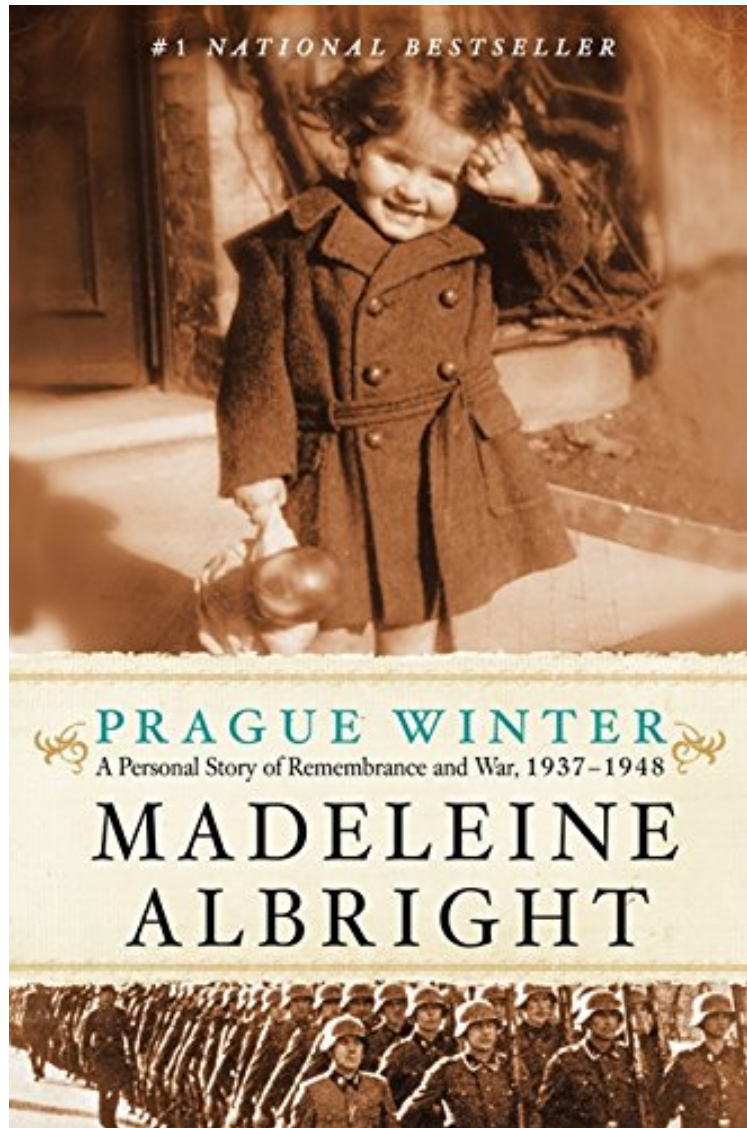


Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948

Madeleine Albright

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#210571 in Books Madeleine Albright 2013-02-19 2013-02-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.08 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0062030345480 pages Prague Winter A Personal Story of Remembrance and War 1937 1948 | File size: 38.Mb

Madeleine Albright : Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is the first book by Madeleine Albright that I ...By Constance J.

Wellnitz This is the first book by Madeleine Albright that I have read. I was impressed with her cogent style of writing and how she wove her story through the larger narrative and had it make sense as a part of that story, and not something just grafted on. Having lived there for a short time I understood some of what she talked about in terms of national viewpoint and feelings toward Germans. During that time (in the former Sudetenland), it was the 50th anniversary of WWII and there was a lot of emotion running high concerning reparations to those families forced to leave at the end; this book was very helpful in giving much of what was going on around me at that time a context. I had learned the bare bones of the issues from the people I got to know, but this book provided a lot of material to fill in the many holes and questions that lingered. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I loved seeing the pictures in the paper form By JCBP The content was not only an insight into history, but written in a very personal conversational way. I loved seeing the pictures in the paper form. The one I got was personally autographed 10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read By Lisa Riemersma Considering that I am a history buff, especially concerning the WW2 years in Europe, naturally, I enjoyed this book tremendously. This is not a history book per se, but rather a family biography of those years but does touch on many facts of those times, especially pertaining to (the former) Czechoslovakia's role. One could even consider this a mini history lesson on Czechoslovakia's history, but written in a personal manner that makes it pleasant to learn. Good subject material and well written. I give it an A rating.

Drawing on her own memory, her parents' written reflections, interviews with contemporaries, and newly-available documents, former US Secretary of State and New York Times bestselling author Madeleine Albright recounts a tale that is by turns harrowing and inspiring. Before she turned twelve, Madeleine Albright's life was shaken by some of the most cataclysmic events of the 20th century: the Nazi invasion of her native Prague, the Battle of Britain, the attempted genocide of European Jewry, the allied victory in World War II, the rise of communism, and the onset of the Cold War. In *Prague Winter*, Albright reflects on her discovery of her family's Jewish heritage many decades after the war, on her Czech homeland's tangled history, and on the stark moral choices faced by her parents and their generation. Often relying on eyewitness descriptions, she tells the story of how millions of ordinary citizens were ripped from familiar surroundings and forced into new roles as exile leaders and freedom fighters, resistance organizers and collaborators, victims and killers. These events of enormous complexity are shaped by concepts familiar to any growing child: fear, trust, adaptation, the search for identity, the pressure to conform, the quest for independence, and the difference between right and wrong. *Prague Winter* is an exploration of the past with timeless dilemmas in mind, a journey with universal lessons that is simultaneously a deeply personal memoir and an incisive work of history. It serves as a guide to the future through the lessons of the past, as seen through the eyes of one of the international community's most respected and fascinating figures. Albright and her family's experiences provide an intensely human lens through which to view the most political and tumultuous years in modern history.

.com Madeleine Albright on Writing *Prague Winter* On the evening of February 4, 1997, I led the cabinet into the House of Representatives prior to the President's annual address—the first woman ever to do so. Exchanging greetings with senators and other dignitaries, my heart should have been joyful; instead, I was stunned. That morning's Washington Post headline had read: "Albright Family Tragedy Comes to Light." I was 59 when I learned from a reporter and from certain letters I had received that my ancestral heritage was Jewish and that more than two dozen of my relatives had died in the Holocaust. The revelation shook my deeply ingrained sense of identity, and prompted me to seek answers to questions that I had never before thought to ask. That search began with visits to the small towns in Czechoslovakia where my parents had grown up and to the ancient synagogue where the names of Holocaust victims are enshrined. *Prague Winter* is a continuation of that personal journey, but also a much wider tale concerning a generation compelled to make painful moral choices amid the tumult of war. In 1939, when efforts by British and French leaders to appease Hitler had backfired, the Nazis invaded my homeland. I was not yet two years old. My parents escaped with me to London where my father became head of broadcasting for the Czechoslovak government in exile. Strangers in an embattled land, we endured along with our new neighbors the terrible bombing of the Blitz. Back home, the German occupation quickly evolved into a reign of terror under the direction of Reinhard Heydrich, "The Butcher of Prague." As preparations were made to exterminate the country's Jews, Czechoslovak parachutists returned to their native soil with a mission: to kill Heydrich -- the only successful assassination of a senior Nazi during the war. In the months that followed that daring assault, Czechs suffered from Hitler's vengeance, while Jews confined to the infamous Terezin ghetto struggled to retain hope despite overcrowded conditions and the periodic departure of fellow inmates on trains to the east. In England, Czechoslovak leaders maneuvered to reclaim their country's independence; my mother and father agonized over the fate of loved ones who had remained behind. From the day America entered the war, my parents and their friends were confident the Allies would win. As democrats from Central Europe, they prayed that the United States—not the Soviet Union—would wield the decisive postwar influence in our region. It was not to be. When at last the Nazis were defeated, Czechoslovakia became again a battleground between democracy and totalitarianism; before long, my family was forced into exile for the second time,

finding a permanent home in America. The story of Prague Winter is often as intensely personal as a mother's letter, a father's hidden sorrow, and the earnest artwork of an imprisoned ten-year-old cousin. The themes, however, are universal: loyalty and betrayal, respect and bigotry, accommodating evil or fighting back. What fascinates me is why we make the choices we do. What prompts one person to act boldly in a moment of crisis and a second to seek shelter in the crowd? Why do some people become stronger in the face of adversity while others quickly lose heart? What drives many of us to look down on neighbors based on the flimsy pretexts of nationality and creed? Is it education, spiritual belief, parental guidance, traumatic events, or more likely some combination that causes us to follow the paths that we do? My search for answers compelled me to look back—to the time of harshest winter in the city of my birth. "A gripping account of World War II. . . . In taut prose, Albright weaves a powerful narrative that wraps her family's story into the larger political drama unfolding in Europe." (The Philadelphia Inquirer)"Albright has supplemented a deeply researched history of World War II-era Czechoslovakia with a moving family narrative." (The Daily)"Prague Winter is not only a family story—a proud and moving one—but a brilliant and multilayered account of how Czechoslovakia was formed along the most idealistic lines in the aftermath of World War I. An altogether fascinating and inspiring read." (Michael Korda, The Daily Beast)"Showing us villainy, heroism, and agonizing moral dilemmas, Albright's vivid storytelling and measured analysis bring this tragic era to life." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))"A genuinely admirable book. Albright skillfully returns us to some of the darkest years of modern times. Spring eventually came to Prague, but in much of the world it is still winter. The love of democracy fills every one of these instructive and stirring pages." (Leon Wieseltier)"I was totally blown away by this book. It is a breathtaking combination of the historical and the personal. Albright confronts the brutal realities of the Holocaust and the conflicted moral choices it led to. An unforgettable tale of fascism and communism, courage and realism, families and heartache and love. (Walter Isaacson)"A remarkable story of adventure and passion, tragedy and courage set against the backdrop of occupied Czechoslovakia and World War II. Albright provides fresh insights into the events that shaped her career and challenges us to think deeply about the moral dilemmas that arise in our own lives." (Vaclav Havel)"A riveting tale of her family's experience in Europe during World War II [and] a well-wrought political history of the region, told with great authority. . . . More than a memoir, this is a book of facts and action." (The Los Angeles Times)"A compelling personal exploration of [Albright's] family's Jewish roots as well as an excellent history of Czechoslovakia from 1937 to 1948. . . . Highly informative and insightful. . . . I can't recommend Prague Winter highly enough." (The Washington Post Book World)"In the crowded field of memoirs written by former secretaries of state, Madeleine Albright's books stand out. . . . Albright is a charming and entertaining storyteller." (The New York of Books)"Albright's book is a sprightly historical narrative of this long decade. . . . Her account of the destruction of inter-war Czechoslovakia, both as a geographical entity and as an idea of democracy, first by the Nazis and then by the Communists, is balanced and vivid." (The Economist)"A blend of history and memoir that reveals in rich, poignant and often heartbreaking detail a story that had been hidden from her by her own parents. . . . The beating heart of the book is Albright's searing account of her intimate family saga." (The Jewish Journal)"An extraordinary book. . . . Albright artfully presents a wrenching tale of horror and darkness, but also one in which decent and brave people again and again had their say." (István Deák, The New Republic)From the Back CoverBefore Madeleine Albright turned twelve, her life was shaken by the Nazi invasion of her native Prague, the Battle of Britain, the near-total destruction of European Jewry, the Allied victory in World War II, the rise of communism, and the onset of the Cold War. Drawing on her memory, her parents' written reflections, interviews with contemporaries, and newly available documents, Albright recounts a tale that is by turns harrowing and inspiring. In Prague Winter, Albright reflects on her discovery of her family's Jewish heritage many decades after the war, on her Czech homeland's tangled history, and on the stark moral choices faced by her parents and their generation. At once a deeply personal memoir and an incisive work of history, Prague Winter serves as a guide to the future through the lessons of the past—as seen through the eyes of one of the international community's most respected and fascinating figures.