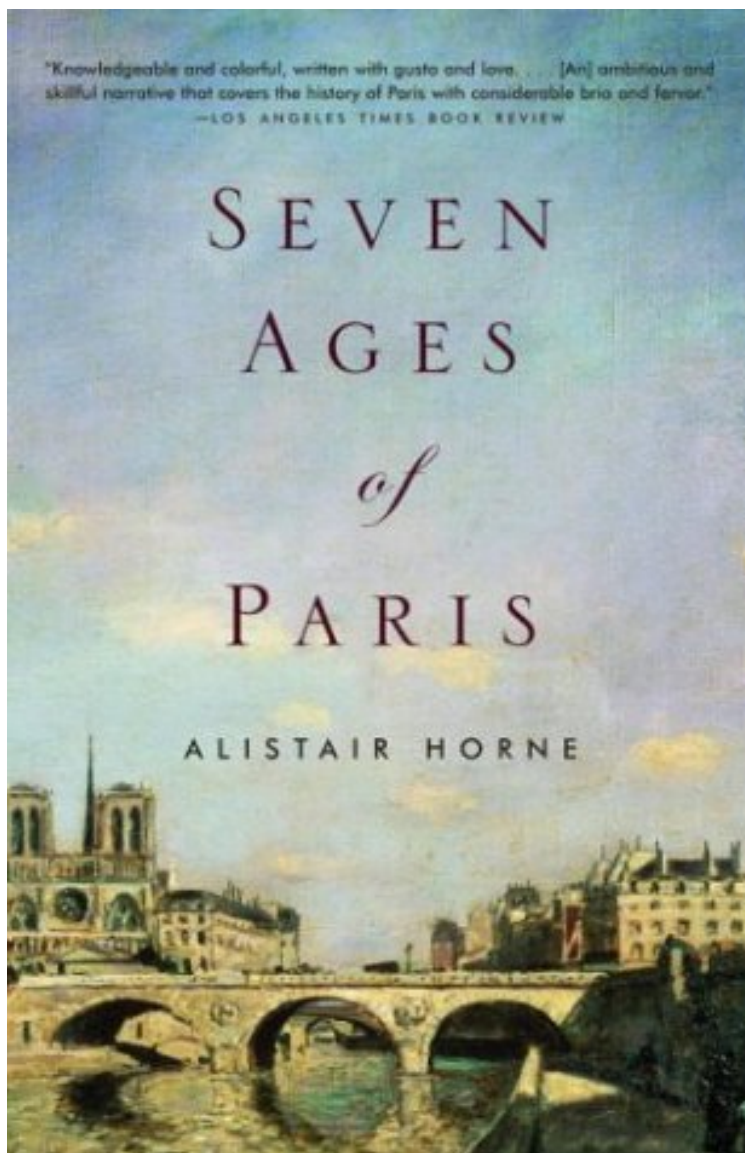


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Seven Ages of Paris

Alistair Horne

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Alistair Horne : Seven Ages of Paris before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seven Ages of Paris:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great way to prepare for a Paris trip By M. Flynn First, Mr. Horne's writing style is inviting. He enjoys the telling and that shows - fun to read, tons of information about the city. This is no short book and the material means it's not going to open itself to speed reading, but the wealth of the history of Paris and how that history created the city and its architecture, planning (using the term loosely) is a great way to

prepare for touring the city of lights. Time after time, walking, the historical context of what I was seeing was presented by this excellent book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. paris worth a mass book By old fashion guy yes , this is a story of history, but an appealing one, traveling from the past allows to know the present, Paris is not only a City is the resume of the occidental civilization. Besides that , we could see the impact of a lrg list of citizenz, maitres, gobernants y artist that shaped the city of to day. The best is read it , and then pay a visit to the city, is an exciting adventure, to recognice the places, the prints and the shadows of the past, OFG 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By KS Great book

In this luminous portrait of Paris, the celebrated historian gives us the history, culture, disasters, and triumphs of one of the world's truly great cities. While Paris may be many things, it is never boring. From the rise of Philippe Auguste through the reigns of Henry IV and Louis XIV (who abandoned Paris for Versailles); Napoleon's rise and fall; Baron Haussmann's rebuilding of Paris (at the cost of much of the medieval city); the Belle Epoque and the Great War that brought it to an end; the Nazi Occupation, the Liberation, and the postwar period dominated by de Gaulle--Horne brings the city's highs and lows, savagery and sophistication, and heroes and villains splendidly to life. With a keen eye for the telling anecdote and pivotal moment, he portrays an array of vivid incidents to show us how Paris endures through each age, is altered but always emerges more brilliant and beautiful than ever. The Seven Ages of Paris is a great historian's tribute to a city he loves and has spent a lifetime learning to know. "Knowledgeable and colorful, written with gusto and love.... [An] ambitious and skillful narrative that covers the history of Paris with considerable brio and fervor."—LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK REVIEW

From Publishers Weekly London is male, New York sexually ambivalent, writes Horne. But "has any sensible person ever doubted that Paris is fundamentally a woman?" The renowned historian (The Fall of Paris, etc.) thus conceives of his history of the city of lights as "linked biographical essays, depicting seven ages... in the long, exciting life of a sexy and beautiful, but also turbulent, troublesome and sometimes excessively violent woman." Horne's admittedly idiosyncratic seven ages begin in the 13th century, when King Philippe Auguste made Paris the administrative and cultural center of France. The second age was that of the Protestant Henri of Navarre (later King Henri IV) who, after unsuccessfully besieging the city, converted to Catholicism because, he said, "Paris is worth a mass," and began "to clear away the cluttered medieval quarters... and replace them with an orderly, classical elegance." The third era was that of King Louis XIV, a period of amazing cultural flowering, though the Sun King moved the seat of government away from Paris, to Versailles. Napoleon brought to Paris a postrevolutionary stability and grandeur, and began to construct a modern sewer system. Under Napoleon III and Baron Haussmann, during the city's fifth age, Paris was remade, but the era ended with the bloodletting of the Commune. Age six took the city from the belle epoque through the beginning of WWII, and the last from the occupation to 1969. Horne brings to this brilliant and entertaining account the same urban passion that Peter Ackroyd brought to his recent "biography" of London—and it is sure to delight Francophiles everywhere. 8 pages of color and 16 pages of bw illus. not seen by PW. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This highly readable narrative by celebrated journalist and historian Horne (The Fall of Paris; A Savage War of Peace: Algeria, 1954-1962) uses an admittedly idiosyncratic organizational scheme to trace the history of Paris through seven periods, beginning in the 12th century and ending with the death of Charles de Gaulle in 1969. His "ages" focus on medieval and Renaissance Paris; the era of King Henry IV; the 18th century and Louis XIV; revolutionary and Napoleonic Paris; the 19th century, culminating in the Bloody Week of the Commune; the Belle poque; and the age of war and occupation. While politics informs and guides his presentation, this is by no means a political history. Each section includes fascinating insights into the social and cultural life of the age, fashions in clothing, architectural developments, leading personalities, and lifestyles of rich and poor alike. With the verve of a master storyteller, Horne captures Parisians' "zest for living." While often depicting Paris itself as a beautiful woman, he does not neglect the famous female personalities of each era. This readable survey complements yet stands in sharp contrast to Patrice Higonnet's recent Paris: Capital of the World, which takes a more academic focus and eschews a chronological approach. Highly recommended for large public libraries. Marie Marmo Mullaney, Caldwell Coll., NJ Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Horne, a prolific and popular British historian, is the author of a trilogy on French history: The Price of Glory (1962), The Fall of Paris (1965), and To Lose a Battle (1969). His years of research have resulted in a particular love of Paris, which now results in a book synthesizing all he has learned about the French capital. He divides the history of Paris into, as the book's title indicates, seven great epochs, each one representing an important transition in the city's evolution. The first of the seven eras is the age of King Phillippe Auguste ("the first ruler to make [Paris] his administrative capital") and the last is the stewardship of Charles de Gaulle ("bringing a certain order and opening the path to a grand renouvellement of France"). We also visit the Paris of Louis XIV (who abandoned it for his chateau at Versailles) and the pre-World War I Belle Epoque ("it felt like a period that would last forever"). A rich, vigorously fresh study for history lovers. Brad Hooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved