

## The English

*David Frost, Antony Jay*

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**David Frost, Antony Jay : The English** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The English:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Somewhat After Britannia Ruled the WavesBy Mike DePue, OFSThe European Community was established in 1967, the year this book was written. Britain, however, would not join the European Community until 1973. And now, as things stand, Britain will leave the European Union by April 2019. So this book is a sharp-witted snapshot of the English at a particular in-between time and socioeconomic situation. Therein lies much of its interest.But reading certain of its assertions with 2017 eyes is most interesting. For instance:“Whatever form our government has taken over the centuries ...in one aim it has been consistent: Keep away from Europe and keep Europe away. ...It seems impossible that a policy that has succeeded so well for nearly a thousand years should ever be questioned.” (pp. 199-200)“Our education has taught us that Europe is composed of knaves and fools.” (pp. 203)“The Europeans have got to realize that they have a lot of soundly-based English distrust about foreigners to overcome.” (p. 206)“No other nation in the world combines such a reputation for hospitality to those in need with such public unanimity about the need for harsher immigration laws.” (p. 236)“Authority tries to protect its position by the language it uses, which never means what it says. ...’In the fullness of time’—[actually means] ‘Never.’ ‘In the not too distant future’—‘Never.’ ‘Never’—‘As soon as we dare.’” (p. 126)A quick read, with plenty of potential retrospective insight.

The 50 works of English (and American) Literature dealt with in this book are all considered classics, reverently

taught in our schools, studied by researchers. The authors contend that these boring, pretentious, and/or badly written works do not deserve their critical acclaim. This book contains an essay on each of the 50 works, explaining WHY we could do without it! You might be surprised at the list. I won't reveal every title, but here is an excerpt from the essay on Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in wonderland":...The Mad Hatter is not mad enough, the White Rabbit is too frantically dull... In short, Alice does not really descend into Wonderland, she just doesn't get off the ground at all. Children aren't fond of the book, and adults either forget that as children they did not like it, or pretend they did. After all it's such a nice, wholesome, dull book.