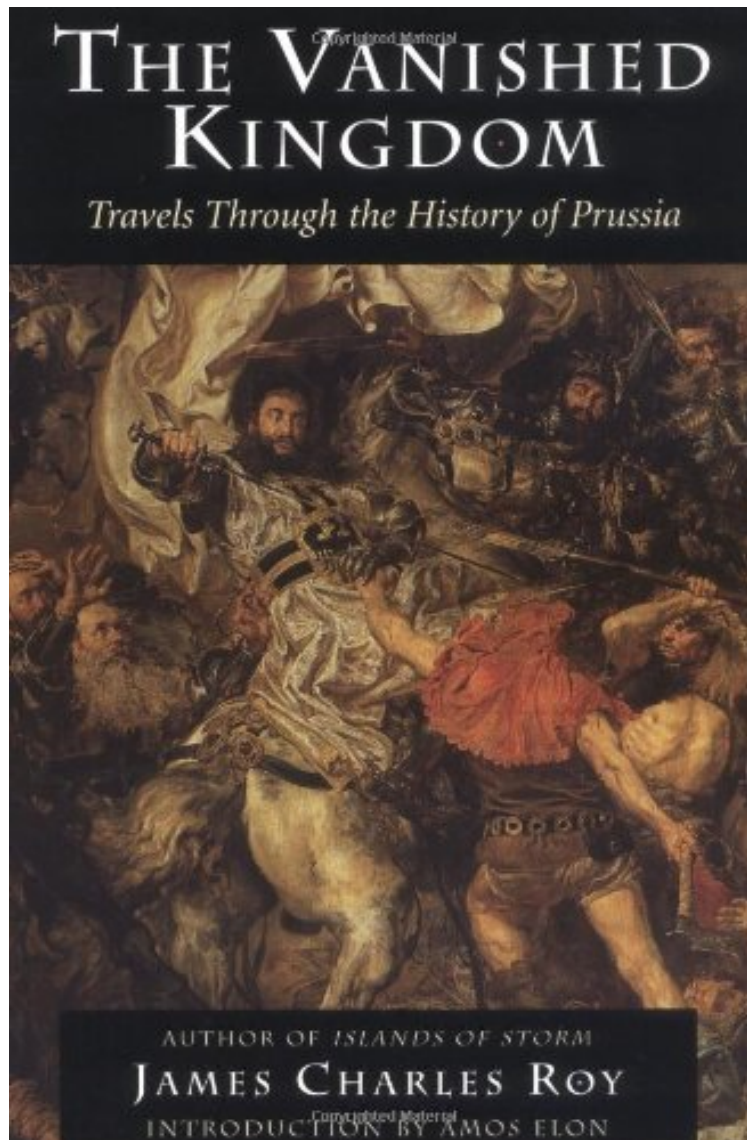


[Read and download] The Vanished Kingdom: Travels Through The History Of Prussia

The Vanished Kingdom: Travels Through The History Of Prussia

James Charles Roy

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#371451 in Books James Charles Roy 2000-05-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .75 x 6.00l, 1.18
#File Name: 0813337933416 pagesISBN13: 9780813337937Condition: NewNotes: BRAND NEW FROM
PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence!
Millions of books sold! | File size: 15.Mb

James Charles Roy : The Vanished Kingdom: Travels Through The History Of Prussia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vanished Kingdom: Travels Through The History Of Prussia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating, Well Written Book With Wonderful Interviews and

Insights - I Loved ItBy NBI have thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is really a mix of history, travel guide and ethnography, and it's a compelling mix at that. Roy is an evocative writer, but I think the pearls in this book are the long excerpts from his interviews with World War II veterans, holocaust survivors and survivors of the East Prussian flight before the Russian advance in 1945. You are not going to learn much about the Hohenzollern dynasty, if that is what you are after. But once you've read a few chapters, you won't really care. Allow yourself to be guided along through Roy's journey.16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Excellent yet slanted writingBy A CustomerI agree that many of the passages in this book are extremely romantic when it comes to describing Prussian history, but in my opinion the writing itself is great.And although Roy may be slanted in his opinions when discussing Eastern European politics and history, or when describing the Wehrmacht or Teutonic Knights, he tempers this romanticism with tales of Polish Jewry and the atrocities committed against them in East Prussia and its environs.I feel the biggest fault of the author's thinking (not the book), is the strong feeling of class that he demonstrates. It seemed to me that if a person wasn't a member of the Prussian aristocracy or a descendant, then they counted less.Despite these points I thought the book was extremely well written and very interesting. When considering accuracy, though, the reader must read with an open mind and look at where the author is coming from.As for inaccuracies with titles, such as The Great Elector being called "King Of Prussia" instead of "King In Prussia", there is a whole passage devoted to the explanation of both titles, as well as a geneological chart, so I don't know what the last reviewer was referring to.If you are a descendant of people from that part of Europe, (as I am) this book will be a fascinating read. Just read it with an open mind.10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The Vanished KingdomBy P.K. Ryan'The Vanished Kingdom' by James Charles Roy is a fascinating travelogue, combined with the history of this enigmatic land known as Prussia. This land that is so integral to the German identity, is now split between Poland and Russia. Seen by Germany's enemies as a symbol of German expansionism, any talk of reunification is usually met with a less than warm reception. Nevertheless, Prussia remains in the hearts and minds of Germans, and many still hope to reclaim it someday. Roy travels this historically rich land, talking to Poles, Russians, and German tourists engaging in some very interesting conversations along the way. Along with this travelogue, he fluently blends the turbulent history of Prussia, from the Teutonic Knights to Bismarck, and from Frederick the Great to Von Hindenburg. My only criticism is that the author tends to ramble on in certain places, exerting too much time on subjects of limited relevance to Prussia. For example, the several pages he spends discussing Napoleon, I could have done without. Nevertheless, I found 'The Vanished Kingdom' to be enjoyable as well as informative. I would consider it an extremely valuable addition to any student of European history in general and essential for students of German history in particular.

Twice in this century, Germany initiated wars of unimagined terror and destruction. In both cases, defense of the "Prussian" realm, the German homeland, was the perceived and vilified perpetrator. Few today understand with any precision what "Prussia" means, either geographically or nationalistically, but neither would they deny the psychic resonance of the single word. To most, it means unbridled aggression, the image of the goose-stepping Junker. But what was once Prussia is now a significant portion of Eastern Europe, a contested homeland first won by Christian knights of the Teutonic Order. For centuries thereafter its terrain has been crisscrossed by war and partitioned by barbed wire. In its final catastrophe of 1945, nearly two million German refugees fled the region as Russian armies broke the eastern front, perhaps the greatest dislocation of a civilian population at any time during World War II. With the Berlin Wall now a memory and the Soviet Union in a state of collapse, this remains a geography in shambles. Modern travelers can now, for the first time in decades, see and ponder for themselves what Prussia really was and now is. James Charles Roy and Amos Elon, two writers noted for their inquisitive natures, have gone to search through the rubble themselves. They intermingle present-day observations with moving vignettes from the German and Prussian past, sketching a portrait of the Europe we know today. The story is spiced with interviews and reminiscences, unforgettable in their sadness, of people looking back at a life now gone, a life full of turmoil and heartache, memories both fond and tragic. The final result: a far deeper understanding of the tattered lands of today's Eastern Europe.

.com Most people accurately associate Prussia with duty, discipline, and fervent militarism. They may be hard-pressed, however, to define it geographically or summarize its rise and fall. With *The Vanished Kingdom: Travels Through the History of Prussia*, James Charles Roy attempts to fill in the gaps of our knowledge about the former German state, from its 12th-century origins to 1945. Founded by Christian knights of the Teutonic Order, Prussia and its hereditary rulers, the Hohenzollerns, reached their political zenith in 1871, when they effectively ruled the Second German Empire. After World War I and the abdication of Wilhelm II (the last ruling Hohenzollern), Prussia ceased to exist as a political entity and its territory was incorporated into a greater Germany. Combining historical documentation with travel narrative and personal interview, Roy's prose is frequently heavy on narration and light on history. *The Vanished Kingdom* succeeds, however, in succinctly chronicling significant events in Prussian history, such as Bismarck's rise to power and Germany's World War I victory at Tannenberg. Maps, historical and contemporary photographs, and an extensive bibliography supplement Roy's study. An introduction by Amos Elon

brings the history of Prussia up to the present day with its examination of East Prussia's former capital, Königsberg, which was incorporated into Russian territory in 1945. The fate of the city, today physically and economically devastated, remains precarious; will it return to Germany or remain a Russian territory? Together, Roy and Elon provide a comprehensive overview of Prussia's past, present, and future. --Bertina Loeffler SedlackFrom Library JournalRoy traveled through what used to be the ancient kingdom of Prussia, the cradle of modern Germany, contrasting what he saw and heard from current Polish citizens with the memories of former German residents. The forced relocation of millions of Germans who had lived there for more than 700 years certainly added to the misery of 1945. What makes this book interesting is that few readers know much of the "Great Trek" during the winter of 1944-45 that turned Danzig into Gdansk and Königsberg into Kaliningrad. Many readers have heard of the alleged connection of Prussian militarism to Hitler's rise, but for those who lack an understanding of Prussia's cultural history, such allegations are meaningless. Roy, whose previous books have all dealt with Ireland, presents a solid popular history of Prussia but adds nothing new in the final chapters on the war. The book relies too heavily on secondary sources to be of use to academics, though it has a good bibliography for those unfamiliar with Prussia. Recommended for undergraduate collections and public libraries. ARandall L. Schroeder, Wartburg Coll. Lib., Waverly, IA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorJames Charles Roy has been a peripatetic "independent scholar" since 1970, when he left Time Inc. He has written innumerable articles on Irish history and five distinguished books, including *The Fields of Athenry* and *Islands of Storm*, a Book-of-the-Month and History Book Club selection. He divides his time between Moyode Castle in County Galway and his home in Newburyport, Massachusetts.