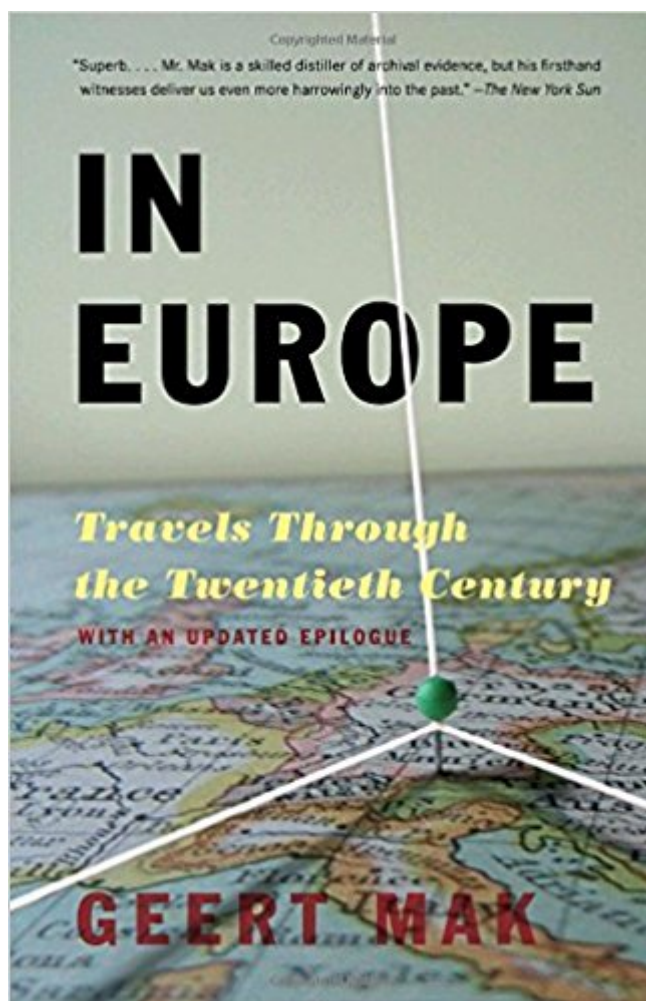


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# In Europe: Travels Through The Twentieth Century



## Synopsis

From the First World War to the waning days of the Cold War, a poignant exploration on what it means to be European at the end of the twentieth-century. Geert Mak crisscrosses Europe from Verdun to Berlin, Saint Petersburg to Srebrenica in search of evidence and witnesses of the last hundred years of Europe. Using his skills as an acclaimed journalist, Mak locates the smaller, personal stories within the epic arc of history—talking to a former ticket-taker at the gates of the Birkenau concentration camp or noting the neat rows of tiny shoes in the abandoned nursery school in the shadow of Chernobyl. His unique approach makes the reader an eyewitness to a half-forgotten past, full of unknown peculiarities, sudden insights and touching encounters. Sweeping in scale, but intimate in detail *In Europe* is a masterpiece.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. On January 4, 1999, Mak, a journalist and one of the Netherlands' most popular authors, set out from Amsterdam on assignment for his newspaper, the *NRC Handelsblad*, to crisscross Europe in the final year before the millennium to discover what shape the continent was in. And crisscross he did: Vienna, London; Stalingrad (now Volgograd), Chernobyl, Lourdes, Budapest; Srebrenica and dozens more. For his columns, collected here, Mak used his reporter's eye to describe the vividness of the countryside and cityscapes through which he traveled, his writer's ear to interview individuals who had experienced Europe's most terrible and terrific times, and his historian's pen to narrate the passing of that most extraordinary of centuries. What Mak discovered was that while Europe is turning itself into an ostensible union, there is unexpectedly

little in the way of a shared historical experience. There is no European people, for instance, and every nation has conceived its own version of the catastrophic First and Second World Wars. Mak's brilliant compendium is difficult to define "is it a history book, a travelogue, a memoir?" but stands out as a remarkable, insightful, exhilarating exposition on that peculiar continent across the Atlantic. Map. (Aug. 7) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

*\*Starred Review\** Sweeping in scope, brimming with luxurious and telling detail, electric in prose style, and deeply comprehending in its understanding of the subject, this Dutch writer's magnum opus is the result of a commission he accepted from the newspaper he worked for: a record of his year-long travels throughout Europe at the end of the millennium. His charge was to see if a workable definition of Europe still had relevance; specifically, if there exists sufficient commonality among the European nations to make a definition feasible. The second layer of his writings takes the form of his simultaneous consciousness of the history of each place he visited; it came home to him during his jaunts that "all the different stages of the twentieth century are being lived, or relived, somewhere." The history of the twentieth century, he discovered, was indelibly etched into how almost all Europeans have led their lives at any point in the century. Mak moves thoroughly but nimbly through both time and location, correlating now to then in particularly dramatic episodes, resulting in a beautiful way to learn about both European history and current events. Hooper, Brad --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

very insightful read. It shows a everyday approach to the history and culture of Europe.

A friend told me about this book, but it was still a pleasant surprise. It is about travels, as the subtitle suggests; but it's about the sociology of the various cities, as well. It describes the urban character, brings in history, and spins all the elements together in a beautifully written way. It's not a "can't put it down" book, but it's a very worthy "constant companion" volume. You'll enjoy it.

A remarkably clear and detailed account of the sheer brutality of the twentieth century in Europe. Some may argue that it says nothing new but a lot of it was new to me. We are still vulnerable to the insanity of leaders. Warning : This can be very depressing. I would put it on a list of 'must reads'

How helpful this book is to give to Americans for a true sense of Europe's history, culture and

evolving into today's world.

An account/overview of European history in the late 19th and early 20th century. Rather than going into great detail Mak covered key moments/events and visited many important sites, which allows for a better visualization by the reader of the terror that gripped Europe in the first and second world wars.

One of the best books for tourists or anyone interested in 20th century Europe. I found this book in Prague but got the Kindle edition because of the physical size. I wish the author would update the book to cover the last 15 years since the book was published. Very insightful.

I enjoyed this book immensely. Perhaps as it is written by a European you gain another point of view. Very well written (and presumably translated). I would recommend to anyone with an interest in recent history.

Excellent book.

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