



The Complete War Memoirs of Charles de Gaulle

Charles de Gaulle , Richard Howard (Translator)

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Originally three separate volumes covering three distinct periods, this single edition encompasses all of de Gaulle's personal writings from the fall of France in 1940 to the aftermath of the war in 1946. The first section, "The Call to Honor", recounts the confusion and despair triggered by Hitler's blitzkrieg takeover of France. The second section, "Unity" describes de Gaulle's struggles to rally the Free French in Africa and in underground movements throughout Europe, his bitter conflict with the Vichy puppet regime ruling occupied France, and his cooperation with the Allied powers. "Salvation", the final installment, chronicles the turning of the tide of war against Nazi Germany, de Gaulle's triumphant return to France, and the reincarnation of the French Republic as a major international presence.

The Complete War Memoirs of Charles de Gaulle Details

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Scot B says

fascinating history....interesting insights and an unforgettable dinner meeting with a drunk Stalin.

Adam Lara says

Chaz went to a ton of meetings and was sore he never got invited to all the big conferences. Not sure 1000+ pages were needed to get that across. Interesting read all the same.

J. Clayton Rogers says

My wife (who is French) insists that DeGaulle was a great prose stylist. I do not read French and had to read this in translation. I found the memoirs only fitfully interesting, consisting mainly of compliments to the post-war politicians he had to work with to form a government. I can't recall him saying anything about hating or even disliking anyone, which I find far-fetched. DeGaulle was a man of great loves--and hates. He might have made a few disparaging remarks about Churchill here, but that was probably only because his disagreements with Churchill were public knowledge already. As for all those others that he must have despised: mum was the word. French reticence at its height, and rather dull for that.

Jim says

Beguilingly well written memoirs, one cannot help but boggle at some of the incredible interpretations of history; French contributions to the war, especially the battle of France and the liberation of Paris don't tally, but one can't doubt that De Gaulle had the image of marianne tattooed on his soul!

Dmitriy says

I read it but of course in Russian.

This book is very interesting in two points:

I) It shows deep patriotic feelings of the author for France.

II) He writes a lot about conflicts among Allies, because it helped him to establish himself (Like when Churchill and Roosevelt tried to dump him, he went to Moscow and Stalin recognised his government).

Hugh says

Better even than Churchill's memoirs, which depend too heavily on documents and are somewhat flaccid. De Gaulle modeled his memoirs on Caesar's, and so he speaks of himself in the first person and has a striking impression of people and events.

Stephen Brooke says

De Gaulle is a bit of a hero of mine. As conservatives go, he was the 'right' kind (with not much in common with those who claim the title these days). He could write a pretty decent memoir too.

It's interesting to see the Second World War from his perspective — a bit different from our usual Anglo-American viewpoint. De Gaulle and Free France were not passive standers-by while the Allies liberated their homeland. They played a vital role and De Gaulle intends that we know it.

It's also true that De Gaulle quite possibly prevented France from entering the Soviet sphere, post-war. In many respects, I find the politics of rebuilding his nation to be the most interesting part of the memoir. Not that all of it isn't a pretty fascinating narrative.

Definitely recommended for those who would like a 'second opinion' or are simply interested in history and the men who made it.

Rosa Ramôa says

"A França perdeu uma batalha! Mas a França não perdeu a guerra! Alguns governantes capitularam, cedendo ao pânico, esquecendo a honra, entregando o país à servidão. No entanto, nada (...) está perdido, porque esta guerra é uma guerra mundial. (...) Um dia, essas forças esmagarão o inimigo. É preciso que a França, nesse dia, esteja presente na vitória. (...) A nossa pátria está em perigo de morte. Lutemos para a salvar! Viva a França!"

Alex Jutte says

Fascinating book, detailing some of the allied betrayals of France during the war. But also reads as a litany of perceived slights which from the French view point could be seen as unjust, but looking deeper is a reflection of the British and American views of France as no longer being a great power. De Gaulle ends up looking like a whiny toddler whenever something doesn't go his way.

Jean-Pascal says

Passionnant quasiment d'un bout à l'autre. J'y ai appris mille choses qui modifient encore ce que l'on peut penser du monde actuel.

Eric Sausse says

Un grand enseignement sur le passé ainsi que sur la situation d'aujourd'hui. Car, en fin de compte, dans le fond, rien n'a changé.
