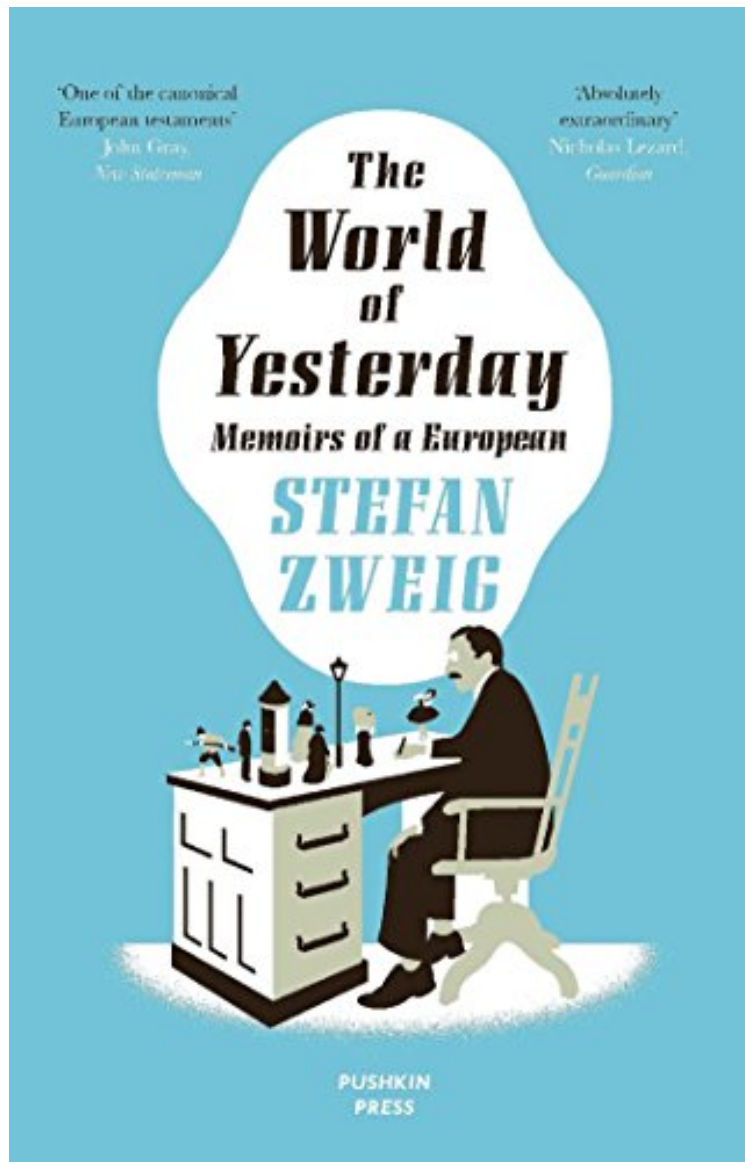


[Download pdf] The World of Yesterday: Memoirs of a European

The World of Yesterday: Memoirs of a European

Von Stefan Zweig

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Von Stefan Zweig : The World of Yesterday: Memoirs of a European before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World of Yesterday: Memoirs of a European:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen8 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. So close, so far awayVon Manuel HaasIn the 1920s and 1930s Stefan Zweig was one of the most popular wirters of the world, best known for his biographies. After the Nazis had driven him from his native Austria because he happened to be Jewish, he tried to remember his own life. As he stresses in a preface, he does this not because he thinks that his own

life is important, but to give as a view of the exciting times he experienced. Zweig was born in 1881, so the times he describes are not more than 100 years away from ours - and yet it is all incredibly far away, even to a European like myself. Zweig describes pre-war Austria-Hungary as a "world of security" where nothing ever changed. The Jewish Bourgeoisie to which he belonged were obsessed with culture; even as adolescents, Zweig and his friends tried to get hold of the latest in German and French poetry. And to understand what you have heard about Freud, just read the chapter about the sexual hypocrisy among Vienna's upper class around 1900! World War I changes this world of tolerance and security for ever. Zweig's country is broken up into ridiculous fragments, and the German-speaking countries are in a state of unrest which will eventually lead them into the self-destruction of Nazi barbarism. At the same time, the 1920s are a time of unprecedented creativity for German and Austrian writers (Thomas Mann, Musil, Rilke, Kafka etc.). Zweig shows us this wonderful world of letters, not just in his own country and language, but also in France, Italy, England. He meets Joyce, Rilke, G.B. Shaw, H.G. Wells and Yeats. Zweig's book shows you the riches European culture had to offer before World War II put an end to it. Zweig himself tried to start a new life in Brazil, but when the Nazis had conquered all of Europe in 1942, Zweig gave up all hope and committed suicide. Zweig's tragic fate mirrors that of Europe in his time. This book should be read by anyone who is interested in European culture in the 20th century.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fascinating European History Von Stein J This is the autobiography of Stefan Zweig, an Austrian Jewish writer who lived from 1881 to 1942. He describes his privileged youth in the bourgeoisie of Vienna, and how he and his peers helplessly watched their beloved Europe slide into the disaster of the 1st World War. We live with him through the post war years of political and economic crisis, share his hopes when Europe recovers in the late 20s, only to be devastated by Hitler's rise to power. Zweig committed suicide in 1942, having lost his intellectual home (his books were banned in 3rd Reich Germany/Austria, and he was exiled). Through his eyes, we meet writers, artists and scientists like Rilke, Rodin and Freud. The most fascinating aspect of the book for me was the immense disconnect of the intellectuals of this period with the political realities they lived in. They completely underestimated the danger of the developments leading to the two wars.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. profoundly civilised Von Ein Kunde This is a wonderful book. Poor Zweig. He was born in 1881, and by 1914 he had become one of Vienna's leading journalists. Liberal, and a lover of culture, he knew everybody who mattered in literature, the arts and the sciences at a time when Vienna was the most civilised city in the world. The universal joy in 1914 at the outbreak of war appalled him, and he became so unpopular for decrying it that eventually he emigrated to Switzerland, to work for the Red Cross. He returned to Vienna in 1919, and was eventually 'forgiven' by his now-contrite friends. But when during the '20s he was invited to the UUSR, and he returned saying it was hell, his avantguard friends rejected him again. He retired to Salzburg. In 1933, on Hitler's accession to power, he warned that Hitler would invade Austria and kill all the Jews. He was disbelieved. He emigrated to Britain, where he was appalled by the complacency of the government. Finally, via New York (where he wrote this book) he emigrated to Rio in Brazil (he doesn't spell it out, but he did this presumably because he thought the UK would fall to the Germans, and he feared being detained in the US as an enemy alien). It was in Rio in 1942, at the height of German power, that he killed himself in despair. In this beautiful book, Zweig creates a fin de siecle elegy for his youth, but unlike the previous reviewer I do not think he is nostalgic. His regret is for his illusions that art was synonymous with moral goodness, and his despair over the folly of his fellow men. It was not so much the evil of a few that upset him but the lack of wisdom of the many. I believe that Zweig was the clearest thinker of the 20th Century, the worst century since the 14th, and I believe his book should be required reading for all. He was the Erasmus of our age, so it is no surprise he wrote a biography of Erasmus. The book is written beautifully. On a small personal note, I have often wondered whether his terminal despair was not aggravated by his divorce and second marriage. Those were unusual events in those days, and he may have felt bereft.

Kurzbeschreibung Stefan Zweig's memoir *The World of Yesterday*, (*Die Welt von Gestern*) is a unique love letter to the lost world of pre-war Europe. The famous autobiography is published by Pushkin Press, with a cover designed by David Pearson and Clare Skeats. Translated by the award-winning Anthea Bell. Stefan Zweig's memoir, *The World of Yesterday* recalls the golden age of pre-war Europe its seeming permanence, its promise and its devastating fall. Through the story of his life, and his relationships with the leading literary figures of the day, Zweig's passionate, evocative prose paints a stunning portrait of an era that danced brilliantly on the brink of extinction. This new translation by the award-winning Anthea Bell captures the spirit of Zweig's writing in arguably his most important work, completed shortly before his death in a suicide pact with his wife in 1942. *The World of Yesterday* is one of the greatest memoirs of the twentieth century, as perfect in its evocation of the world Zweig loved, as it is in its portrayal of how that world was destroyed.' David Hare 'This absolutely extraordinary book is more than just an autobiography. (...) This is a book that should be read by anyone who is even slightly interested in the creative imagination and the intellectual life, the brute force of history upon individual lives, the possibility of culture and, quite simply, what it meant to be alive between 1881 and 1942. That should cover a fair number of you.' Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*

Translated from the German by Anthea Bell, Stefan Zweig's *The World of Yesterday*, is published by Pushkin Press. Stefan Zweig (1881-1942) was born in Vienna, into a wealthy Austrian-Jewish family. He studied in Berlin and Vienna and was first known as a poet and translator, then as a biographer. Zweig travelled widely, living in Salzburg between the wars, and was an international bestseller with a string of hugely popular novellas including *Letter from an Unknown Woman*, *Amok* and *Fear*. In 1934, with the rise of Nazism, he moved to London, where he wrote his only novel *Beware of Pity*. He later moved on to Bath, taking British citizenship after the outbreak of the Second World War. With the fall of France in 1940 Zweig left Britain for New York, before settling in Brazil, where in 1942 he and his wife were found dead in an apparent double suicide. Much of his work is available from Pushkin Press.