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Celebrated historian John Hirst offers a fascinating exploration of the qualities that made Europe a world-changing civilisation. The Shortest History of Europe begins with a rapid overview of European civilisation, describing its birth from an unlikely mixture of classical learning, Christianity and German warrior culture. Over the centuries, this unstable blend produced highly distinctive characters - pious knights and belligerent popes, romantics spouting folklore and revolutionaries imitating Rome - and its coming apart provided the dynamic of European history in modern times. Accompanied by lively illustrations, The Shortest History of Europe is a clear, humorous and thought-provoking account of a remarkable civilisation.

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'Beautifully and sparsely constructed, yet rich in fact, feeling and detail, sweeping, challenging and funny' —James Button
'Great stuff, the book as a whole is constantly thought-provoking' —Courier Mail
'An entertaining, learned piece of historical compression' —The Age
'A wise, illuminating little book' —Sydney Morning Herald
'Crisp, lucid and evocative' —The Australian Book Review

2,000 years of history in one riveting afternoon A country both admired and feared, Germany has been the epicenter of world events time and again: the Reformation, both World Wars, the fall of the Berlin Wall. It did not emerge as a modern nation until 1871—yet today, Germany is the world's fourth-largest economy and a standard-bearer of liberal

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democracy. “There’s no point studying the past unless it sheds some light on the present,” writes James Hawes in this brilliantly concise history that has already captivated hundreds of thousands of readers. “It is time, now more than ever, for us all to understand the real history of Germany.”

England’s history retold for the modern age—from Caesar to Brexit via Conquest, Empire, and world wars In nations across the world, political divides seem to loom wider than ever before. Whether in the United States or England, many people are frustrated with the inability of different ideologies, or even different regions of the same country, to find a middle ground and understand each other’s viewpoints. It’s easy to see this extreme polarization as a modern phenomenon—but

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looking closely at English history reveals that this North Atlantic nation has been deeply divided across 2,000 years (and even before the first humans made its land their home). England's historical and present dominance over the other countries in the UK means this split reverberates across the entire kingdom, with repercussions for all its interactions on the global stage. Every moment of England's past is colored by its geographical and cultural split into two regions—north and south. As the country dealt with outside pressures such as colonizing Romans, Germanic settlers, and Danish and Norman invaders over the centuries, it also faced a battle within between the more privileged southern elite and the northern people who resisted southern domination. The Shortest History of England links these earlier struggles to

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England's uncertain present and future, with fascinating aspects of the nation's history playing starring roles, such as: The constant political tug-of-war between the crown and Parliament, with a beheaded king and the Magna Carta at the center Linguistic conflict between the haves and the have-nots as French became the language of the elite, leading to the Frenchified Northern way of speaking "correct" English still dominating today Wars, wars, and more wars—from the Hundred Years' War between England and France to the Wars of the Roses between northern and southern England to World War I and II Religious battles as the Reformation split the country into Catholic versus Protestant The rise of an empire stretching across America, India, Africa, and Australia—and its fall Populism's modern ascendancy with the

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help of Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and Nigel Farage as well as the UKIP party The empire's decline from the inside, with Ireland breaking away from the UK, the UK breaking away from the EU, and Scottish independence. All these events and more are conveyed in James Hawes's succinct, incisive voice, accompanied by over 150 maps, images, and diagrams. The Shortest History of England offers the most direct and compelling route to understanding the division driving the events of modern-day England—and those of many other countries in the Western world.

The first short, single-volume history of the continent - from the Dark Ages to present day - by the author of the bestselling A Short History of England Europe is an

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astonishingly successful place. In this dazzling new history, bestselling author Simon Jenkins grippingly tells the story of its evolution from warring peoples to peace, wealth and freedom. From Greece and Rome, through the Reformation and the French Revolution, to the Second World War and up now, Jenkins takes in leaders including Julius Caesar, Joan of Arc, Wellington and Angela Merkel, along with cultural figures like Aristotle, Shakespeare and Picasso. In one concise book for the very first time, Jenkins brings together the transformative forces and dominant eras into one chronological tale - all with his insight, colour and authority. PRAISE FOR SIMON JENKINS: 'Full of stand-out facts . . . absolutely fascinating' Richard Bacon, BBC Radio 2, on A Short History of England 'Masterly, perhaps a masterpiece'

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Independent, Books of the Year on England's Thousand Best Churches 'Jenkins is, like all good guides, more than simply informative: he can be courteous and rude, nostalgic and funny, elegant' Adam Nicolson on England's Thousand Best Houses, Evening Standard 'Full of the good judgements one might hope for from such a sensible and readable commentator, and they alone are worth perusing for pleasure and food for thought' Michael Wood on A Short History of England, New Statesman 'Any passably cultured inhabitant of the British Isles should ask for, say, three or four copies of this book' Max Hastings on England's Thousand Best Houses, Sunday Telegraph

A completely fresh look at the culture clash between Britain

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and Germany that all but destroyed Europe. Half a century before 1914, most Britons saw the Germans as poor and rather comical cousins - and most Germans looked up to the British as their natural mentors. Over the next five decades, each came to think that the other simply had to be confronted - in Europe, in Africa, in the Pacific and at last in the deadly race to cover the North Sea with dreadnoughts. But why? Why did so many Britons come to see in Germany everything that was fearful and abhorrent? Why did so many Germans come to see any German who called *doppelte* playing *Das Lawn Tennis* the dupe of a global conspiracy? Packed with long-forgotten stories such as the murder of Queen Victoria's cook in Bohn, the disaster to Germany's ironclads under the White Cliffs, bizarre early colonial clashes and the

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precise, dark moment when Anglophobia begat modern anti-Semitism, this is the fifty-year saga of the tragic, and often tragicomic, delusions and miscalculations that led to the defining cataclysm of our times - the breaking of empires and the womb of horrors, the Great War. Richly illustrated with the words and pictures that formed our ancestors' disastrous opinions, it will forever change the telling of this fateful tale.

Celebrated historian John Hirst offers a fascinating exploration of the qualities that made Europe a world-changing civilisation. The Shortest History of Europe begins with a rapid overview of European civilisation, describing its birth from an unlikely mixture of classical learning, Christianity and German warrior culture. Over the centuries, this unstable

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Originally published in 1944, this book provides a concise history of Germany, from 900 AD up until the Nazi dictatorship.

Highlighting the most important events, ideas, and individuals that shaped modern Europe, *A Concise History of Modern Europe* provides a readable, succinct history of the continent from the Enlightenment and the French Revolution to the present day. Avoiding a detailed, lengthy chronology, the book focuses on key events and ideas to explore the causes and consequences of revolutions—be they political, economic,

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or scientific; the origins and development of human rights and democracy; and issues of European identity. Any reader needing a broad overview of the sweep of European history since 1789 will find this book, published in a first edition under the title *Revolutionary Europe*, an engaging and cohesive narrative.

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