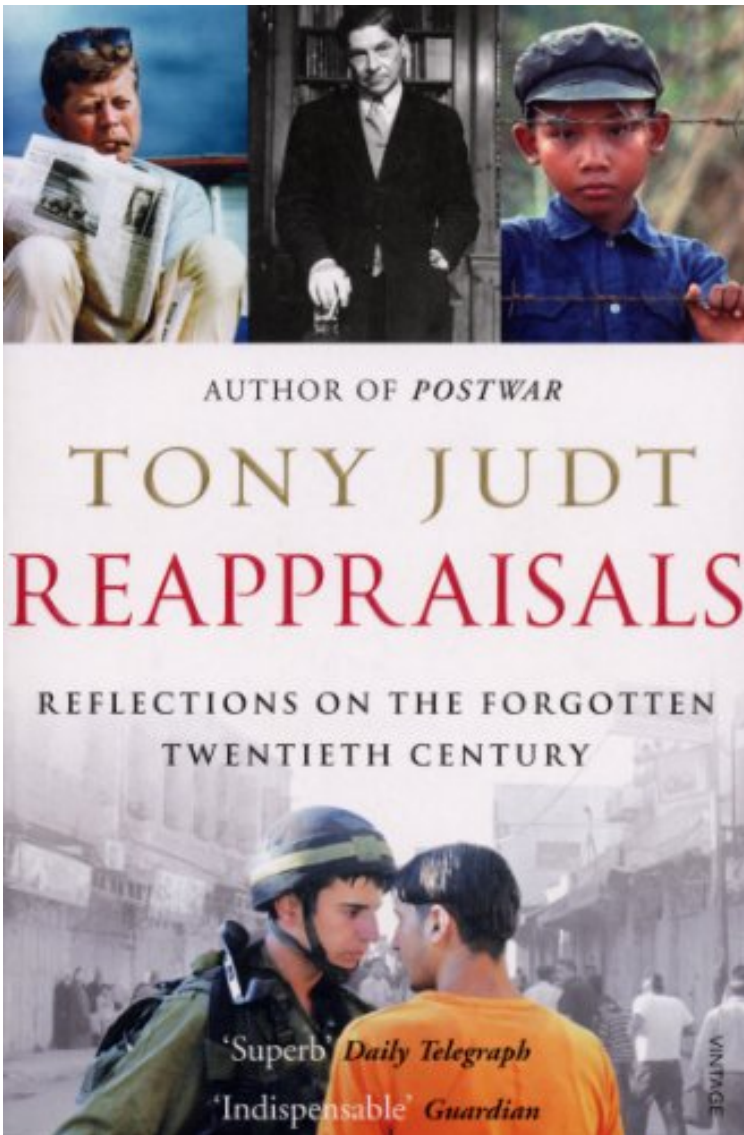


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Reappraisals: Reflections on the Forgotten Twentieth Century



Par Tony Judt
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Description : Description du produitA provocative, timely assessment of how 20th century world history was created, and what it means today, by the author of POSTWAR

Prsentation de l'diteurIn Reappraisals award-winning historian Tony Judt argues that we have entered an 'age of forgetting', where we have set aside our immediate past before we could even begin to make sense of it. We have lost touch with generations of international policy debate, social thought and public-spirited social activism - and no longer even know how to discuss such concepts - and have forgotten the role once played by intellectuals in debating, transmitting and defending the ideas that shaped their time.Reappraisals is a road map back to the historical sense we urgently need. A masterful collection of essays, it examines the

tragedy of twentieth-century Europe by way of thought-provoking pieces on Hannah Arendt, Edward Said, Albert Camus and Henry Kissinger amongst others. From Publishers Weekly Starred . Historian and political commentator Judt warns against the temptation to look back upon the twentieth century as an age of political extremes, of tragic mistakes and wrongheaded choices; an age of delusion from which we have now, thankfully, emerged. In this collection of 24 previously printed essays (nearly all from the New York of Books and the New Republic), Judt, whose recent book *Postwar* was a Pulitzer finalist, pleads with readers to remember that the past never completely disappears and that the coming century is as fraught with dangers as the last. Buttressing his argument, Judt draws upon an impressively broad array of subjects. He begins by describing the eclipse of intellectuals as a public force (for instance, the steep decline in Arthur Koestler's reputation) before reminding his audience of the immense power of ideas by discussing the now inexplicable attractions of Marxism in the 20th century. In the book's penultimate section, Judt examines the rise of the state in the politics and economics of Western nations before finally tackling the United States, its foreign policy and the fate of liberalism. As a fascinating exploration of the world we have recently lost for good or bad, or both this collection, despite its lack of new content, cannot be bested. (Apr. 21) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Revue de presse "In Reappraisals the British-born historian, now a university professor in New York, collects 23 essays, written between 1994 and 2006, in which he undertakes a ruthless dissection of the ruling illusions of the post-cold war years... There are illuminating assessments of Primo Levi and Hannah Arendt, a superb deconstruction of the fall of France in 1940, explorations of Belgium's fractured statehood and the ambiguous position of Romania in Europe, analyses of the Cuba crisis and Kissinger's diplomacy, and much else besides... Judt is a liberal thinker dedicated to demystifying liberal illusions. Reappraisals is an indispensable tract for the times by one of the great political writers of the age" (John Gray Guardian) "Judt is a highly readable authority... He delivers the intellectual's equivalent of a left hook... the uppercut soon follows... and finally, a knockout punch... The intellectual's intellectual" (Niall Ferguson Financial Times) "Tony Judt... has an enviable grasp of European cultural history and a sharp and sometimes savage turn of phrase, both of which are well displayed in this collection of long essays and book reviews... [He is] shrewd and revealing... you feel you have been eavesdropping on a sparkling conversation" (The Economist) "An exhilarating new collection of essays... In Reappraisals he looks back at the tragedy of Europe in the 20th century - although one should really say the four decades from the outbreak of World War I until the death of Stalin - and in particular at the Jewish tragedy. Judt writes informatively about Mans Sperber, tenderly about Primo Levi, enthusiastically about Hannah Arendt... Few are better than Tony Judt, not only a historian of the first rank but (in a word we need an equivalent for) a politicologue who gives engagement a good name" (Geoffrey Wheatcroft International Herald Tribune) "A superb collection of essays" (Daily Telegraph)