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Political Leaders of Contemporary Western Europe: A Biographical Dictionary (Greenwood Library Management)

By David Wilsford



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Recognized scholars from 15 countries offer rich political analyses of 71 European leaders chosen for the significant roles that they have played nationally, regionally, or internationally since 1945. Each in-depth political and intellectual biography assesses the leader's achievements and failures in historical context, key career moments, major allies and opponents and their impact, and the leader's interplay with different political institutions. The essays arranged alphabetically also give a few primary and secondary sources for further research. A short chronology and bibliographical essay on the subject of European political leadership and a full index further enhance this major reference designed for students, scholars, government officials, and journalists in political affairs, European studies, world history, and international relations.

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Editorial Review

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Similar to other volumes in Greenwood's Political Leaders series such as *Political Leaders of Contemporary Africa South of the Sahara* [RBB O 15 92], this one was prepared by scholars for students (undergraduate and graduate) and professionals in political science. The alphabetically arranged entries analyze 71 representative leaders from 15 countries who have played significant roles in Western Europe since 1945. Entries include the expected (Konrad Adenauer, Charles de Gaulle, John XXIII, and both Papandreouses) and the less familiar (Joop den Uyl and Julius Raab). Winston Churchill is not listed because his major impact was pre-1945, and Switzerland has no representative because the Swiss political scientists consulted "felt that no Swiss leader merited treatment in a book of this kind." The editor anticipates objections to the relative absence of women and minorities in this volume by pointing out that leaders in post-1945 Western Europe have been, for the most part, "old white males."

The authors and translators of each article are identified, and most articles direct readers to primary and secondary sources for further reading, some of them in languages other than English. Each essay analyzes its subject biographically and politically. The full index, the listing of subjects by country, and the chronology (arranged by subjects' birthdates and including major political events from the 1930s forward) are helpful as is the prefatory essay on leaders and leadership that summarizes Weber's charismatic-vs.-routine and Burns' transactional-vs.-transformational descriptions of political modes.

Information on a few of the subjects (Harold Macmillan, Margaret Thatcher) is easy to find elsewhere, but the leaders from the Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands are not covered in standard reference sources. Recommended for academic and large public libraries.

Review

..."prepared by scholars for students and professionals in political science. The alphabetically arranged entries analyze 71 representative leaders from 15 countries who have played significant roles in Western Europe since 1945. The full index, the listing of subjects by country, and the chronology are helpful as is the prefatory essay on leaders and leadership. Information on a few of the subjects (Harold Macmillan, Margaret Thatcher) is easy to find elsewhere, but leaders from some countries are not covered in standard reference sources. Recommended for academic and large public libraries."-Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin

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..."an excellent first stop for anyone seeking basic information on top-level political leaders in Western Europe since 1945."-Choice

"It will serve as a most useful, even indispensable, guide for scholars, journalists, speech writers and students alike. The editor...has accomplished the remarkable task of bringing coherence, depth and consistency to these numerous essays - not an easy task. This book, which is both concise and reliable, is very likely to become a lasting classic for reference libraries and all students of Western Europe."-European Studies Journal

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From the Publisher

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Matthew Schwartz:

This Political Leaders of Contemporary Western Europe: A Biographical Dictionary (Greenwood Library Management) is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it data accurately using great arrange word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Political Leaders of Contemporary Western Europe: A Biographical Dictionary (Greenwood Library Management) in your hand like having the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen minute right but this e-book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt which?

William Bell:

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