

Karsten Alnæs

The history of europe vol iv: 1900-1945 dark times

Historien om europa. Bind iv: 1900-1945
mørkets tid

Genre: Non-Fiction
Category:
Year: 2006

In his impressive four-volume work about Europe, Karsten Alnæs tells European history from the conquest of Constantinople up to our times. He is equally concerned with people's folly and cruelty as with the historical progress of cultural life, science and politics. The fate of individuals is given as much space as the great lines of history.

Alnæs has chosen the title Dark Times for the fourth and final volume of his accomplished The History of Europe. "Dark" because it deals with two of the most terrible wars known to mankind, as well as with the growth of the totalitarian ideologies and regimes which subjected people to unimaginable pain, terror and death. The book takes us from the beginning of the twentieth century to the end of World War II. Alnæs begins with the build-up to World War I where we meet the artistic genius Pablo Picasso and the great French poet Apollinaire. When all hell breaks loose, the reader enters the nightmarish reality of the soldiers and dreadful psychology of the war. From here, Alnæs moves on eastwards to the Russian revolution. We witness the acts of Lenin and Stalin, see Dadaism and surrealism transform film, literature and the visual arts, and we observe the working conditions in 1930s Britain. At the heart of this history stands Berlin, the city which tells us so much more about the period than any other capital in Europe.

"Karsten Alnæs is a brilliant narrator. I have never before read a historical survey written with such a vitality and capturing energy." (Dagbladet, Norway)

"Alnæs' language makes the facts dance ballet." (Länstidningen Södertälje, Sweden)

"A rich book, enlightening in the detail – and very entertaining." (Politiken, Denmark)

Gyldendal 2006
736 pages, appr. 60 illustrations

The four volumes of The history of Europe:
Vol I 1300 – 1600: Awakening (2003)
Vol II: 1600 – 1700: Obsession (2004)
Vol III: 1800 – 1900: Breaking up (2005)
Vol IV: 1900 – 1945: Dark times (2006)

So far sold to: Denmark (Gyldendal), Finland (Otava), Germany (Murmans), The Netherlands (Ambo Antos) and Sweden (Bonnier).

Foto: Jo Michael



Journalist, teacher and author, Karsten Alnæs made his literary debut in 1975 with a collection of short stories, the following year his book Felttoget (The Campaign) won first prize in Aschehoug's competition Novel of the Year. Karsten Alnæs has subsequently written both historical and contemporary novels, and his authorship also embraces children's books and specialist works of non-fiction and multivolume series on Norwegian and European history. His books have brought him numerous well-merited prizes.

SELECTED PREVIOUS TITLES

Veps, short stories 1975.
Felttoget, novel 1976.
Gaia, novel 1977.
Havherre og sjøtroll, novel 1978.
Kjempesnell og blå dager, novel 1981.
Flyktende kongers følge, novel 1982.
Kom kjærlighet, novel 1983.
Øy, novel 1985.
Sjøgossen, novel 1986.
Det grønne landet, children's book 1986.
Even 1814, children's book 1989.
Trollbyen, novel 1992.
Sabina, novel 1994.
Historien om Norge i bilder og fortellinger, non-fiction 2001 (also published in English).
En fremmed, novel 2002.

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