



# The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century: The History of the World, 1901 to the Present (Allen Lane History S)

By J. M. Roberts

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Offering a dazzling overview of a turbulent century, *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century* explores the dramatic events and underlying trends that made the twentieth century the most transformative in human history. Despite two devastating World Wars and the traumatic rise and fall of communism, wealth has increased significantly alongside a four-fold leap in population, women's lives have been transformed, America has assumed undisputed political and cultural leadership, and China is now clearly awaiting its moment. J. M. Robert's masterly overview, now updated to the present day, brings all of this and more into focus.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Amazon.com Review

J.M. Roberts's monumental *Penguin History of the World* became a publishing phenomenon and sold in the hundreds of thousands. Now he has produced an equally brilliant new book, focusing solely on our own troubled and dramatic century, and it has all the breathtaking sweep and confident judgment of his previous work. Most important, Roberts takes a truly international view of things. The 20th century, he argues, is marked as much as anything by the decline of Europe as the world's sole arbiter and the emergence of today's cosmopolitan, global civilization, born of decolonization, the resurgence of Islam, and the vibrant, self-assured new nations of Asia and Latin America. He also examines the other two major trends of our time: the social and economic empowerment of women and the extraordinary quadrupling of the world's population, most of it in Third World countries. A challenging and exacting read, *Twentieth Century* is destined to be a classic. --*Christopher Hart, Amazon.co.uk*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Joining the many eminent historians who have tried to summarize the 20th century, Roberts (*A History of Europe*, etc.) takes as his framework the compelling argument that "in many ways, the world... was centered on Europe when the twentieth century began" and "much of that century's story is of how and why that ceased to be true before it ended." It's a good argument, and it distinguishes Roberts's history from those of Martin Gilbert (*A History of the Twentieth Century*, 1952-1999, Forecasts, Oct. 25), who takes a strict chronological approach, and Clive Ponting (*The Twentieth Century: A World History*, Forecasts, Feb. 1), who takes a more multithemed tack. With broad strokes, Roberts traces the political and economic events that led to the demise of Europe's empires and the continent's descent into two world wars, while also tracking the vicissitudes of democracy and communism throughout the world during the Cold War. He scrutinizes the development of the U.S.S.R. and the Asian powers, China and Japan in particular, but the U.S. generally gets short shrift, even during the second half of the century. Too frequently, Roberts appears frustrated by being forced to generalize, and he unnecessarily apologizes for having to do so (notably in his discussions of fascism and modernism). The greatest casualty of the book's scope is character. This is a book of trends, not people. The century's geopolitical rainmakers--FDR, Hitler, Mao, etc.--are present, but they exist on an epic rather than a personal scale. Fortunately, at any level of detail, the 20th century is a fascinating saga, and Roberts brings wit as well as a gift for summary to the task.

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#### From Library Journal

Roberts, author of such books as *History of the World* and *History of Europe*, here places a chronological narrative of events in the context of long-term social, scientific, and economic changes. Library favorite Frederick Davidson takes on the narrating duties.

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### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Patsy Marshall:**

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### **Andrew Fogarty:**

The book untitled The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century: The History of the World, 1901 to the Present (Allen Lane History S) contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was authored by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

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