

The German Genius: Europe's Third Renaissance, the Second Scientific Revolution, and the Twentieth Century

By Peter Watson


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The German Genius is a virtuoso cultural history of German ideas and influence, from 1750 to the present day, by acclaimed historian Peter Watson (*Making of the Modern Mind, Ideas*). From Bach, Goethe, and Schopenhauer to Nietzsche, Freud, and Einstein, from the arts and humanities to science and philosophy, *The German Genius* is a lively and accessible review of over 250 years of German intellectual history. In the process, it explains the devastating effects of World War II, which transformed a vibrant and brilliantly artistic culture into a vehicle of warfare and destruction, and it shows how the German culture advanced in the war's aftermath.

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Download and Read Free Online *The German Genius: Europe's Third Renaissance, the Second Scientific Revolution, and the Twentieth Century* By Peter Watson

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. We are shamefully ignorant of German culture, asserts veteran British historian Watson (*The Modern Mind*) in this engrossing, vast chronicle of ideas, humanists, scientists, and artists: Bach, Goethe, Hegel, Gauss, and many more. Stirred by the French Revolution, German nationalism exploded. The same era in Germany produced the modern university—in which professors are expected to discover, not just teach, knowledge, and students learn to reason, not just memorize—and new forms of scholarship. There followed a cultural renaissance as important as Italy's earlier one. Science flourished, stimulated by new university-based laboratories. Modern medicine started as German medicine (bacteriology began with Robert Koch). From Bach to Schoenberg, music became overwhelmingly German. Kant, Marx, Hegel, Nietzsche, and others dominated Western intellectual life. An ominous byproduct, though, was a growing, pugnacious sense of national superiority. This led to trouble, but until Hitler wrecked everything after 1933, Germans won more Nobel prizes than Britain and America combined. English now dominates the arts and sciences, but Watson writes an absorbing account of a time not so long ago when German ruled. (*June*)
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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review As shown in *The Modern Mind* (2001) and *Ideas* (2006), Watson has an abiding interest in showing how certain “Big Ideas” have defined the trajectory of history and a gift for accessibly presenting the vast and varied material required to substantiate such claims. Both qualities are amply displayed in his latest work, a panoramic review of German cultural and intellectual development from 1750 to the present. Examining the contributions of literally hundreds of German thinkers and doers and mapping the conceptual connections between them, the author demonstrates the breadth, volume, and influence of German output in philosophy, science, industry, art, literature, and all forms of scholarly activity. But Watson's true focus is the cultural crucible, forged in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and informed by notions of *Bildung* and inwardness, that gave rise to such accomplishments but also set the stage for the evil actions of the Third Reich. To some extent an effort to untether our understanding of German history from the conflicts of the twentieth century, this study is also a reminder that our modern Western worldview has deep German roots. The U.S. and Great Britain, says Watson, “may speak English but, more than they know, they think German.” Comprehensive, erudite, ausgezeichnet. --Brendan Driscoll

Review

“A compilation of essential German contributions to philosophy, theology, mathematics, natural and social science and the arts since 1750. Watson enshrines a vast pantheon of creative thinkers... [including] compressed summaries of some exceedingly difficult ideas. The range of subjects is impressive, from painters to physicists.” (New York Times Book Review)

“[*The German Genius* is] Watson’s eight-hundred-and-fifty-page love letter to the all-stars of the Teutonic intellect...his élan generates its own momentum... The book’s breadth is part of the point.” (The New Yorker)

“[An] engrossing, vast chronicle. . . . English now dominates the arts and sciences, but Watson writes an absorbing account of a time not so long ago when German ruled.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“Reveals several surprises. . . . A remarkable book on many levels. The research is first-rate and it is

surprisingly accessible.” (Tucson Citizen)

“A tour de force. . . . It is impossible not to be impressed by his range and versatility as he bounds across the disciplines. . . . This intelligent book presents a breathtaking panorama.” (Sunday Times (London))

“[A] colossal encyclopaedia. . . . Heroic. . . . Watson derives the German genius from deep springs.” (The Guardian)

“Watson’s book is intended to subvert the negative German stereotypes. Though it checks in at just short of 1,000 pages, it is a usefully concise introduction to the principal themes and personalities of German scientific, philosophical, social, literary and artistic culture since 1750.” (The Times (London))

“Few wasted words—a welcome resource for students of modern history, literature and cultural studies.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Watson tells how the Nazis’ first artistic blacklist appeared just six weeks after Hitler assumed power in 1933 - and how his catastrophic handling of his intellectual inheritance has unfairly overshadowed the country ever since. This exhaustive and virtuoso sweep through history goes some way to restoring the balance.” (Press Association)

“The German Genius present a huge corpus of scholarship in easily digestible form, and its range is astonishing. No professor, least of all a German one, would have dared to essay such a synthesis; so much the worse for the professors.” (Standpoint)

“He has an enviable gift of explaining lucidly and cogently ideas that are complicated or profound (or both). . . . Everyone interested in the sufferings and greatness of modern culture will be informed, entertained and provoked by it.” (Literary Review)

“Assembles such a wealth of information, based on an impressive range of sources, that The German Genius will be an essential work...for years to come.” (The Independent)

“Watson’s story is vibrating with life. It is unputdownable. It contains a lot one didn’t know. So much enlightenment and so much that moves.” (Frankfurter Rundschau)

“A joy, for its ambition, its seriousness and its moral integrity.” (The Scotsman)

“A powerful and vivid opus. . . . Watson’s story is brimming with life. You can barely put the book aside.” (Berliner Zeitung.)

“Few wasted words—a welcome resource for students of modern history, literature and cultural studies.” (Kirkus Reviews)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or maybe goal; it means

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Leif Gibbs:

This The German Genius: Europe's Third Renaissance, the Second Scientific Revolution, and the Twentieth Century book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is definitely information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This specific The German Genius: Europe's Third Renaissance, the Second Scientific Revolution, and the Twentieth Century without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry The German Genius: Europe's Third Renaissance, the Second Scientific Revolution, and the Twentieth Century can bring if you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cellphone. This The German Genius: Europe's Third Renaissance, the Second Scientific Revolution, and the Twentieth Century having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Charles Melendez:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The The German Genius: Europe's Third Renaissance, the Second Scientific Revolution, and the Twentieth Century is kind of book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Sophia Hardee:

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