

The book was found

Phantom Terror: Political Paranoia And The Creation Of The Modern State, 1789 - 1848



Synopsis

For the ruling and propertied classes of the late eighteenth century, the years following the French Revolution were characterized by intense anxiety. Monarchs and their courtiers lived in constant fear of rebellion, convinced that their power--and their heads--were at risk. Driven by paranoia, they chose to fight back against every threat and insurgency, whether real or merely perceived, repressing their populaces through surveillance networks and violent, secretive police action. Europe and the world had entered a new era. In *Phantom Terror*, award-winning historian Adam Zamoyski argues that the stringent measures designed to prevent unrest had disastrous and far-reaching consequences, inciting the very rebellions they had hoped to quash. The newly established culture of state control halted economic development in Austria and birthed a rebellious youth culture in Russia that would require even harsher methods to suppress. By the end of the era, the first stirrings of terrorist movements had become evident across the continent, making the previously unfounded fears of European monarchs a reality. *Phantom Terror* explores this troubled, fascinating period, when politicians and cultural leaders from Edmund Burke to Mary Shelley were forced to choose sides and either support or resist the counterrevolutionary spirit embodied in the newly omnipotent central states. The turbulent political situation that coalesced during this era would lead directly to the revolutions of 1848 and to the collapse of order in World War I. We still live with the legacy of this era of paranoia, which prefigured not only the modern totalitarian state but also the now preeminent contest between society's haves and have-nots. These tempestuous years of suspicion and suppression were the crux upon which the rest of European history would turn. In this magisterial history, Zamoyski chronicles the moment when desperate monarchs took the world down the path of revolution, terror, and world war.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 22 hours and 29 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: February 10, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00T8HQ79E

Best Sellers Rank: #210 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Politics & Current Events > Political History & Theory #342 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Politics & Current Events > Freedom & Security #476 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Europe

Customer Reviews

History books are delicate creatures. Reading a history in a stodgy, hyper-academic style can be a laborious, painful, experience. On the other hand, a history written in crisp, lively prose literally brings long-past events to life. Phantom Terror, triumphantly, is the latter type. The setting for this book is Europe following the French Revolution and describes the reaction (or, over-reaction) of European governments to this momentous event. Zamoyski's thesis is that the Modern Security State was born as the response to the French Revolution. Not only is this a great read, but it is historiography in the highest order. While he downplays any conscious attempt to draw an analogy between the two time period and leaves any conclusion to the reader, the similarities are inescapable. The saga begins with the conclusion of the French Revolution and ends with the revolts of 1848. Those revolts were very much the response to the oppressive government intrusion described in this book into the private lives of the general population, beginning in Milan, jumping to Paris, then, Berlin, then spreading everywhere in Europe. The French Revolution rattled the European establishment to its core. The concern of the Ruling Class was, "If it can happen there, will it happen here?" Given this concern those governments could have instituted political or social reforms to prevent a similar uprising. Instead, these governments (over-) reacted out of fear and irrationality, and tightened its grip on the general populations. These measures were counterproductive. Zamoyski alludes to -- but describes more fully in his other works -- the popular response to these institutional clamp-downs, namely, the revolts of 1848 and others.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Phantom Terror: Political Paranoia and the Creation of the Modern State, 1789 - 1848 Buyers Guide for the Phantom 4 Quadcopter Drone: Buyers Guide to the Phantom Drone Series, With Photography and Videography Tips, Tricks and Hacks The Phantom The Complete Series: The Charlton Years Volume 4 (Phantom Comp Series Hc Charlton Years) Political Theology: Four New Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty (Columbia Studies in Political Thought / Political History) Rousseau: The Basic Political Writings: Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts, Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, Discourse on Political Economy, ... Contract, The State of War (Hackett Classics) Romantic Moods: Paranoia, Trauma, and Melancholy, 1790-1840 Pronoia Is the Antidote for Paranoia: How the Whole World Is Conspiring to Shower You with Blessings Son of Hamas: A

Gripping Account of Terror, Betrayal, Political Intrigue, and Unthinkable Choices Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence--From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror F is for First State: A Delaware Alphabet (Discover America State by State) G is for Garden State: A New Jersey Alphabet (Discover America State by State) M is for Mountain State: A West Virginia Alphabet (Discover America State by State) Capital Dames: The Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848-1868 The Training Ground: Grant, Lee, Sherman, and Davis in the Mexican War 1846-1848 Franz Liszt, Vol. 2: The Weimar Years, 1848-1861 The Rush: America's Fevered Quest for Fortune, 1848-1853 The House of Rothschild: Volume 1: Money's Prophets: 1798-1848 A History of US: The New Nation: 1789-1850 A History of US Book Four Paris 1789: A Guide to Paris on the Eve of the Revolution (Sightseers) The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution, 1763-1789 (Oxford History of the United States)