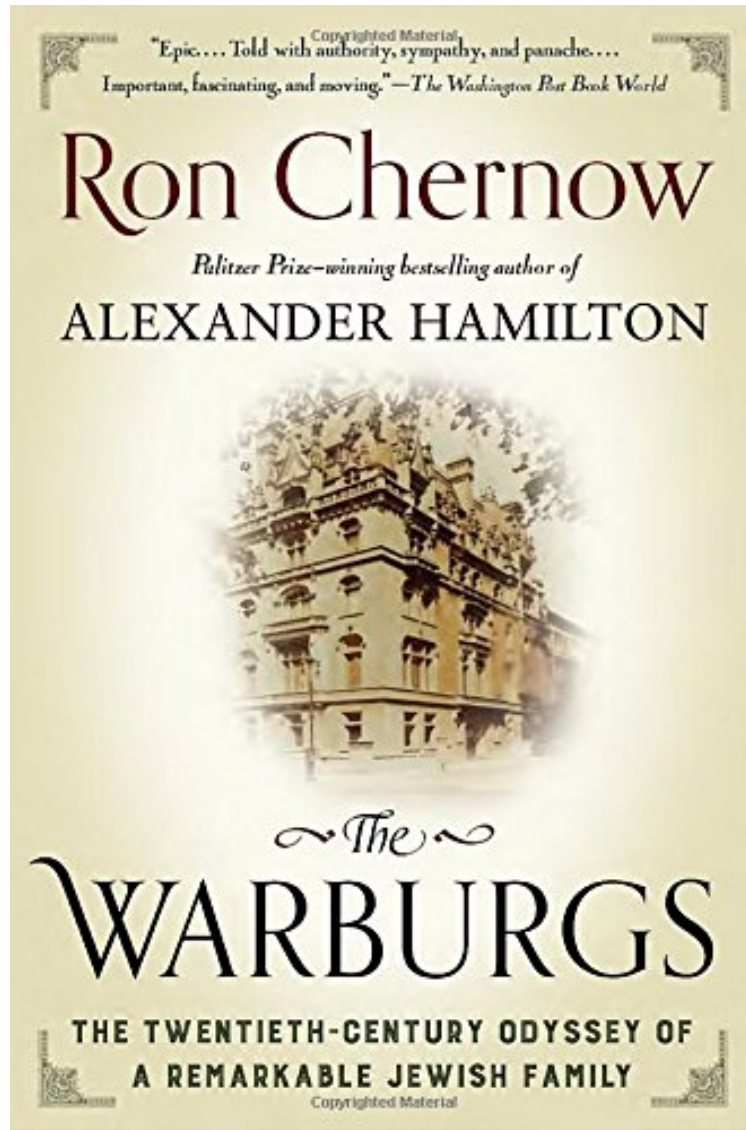


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The Warburgs: The Twentieth-Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family

Ron Chernow

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#87414 in Books Ingramcontent 2016-11-15 2016-11-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.20 x 1.70 x 5.90l, 2.43 #File Name: 0525431837880 pagesThe Warburgs The Twentieth Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family | File size: 41.Mb

Ron Chernow : The Warburgs: The Twentieth-Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Warburgs: The Twentieth-Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family:

50 of 51 people found the following review helpful. I wish it had been done betterBy Howard SchulmanI imagine I'm

going to get unhelpful votes by saying this, but this biography was not up to par with the author's other biographies. I've read Titan, which I thought was great, House of Morgan, which was really good, and Hamilton, which was also good, and this book just isn't up to those other books. The beginning was very frustrating because we learn about this supposedly very successful and widely acclaimed and established German banking family, yet there is practically nothing concerning how they got to be well known and exceedingly wealthy, nor what their business dealings were at the time. And this lack of information goes on and on, focusing almost to exclusion on inter-personal issues. Looking up the Warburgs in Wikipedia, I learned that the family had been a very successful banking family from the 1600's back in Venice, even before they settled in Warburg, Germany. Starting the narrative in the mid to late 1800's with the success of Jews in what was to become Germany just left me hanging and feeling like I was missing a large part of who the Warburgs were and how they got that way. Additionally, the family had been around for a very long time and there are scattered references to visiting or staying with uncles and aunts, but the overall breadth of the family is not addressed. Thinking about his problem now, it almost would make more sense and read better if there was a short intro and perhaps 10 separate bios on separate family members, instead of skipping around. It would help the flow. I have a feeling the author's inability to read German or Swedish or other European languages and his lack of primary research in Europe, where the Warburgs achieved fame and fortune, contributed to this incomplete biography. On the other hand, it appears that not much had been written on the Warburgs prior to this book (at least in English), and that is why I read the book. Additionally, the whole build up to the Holocaust and how the Warburgs kept their warm feelings for Germany throughout the experience, as a constant theme, was very interesting and well done, especially since I'm Jewish. The reading got more focused and poignant the closer the Holocaust got and immediately afterwards. 3 or 3.5 stars is probably the best score, but will upgrade so I don't get canned too badly. If you're interested in the Warburg it's a good starter book, though I imagine if this weren't one of the first books Chernow wrote, he would have done a better job as a more mature and accomplished biographer.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but I loved reading it from start to finish
By PJ Schlesinger I may be biased a bit since the book is about one of my ancestor's family, but I loved reading it from start to finish. What insights I've gained on a branch of my family's role in the history of this earth!
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A history and saga of one family in Germany
By Shirley Keaster Captivating story that is loaded with history. The lineage of the family as well as their relationship to each other. The dynamics of the Warburgs to Germany and the false notion that they were safe from the Nazi take over because of their love of their homeland, their contributions, and their extreme wealth and power.

From the Pulitzer Prizewinning bestselling author of Alexander Hamilton, the inspiration for the hit Broadway musical, comes this definitive biography of the Warburgs, one of the great German-Jewish banking families of the twentieth century. Bankers, philanthropists, scholars, socialites, artists, and politicians, the Warburgs stood at the pinnacle of German (and, later, of German-American) Jewry. They forged economic dynasties, built mansions and estates, assembled libraries, endowed charities, and advised a German kaiser and two American presidents. But their very success made the Warburgs lightning rods for anti-Semitism, and their sense of patriotism became increasingly dangerous in a Germany that had declared Jews the enemy. Ron Chernow's hugely fascinating history is a group portrait of a clan whose members were renowned for their brilliance, culture, and personal energy yet tragically vulnerable to the dark and irrational currents of the twentieth century.

.com All three of Ron Chernow's books are lengthy and solidly researched, but his background as a journalist shows in his ability here to convey complex material in terms of vivid characters and a well-defined theme. As in his National Book Award-winning business history (The House of Morgan) and his comprehensive biography of John D. Rockefeller (Titan), in The Warburgs Chernow employs marvelously detailed material to trace a single overarching story: the riveting and ultimately tragic odyssey of German Jews. The Warburgs were Hamburg's preeminent banking family from the 18th century until Hitler's Third Reich forced them to hand over their business to Aryans in 1938. But they also boasted among their family members a celebrated art historian (Aby Warburg), a Nobel Prize-winning scientist (Otto Warburg), and the financial angel of the New York City Ballet (Edward Warburg). Two of the "Famous Five" brothers married American women at the turn of the 20th century and became honored members of the Wall Street establishment, so Chernow's lively narrative imparts important U.S. social and economic history as well. But don't let all those fancy credentials intimidate you: The Warburgs features enough flamboyant personalities and high-class gossip to make this as entertaining a read as the latest issue of People magazine. --Wendy Smith
From Publishers Weekly The rich, sprawling story of 400 years of a German-Jewish banking family by the author of The House of Morgan . Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Chernow's saga traces the fortunes of the influential German-Jewish banking family from its generation of great wealth, stimulated by the Franco-Prussian War, through the family's defamation and degradation by the Nazis, and its subsequent return to Hamburg following World War II. In the United States, family members married and joined forces with the Schiffs and Loeb's at the beginning of the century. While Chernow (The House of Morgan , LJ 2/1/90) discusses serious, diverse themes such as international finance, the misplaced loyalty of German Jews to a country that betrayed them, and the relationship of

succeeding generations of Warburgs to their Jewish roots, the book is filled with trivia and family gossip. Chernow had access to private family papers, and the conflicting descriptions of the numerous personalities of this prolific family confuse and overwhelm the reader. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/1/93.- Carol R. Glatt, VA Medical Ctr. Lib., PhiladelphiaCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.