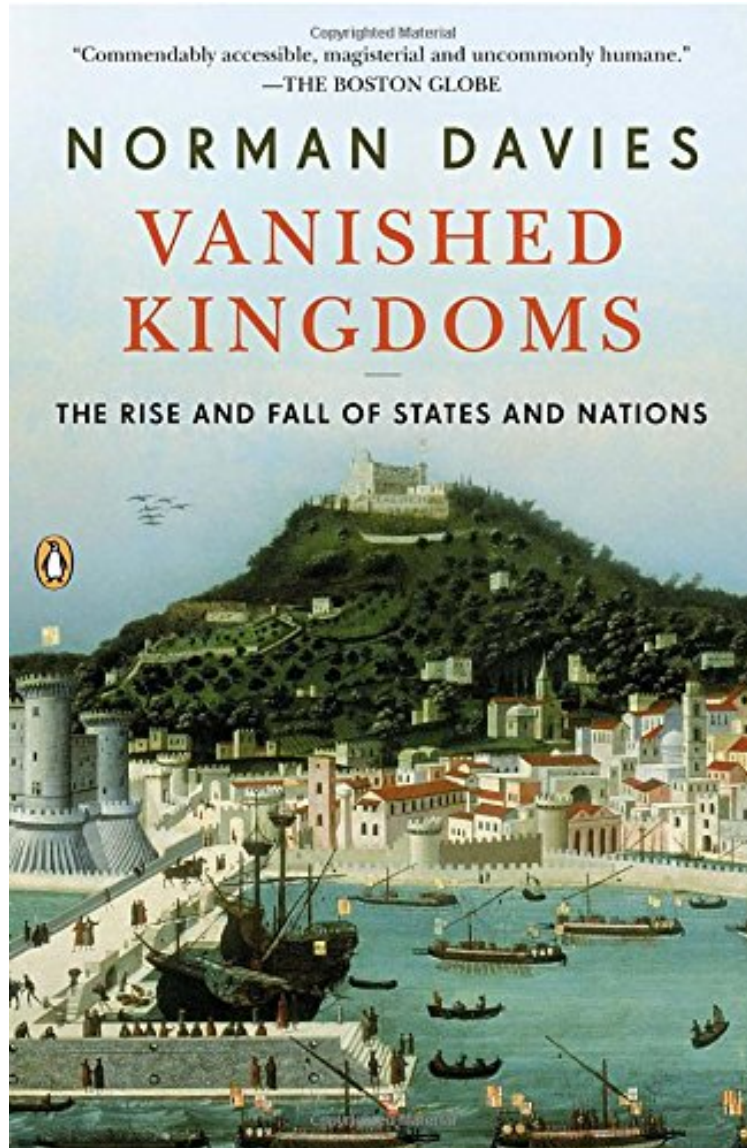


(Download ebook) Vanished Kingdoms: The Rise and Fall of States and Nations

# Vanished Kingdoms: The Rise and Fall of States and Nations

*Norman Davies*

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#560140 in Books Viking Adult 2012-11-27 2012-11-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 1.90 x 6.50l, 1.80 #File Name: 0143122959848 pages | File size: 19.Mb

**Norman Davies : Vanished Kingdoms: The Rise and Fall of States and Nations** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vanished Kingdoms: The Rise and Fall of States and Nations:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Vanished Kingdoms Pierces the VeilBy Robert MosherHistory is big, messy, layered, and complicated as you might expect if you think about how big and complicated the human race can be. You may have thought those history texts you used at school were big and complicated, but historian Norman

Davies Vanished Kingdoms will amaze you at some of the stories they skipped over. Author Davies proves just how complicated and messy with In 739 pages and 15 chapters. Vanished Kingdoms offers a grand tour of ancient Scotland, Burgundia, Aragon, Litva, Byzantion, Borussia, Sabauda (Italy), Galicia, Etruria (Bonapartes Italy), Rosenau (Saxe-Coburg), Tsernagora (aka Montenegro), Rusyn (Ruthenia), Eire, and the USSR. The list of vanished states, kingdoms included several new to me or simply not covered in my own studies. I found myself wishing more than once that he had written this book when I was at university as I would have been better informed about several modern countries and regions for which I was responsible as an American diplomat and bureaucrat! A few of his stories also crossed paths with those of my ancestors uncovered via DNA testing and genealogical research, which made those chapters especially interesting. Written with a scholarly mindset, this is not a text of dry prose as the author enlivens even the most dust laden elements of his narrative. Norman Davies supports and illustrates his well-written narrations with 14 dynastic family trees, 74 maps, and 82 illustrations. There is no separate bibliography but he includes bibliographic information in the text and 49 pages of end notes also fulfill that role. This was actually my first book of the authors but I enjoyed it so much and learned so much from it that Ive already picked up another of his books looking to continue the journey. I highly recommend it to everyone interested in knowing more about what contributed to modern Europe. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great non fiction By James Miller What a fascinating travelogue through space and time! Extremely entertaining couldn't put it down. Great non fiction read 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I wasn't as blown away by this as I hoped ... By Mariners' Fan I wasn't as blown away by this as I hoped to be. I think I expected a more cohesive story of how European kingdoms, important in their day, were lost to history, because they have no successor nations today. Instead this is episodic, each chapter a disjunct story. Some of these "kingdoms" are little more than chieftains. Much is unknown and only surmised, or imagined. Far too much "what if" or "maybe it could be that" for me.

From the bestselling author of Europe: A History comes a uniquely ambitious masterpiece that will thrill fans of lost civilizations While Germany, Italy, France, and England dominate our conceptions of Europe, these modern states are relatively recent constructs. In this brilliant work of historical reconstruction, Norman Davies brings back to life the long-forgotten empire of Aragon, which once controlled the Western Mediterranean; the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, once the largest country in Europe, and the Kingdom of the Rock, founded by ancient Britons when neither England nor Scotland existed. In the tradition of Jared Diamond's Guns, Germs, and Steel, Davies subverts our established view of the past and urges us to reconsider the impetus for the rise and fall of nations.

From Booklist A dozen-plus examples from European history constitute this ruminative disquisition on the impermanence of polities. Struck by popular amnesia about the existence of his selections, some of which endured for centuries (although one, the Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine, lived but one day), Davies, from a travelers viewpoint, describes the contemporary appearance of each former states territory or principal city, then applies engrossing clarity to the history of its origin, ascent, and decline. Two states en route to expiration, Prussia and Savoy, left traces in contemporary Germany and Italy, but the rest are gone, submerged by dynastic politics, as were the duchy of Burgundy and the kingdom of Aragon, or hacked away and conquered by aggressive neighbors, as was the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth. Despite the subject of extinction, pessimism does not pervade Davies accounts, which detect a persistence of popular memory about each vanished state, encouraging advocates for its revival, as occurred in the cases of Poland and Lithuania. Having current relevance especially to the UK and Montenegro, Davies fascinating work harbors insights and discoveries for avid history readers. --Gilbert Taylor An alternative history of Europe that is . . . densely packed yet commendably accessible, magisterial, and uncommonly humane. The Boston Globe Hugely ambitious . . . From the mists, Mr. Davies summons the kingdoms; he records their emergence, their flowering and their demisewhether by internall diseases or forraign warre in Thomas Hobbess words. And he examines the traces that the kingdoms have left behind, in works of art or a piece of rock or perhaps just a place name. The Wall Street Journal Davies resurrects the lands and peoples that were lost in the brutal tide of history. . . . It takes a tremendous feat of empathy to write about countries and peoples that no longer exist. And the amount of information in Vanished Kingdoms that will be new to all but the most expert students of European history is staggering. . . . Fascinating facts and insights flutter on its many pages. San Francisco Chronicle Davies is well known as an iconoclast who punctures the comforting myths of countries that history has blessed. . . . Vanished Kingdoms gives full rein to his historical imagination and enthusiasms, imparting a powerful sense of places lost in time. All across Europe ghosts will bless him for telling their long-forgotten stories. The Economist Davies is certainly one of the best British historical writers of the past half century, and every gauntlet he throws down is bejeweled. His literary gifts and his capacity for what he nicely calls imaginative sympathy are stretched to their limits by this challenging project. . . . Yet Davies succeeds, and it is quite a success. Timothy Snyder, The Guardian (London) About the Author Norman Davies is the bestselling author of several acclaimed books, including Europe: A History; Rising '44: The Battle for Warsaw; and No Simple Victory: World War II in Europe, 1939-1945. He lives in Oxford, England, and Cracow, Poland.