



The Last Great Frenchman: Life of Charles De Gaulle

By Charles Williams

John Wiley and Sons Ltd, United States, 1997. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New edition. 229 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. .the best English biography of de Gaulle. ----The New York Times Book Review .a splendid popular biography.recounted with verve and anecdotal warmth. ----Publishers Weekly Now in paper! This meticulously researched biography gives insight into the pivotal events of the 20th century and the French leader s relationships with other renowned figures, including Churchill, FDR, Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Henry Kissinger. It also contrasts the emotional, affectionate private man with the image of the cold, ruthless autocrat, de Gaulle presented to the world. CHARLES WILLIAMS (Lord Williams of Elvel) (London, England) is Deputy Leader of the opposition in the British House of Lords.



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He is called the "last great Frenchman," in his historical Roles in the 20th century are certainly compared with Churchill and Roosevelt. Having lived a long eighty-year life, he really deserved these reviews. Charles de Gaulle became a symbol of patriotism, the struggle against Nazism, the revival of free France and the founding father of the modern French state for the citizens of his country. And when the television competition "The Great Frenchman of All Time" was held in 2006, no one doubted the final result: as expected, Charles de Gaulle won an unconditional victory. Charles de Gaulle has always understood that the quest for immediate popularity and power is an essentially ephemeral pursuit and can at worst be a betrayal of a nation's trust. For a dozen years after World War II, he sat out the petty bickerings and intrigues of Paris parliamentarians. The turbulent France into which De Gaulle was born in 1890 seems to have impelled him early in his life toward the kind of inflated pride and inward-looking self-reliance typical of the Frenchmen of the chaotic post-Napoleonic years. For if Charles de Gaulle is destined to become a dictator, it can only be, as Molière would have depicted him, as a Dictateur malgré lui. There are two principles, two instincts, two natures within De Gaulle which have never been quite reconciled.

Critical acclaim for *The Last Great Frenchman* This is a splendid popular biography . . . recounted with verve and anecdotal warmth, along with fresh appraisals of de Gaulle's career as soldier, politician, and head of state. --Publishers Weekly. Highly readable. . . . It is to Williams' credit that he is able to get so close to such a prickly personality. --San Francisco Chronicle Charles Williams has matched a great subject by something near to a great book. --Daily Telegraph (London) Marvelous vignettes. . . . Williams tells his story with pace and skill. --Martin Gilbert. Before embarking on his political career he spent four years in Paris from 1966 to 1970, the last period of de Gaulle's government. Permissions. Request permission to reuse content from this site. de Gaulle by Professor of History Julian Jackson BS CFT Hardcover \$38.64. In stock. Ships from and sold by Amazon US. Critical acclaim for *The Last Great Frenchman*. "This is a splendid popular biography . . . recounted with verve and anecdotal warmth, along with fresh appraisals of de Gaulle's career as soldier, politician, and head of state." - Publishers Weekly. "Highly readable. . . . It is to Williams' credit that he is able to get so close to such a prickly personality." - San Francisco Chronicle. "Charles Williams has matched a great subject by something near to a great book." - Daily Telegraph (London). "Marvelous vignettes. . . ." Charles de Gaulle. Early Life and First World War. Born near Lille in 1890, he moved to Paris at a young age with his family. Growing up in the period after France's terrible defeat to Germany in 1870 and her resulting catastrophic loss of land, he developed a longing for France to be a great power, and a distrust of other countries, including Britain and the United States. He inspired the resistance to the German occupation which helped win the war. Despite believing in France's great power status, he pragmatically allowed Algerian independence and defused a possibly incendiary crisis. He helped forge a new constitution that stands strong to this day, and his period as president saw strong economic growth. Gaullism is still a significant political stance. Charles André Joseph Marie de Gaulle was born on November 23, 1890, in the northern industrial city of Lille, France. His father, Henri, was a teacher of philosophy and mathematics and a veteran of the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), in which Prussia (today known as Germany) humiliatingly defeated the French. This loss colored the life of de Gaulle's father, a patriot who vowed he would live to avenge the defeat and win back the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. His attitude deeply influenced the lives of his sons, whom he groomed to aid in France's restoration to the greatest Europe. Williams, Charles. *The Last Great Frenchman*. New York: J. Wiley & Sons, 1993.