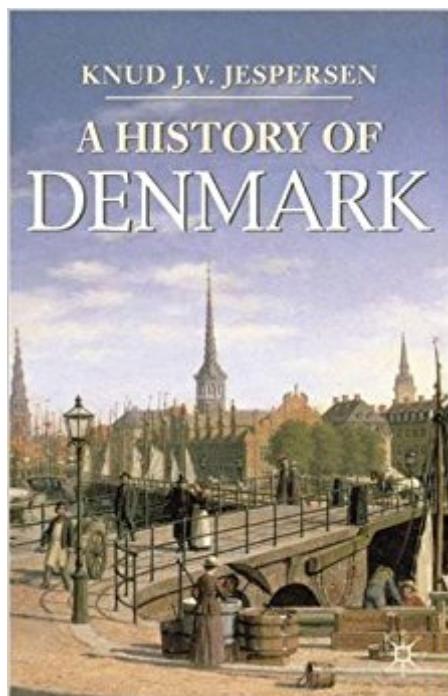


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A History Of Denmark (Palgrave Essential Histories)



Synopsis

From the Reformation to present day, this book guides the reader through 500 years of wars, territorial losses, domestic upheavals, and changes in thought in Denmark's history. Looking carefully at the development of Danish identity, the author explores whether Danes can be most aptly described as a tribe or a nation. Using new research and original theories, it's the perfect introduction to the fascinating and relatively unknown history of this Scandinavian country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An eminently approachable and readable introduction to Danish history."--Thomas Munck, University of Glasgow

Knud J.V. Jespersen is Professor of Modern History at the University of Southern Denmark and royal historiographer to H.M. the Queen of Denmark.

It's awfully hard to find a book about Danish history in English. This is pretty much it, besides some not-very-serious attempts... and besides Wikipedia. So while this is a well-written book-- you can't even tell that it has been translated from Danish, in fact-- it really is the only option if you want to know the facts and don't speak Danish. The author frames his history around the narrative that Denmark, since the 16th century, has been a country with declining influence due to shrinking boundaries. He also emphasizes the peculiar social characteristics of Danish Society. Neither of these are too controversial. This makes for a balanced, somewhat liberal history, which is as fine a

starting point as any.

I haven't enjoyed this book primarily due to lack of a captivating chronological narrative. Elements of Denmark's history (economic, religious etc.) are addressed separately over the past 500 years. It is difficult to get a picture of what things were like in any particular century without first reading the entire book and then putting spread out elements together. I would recommend reading another book or wikipedia if one wants to learn and understand the History of Denmark.

Strangely enough, I rate this book highly for precisely the reason that the prior reviewer rated it low. The separation into different approaches (military, social, political, etc.) allows for an extremely well-rounded picture of the history of Denmark. Plus, there is a chronological summary at the end that ties it all together. Admittedly, this approach takes a little work on the part of the reader, but I feel that it gives a far clearer picture of the nation and people of Denmark than a more traditional 'school book' approach.

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