



The Duel: The Eighty-Day Struggle Between Churchill and Hitler

John Lukacs

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This is a day-by-day account of the eighty-day struggle in 1940 between Hitler—poised on the edge of absolute victory—and Churchill—threatened by imminent invasion and defeat.

The Duel: The Eighty-Day Struggle Between Churchill and Hitler Details

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From Reader Review The Duel: The Eighty-Day Struggle Between Churchill and Hitler for online ebook

Celso Rennó Lima says

Este relato histórico é fundamental para colocarmos nos devidos lugares muitas passagens que são contadas sobre a Segunda Guerra e que ficam perdidas sob a camuflagem de tendências para um lado ou outro. O autor traduz cada momento destes oitenta dias do duelo Churchill x Hitler de uma forma objetiva, dando a cada um dos oponentes seu devido valor. Isto enriquece a história deste momento tão marcante do século XX e que mudou a história do mundo.

Rpmorrisette says

A very disappointing performance. The author' biases are exceptionally glaring, rendering the entire book an adulation to Churchill, nullifying any potential historical objectivity. The author talks about duelling and yet fail completely to discuss the resources needed in this duel. The author surprisingly fails to consider the British Commonwealth, its contributions and requirements, giving the false illusion that Britain and Churchill were alone fighting the Nazis, while in reality the entire Commonwealth was involved. Those who were dying during this period were not only British, but also South Africans, Canadians, Australians, Neo Zealanders and Indians. Yet, the author unshamedly promotes the myth that Churchill was alone. This work is nothing but regurgitation of that myth. I do not recommend this work.

Konstantina Skoulika says

An engaging and vivid account of the zweikampf between Churchill and Hitler, especially for those who just started their journey in the WW2 historiography. Lukacs is a generous judge and his takes are sober and unbiased. Hitler's depiction finally focuses on his strategic moves and motives, and despite the fact that there's an obvious- and fair- hot spot for Churchill, both heroes are dealt with respect.

Don says

How Churchill faced down the most powerful Army and Air Force in the world.

Paul says

I probably would have given this 3.5 stars, but I rounded it down, since there aren't 1/2 stars on this site.

This book is an interesting contrast between Hitler and Churchill and the coincidence of history that Churchill's move to #10 Downing Street on May 10, 1940, occurred on the same day as Hitler's move on Western Europe. However, I thought it would be a book that detailed more about the battles, but instead, it's

a study of what was going on with the two men and those around them – Hitler’s generals and Churchill’s negotiations with the French and dealings with the Members of Parliament, primarily – and their thoughts as recorded in journals at the time and in Churchill’s postwar memoirs.

While I was hoping this book would discuss more of the day-to-day events of the war, those receive ancillary treatment, as the focus is on the political intrigues and maneuverings of the two subjects of the book. I read this with the hope of learning more of Dunkirk and the lead-up to the Battle of Britain – and those are covered, but only as they affected the writings and decisions of Hitler and Churchill. More precisely, it’s a period in which Hitler was hoping the British would sue for peace while he tried to prevent the USA and Spain from joining the war and tried to keep the USSR at bay while he planned to betray their alliance.

But Lukacs takes it a step further – and with good evidence – posits the theory that the attack on the USSR, if successful, would have dissuaded the U.S from entering the war (the period the book covers was 18 months before Pearl Harbor, remember) and forced Britain to capitulate.

There isn’t a lot of action in this book – and I admit I was a bit bored for a while – but it is an interesting snapshot of a moment between the conquest of France and the Battle of Britain in the spring and summer of 1940.

Satina Whalen says

This book is incredible. I highly recommend reading!

Brian K says

Wonderful for 1) the perhaps exaggerated narrative structure of divine coincidences between Hitler and Churchill, 2) the huge presence of Lukacs's authorial voice and wealth of quotes, and 3) the correction of many historical misconceptions about WWII.

Stanley Turner says

Excellent book, Lukacs does a fantastic job of explaining the face-off between Adolf Hitler and Winston S. Churchill. One thing I have learned over the years of reading is that I learn something from each book I read, sometimes it maybe the fact that I don’t care for the book. This book is not in this category, I enjoyed reading this work and learned numerous items about both leaders that I previously did not know. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in either Winston Churchill or Adolf Hitler. I really enjoyed reading the first few chapters then viewing the Darkest Hour movie...

Elizabeth Kennedy says

I really appreciate the pleasure of reading histories that cover a short period of time. This book positively drips with the author's adoration of Winston Churchill. If I weren't already a member of the Churchill fan club, Lukacs would have converted me.

Jonathan Desimone says

This was a very interesting laser focused book on the early days of WWII. As a fan of literature of the period, I enjoyed learning more about the key players. There are lots of interesting insights around Germany's war plans and how they might really have evolved (one front vs two front, when, etc...) and on Churchill's precarious status in the cabinet for those first few months along with the admirable behavior of Neville Chamberlain as a cabinet member and supporter.

Khalid says

The Duel is set out in a point-counterpoint fashion. It alternates between examining the war from the German and then British viewpoint. The critical events of the 80 days covered by Lukacs seem to be the successful evacuation of 350,000 British and French troops from Dunkirk in early June, Hitler's subsequent decision to not proceed with plans for the invasion of Britain, and his eventual decision at the end of July to invade Russia. Lukacs makes it clear that the German armies could have been a bit more aggressive and could have taken most of those evacuated from Dunkirk prisoner. Yet Hitler grew unusually cautious at this critical juncture. There is some evidence to suggest that Hitler thought the British would seek peace in short order but Lukacs suggests that this evidence may not be totally persuasive. Lukacs does suggest however, that if those troops had not been evacuated successfully the forces in Britain seeking reconciliation or negotiation with Hitler may have won the day.

Karl says

I enjoyed the book a lot. The author shows a clear love for Churchill...probably giving him more credit than he deserves. However, the book makes clear that it was Churchill's steadiness that brought Britain through the first months of the war and prepared them for the long fight.

Deborah Borges says

Sem dúvidas, um livro rico em fontes históricas. Além disso, é muito interessante ver a guerra pela visão política, e não apenas nos campos de batalha, mas eu achei que o autor realmente exagerou demais nos louvores a Churchill. Fica nítido o quanto ele é fã do estadista. Enquanto isso, achei que algumas idas e vindas nas datas ficaram confusas.

Mas, no geral, o assunto é extremamente interessante.

Tom Allman says

Read with 'Their Finest Hour' by Churchill!

