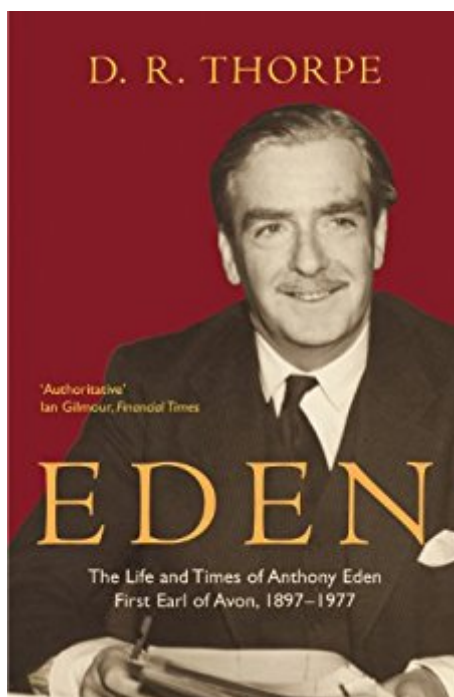


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Eden: The Life And Times Of Anthony Eden First Earl Of Avon, 1897-1977



Synopsis

Anthony Eden, who served as both Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister, was one of the central political figures of the twentieth century. He had good looks, charm, a Military Cross from the Great War, an Oxford first and a secure parliamentary constituency from his mid-twenties. He was Foreign Secretary at the age of 38, and the first British statesman to meet Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin.

Eden's dramatic resignation from Neville Chamberlain's Cabinet in 1938, outlined here in the fullest detail yet, made an international impact. This ground-breaking book examines his controversial life and tells the inside story of the Munich crisis (1938), the Geneva Conference (1954), Eden's battles with Churchill over the modernisation of the post-war Conservative Party and his rivalry with Butler and Macmillan in the early 1950s, culminating in a fascinating analysis of the Suez crisis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As an avid amateur historian & reader of biographies [somehow novels don't cut it with me], this was a really worthwhile read. It was both accessible as well as clearly well researched with all the necessary justifications of the points made. The book allowed the reader to fully understand &

emphathise with Anthony Eden the man, & Eden the politician. I loved this aspect of feeling both at one with Eden, as well as suffering through the momentous decisions he had to take during his political career. A well rounded book, & I will be reading more from this author. But that's only part of this story for me. I am a South African, born & bred. And the whole story behind colonialism is what fascinates me & also what came through so strongly in this book. The hidden agenda for me was to really get to grips with the Suez crisis, & how Eden could possibly have justified his actions to himself, never mind the nation. In my view Colonialism was by & large theft, that hugely enriched the colonialists, to the detriment of the people living in the colonies [yes, there were some advantages, but these are significantly outweighed by the disadvantages] - of which South Africa was one. So, towards the end of WW11, there was clearly a clear & deep division between the USA & it's ally the UK, over exactly this issue of colonisation. Very simply, the USA did not support the UK in it's death throes of securing it's Indian "Jewel in the Crown" & the other British colonies in SE Asia, Burma for one. [I don't address here what the USA was doing in China or the Philippines !]. And here is crux of Eden's (political) life - how on earth could he justify Suez to anyone, never mind himself ?

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