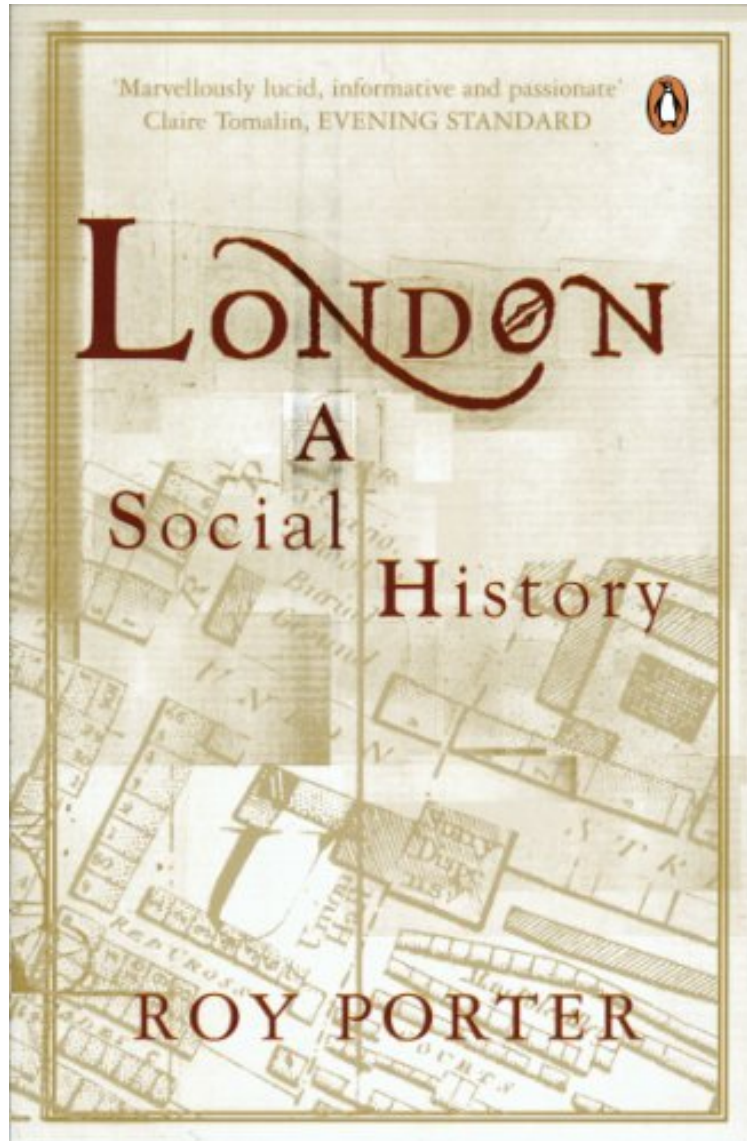


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London: A Social History

Von Roy Porter

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Von Roy Porter : London: A Social History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised London: A Social History:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A city and its peoplesVon FrKurt MessickRoy Porter, noted and trained as a medical historian, turned his attention to the social development of London, and we are the richer for it. Porter is a Londoner, and has a passion for the city. He is, however, frank in his conviction that London has had it's hour upon the stage:'London is not the eternal city....

Between the two Elizabeths, between 1570 and 1986 to be more precise, it was to become the world's greatest city. Porter sees the abolition of the Greater London Council (GLC) by Margaret Thatcher as a benchmark to the demise of London as a great city (I happen to disagree; will he change his opinion in light of the upcoming mayoral elections in London?) Porter's current pessimism about London is very apparent from page 1 of the introduction; however, this does not keep him from doing a sterling job with his subject throughout the text. Porter gives brief description to Londinium (mentioning among other things that it was abandoned 'to the dogs' by the Romans in the fifth century), however, begins his history in earnest about the year 1500 because while 'the Romano-British city and its medieval successor have left extensive archaeological remains and chronicles, ...we have no full visual record from before the Tudor age.' Porter examines eras in terms of the history of culture, of commerce and industry, and of population and social changes. The nineteenth century (in which there was practically no urban planning, as any current map will inform you) is described as 'Bumbledom', particularly in the field of London politics. Porter describes the expansion of London as a 'fungus-like growth' in the late 19th/early 20th centuries; he concludes his analysis with chapters on 'Swinging London' and 'Thatcher's London'. Porter leaves us with a question: 'London was always a muddle that worked. Will it remain that way?' In all, a wonderful read, a wonderful story, and a wonderful topic.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Faszinierender Überblick Von Bernhard Hildebrand Fr Roy Porter endete die Geschichte von London 1986. Aber bis dahin schildert er vom frühen Mittelalter an die Sozialgeschichte einer faszinierenden Metropole.

Kurzbeschreibung 'Roy Porter, a historian of formidable range, turns to urban history in this marvellously lucid, informative and passionate book... Porter's facts are always at the service of the narrative, which has a finely maintained momentum, balancing statistics with the words of historians, diarists and novelists, poets and churchmen: Pepys, Boswell, Fielding, Walpole, Blake, Mayhew, Wells, Woolf, Spark, ... a timely and brilliant book.' CLAIRE TOMALIN, EVENING STANDARD 'A vivid celebration of the city, but also an elegy for its decline, bubbling with statistics and anecdote, from Boadicea to Betjeman.' RICHARD HOLMES, DAILY TELEGRAPH BOOKS OF THE YEAR

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Synopsis Describes London's social life, its growth and the experiences of living in the city. With the redevelopment of Docklands and much of the East End, London is now beginning to experience a transformation comparable in scale to those produced by the building of the West End or the coming of the railways in earlier centuries. As such, the 1990s is an ideal opportunity to re-examine the social history of the environment in which, for several centuries, more people lived, worked, played and died than in other cities in the West.