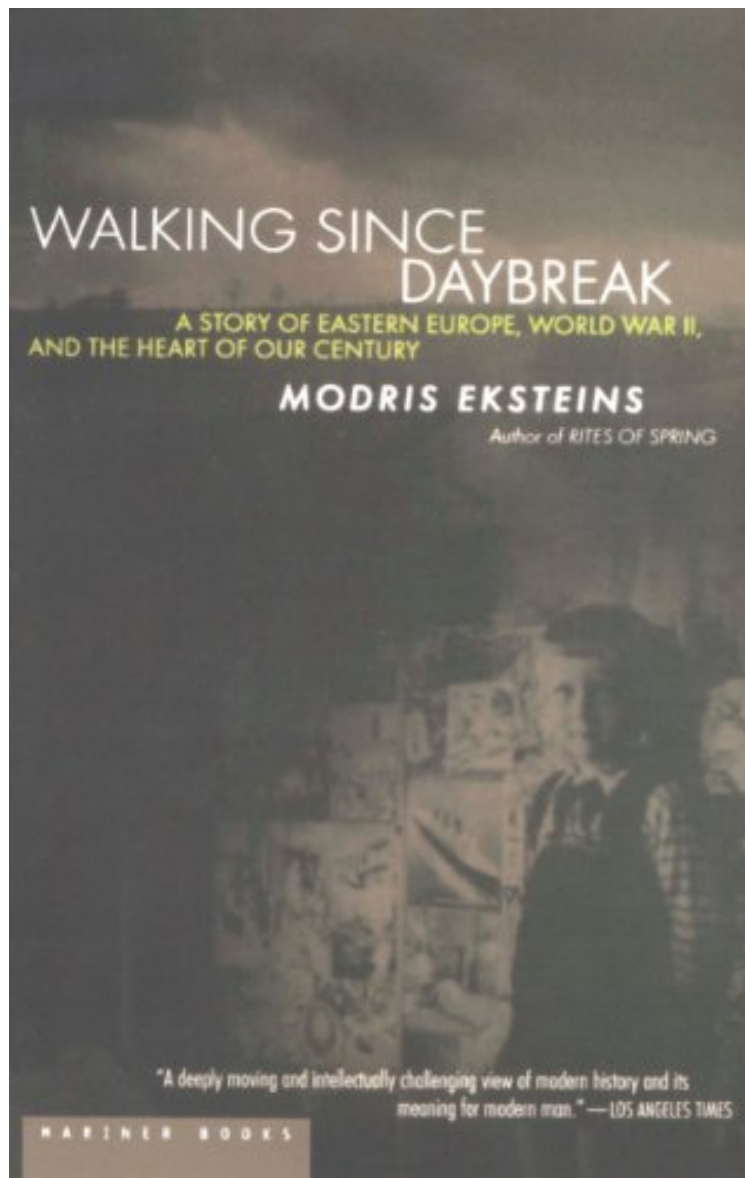


(Download free ebook) Walking Since Daybreak: A Story of Eastern Europe, World War II, and the Heart of Our Century

## Walking Since Daybreak: A Story of Eastern Europe, World War II, and the Heart of Our Century

*Von Modris Eksteins*

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**Von Modris Eksteins : Walking Since Daybreak: A Story of Eastern Europe, World War II, and the Heart of Our Century** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Since Daybreak: A Story of Eastern Europe, World War II, and the Heart of Our Century:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Modris Eksteins and I have the same scars. Von Rita Yost (Zagars) artenrita@infoasis.com Modris Eksteins and I have the same scars. I remember him as a little boy from the D.P. camp in Lubeck where his mother, Biruta, was my girl scout leader. His book focused and gave framework to the glimpses of horror and feelings of despair that are a large part of the memories of my childhood. It explains the cynicism and wariness that even as a young girl I had for the noble sounding rhetoric of war like "death with honor" and "national pride". Invaders and liberators are all the same. All wars are death, destruction and despair and sow the seeds for other wars to come. I now fully understand where my mother got the desperate courage to leave Latvia with two small children and only with what we could carry to go a strange land where she knew no one, barely spoke the language, and was not welcome. The book tells our story including the gallows humor that is the flimsy armor of those from whom everything has been taken. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Thoughtful, compelling Von Joe McMahon I am most pleased to have chanced upon this book, aptly titled "Walking since Daybreak: a story of Eastern Europe, World War II, and the heart of our century." I have known little of Latvia's history. Not only has Modris Eksteins done a masterful job situating the Balts in modern Europe, but he has stated well the pathetic question, "Why did humans behave so badly?" Is this wild slaughter the heart of our century? Rather than give a didactic analysis of rampant evil, he shows people as they suffer, cope, and provide for others. The author relates German influence in the Baltic region over centuries, the history of his family there from 1900 to 1944, and life as displaced persons in Germany from 1945 to 1949. Attitudes against DP's are appalling. This book is an easy, rewarding read despite its ponderous topic. The author skillfully changes point-of-view every few pages. This skipping back and forth in time, with movement between Winnipeg, Toronto, Lubeck, and Latvia, illuminates the topic, as it sometimes juxtaposes similar events, similar human attitudes. Thus, the bombing of German cities in part of the horror. The author shares his insights so gently and clearly that I consider this book a gift to me and other readers perplexed by the calamities caused by people of our century. Maps help the reader. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fact Filled Von Ein Kunde Walking Since Daybreak By Modris Eksteins is one of the most fact filled books about Latvia, the horrors of WWII and the DP experience. On the whole this book was well written, easy to understand. The biggest problem I had was with the dizzying pace of jumping all over time and subjects with each chapter. If arranged more sequentially it would be easier for this reader to keep track of dates, places and the people who presented, information I found realistic and often familiar yet some of the facts I had not been aware of. This is a must read for anyone interested in WWII, the Baltics or the DP experience. Other great books full of interesting, well information about the same subjects, I would recommend are Andrejs Plakans's "The Latvians a short history" Mark Wyman's "DPs: Europe's Displaced Persons, 1945-1951" and Vieda Skultans "The Testimony Of Lives" These are all important materials to help awaken people to the horrors of war and to man's inhumanity to man.

Kurzbeschreibung Part history, part autobiography, WALKING SINCE DAYBREAK tells the tragic story of the Baltic nations before, during, and after World War II. Personal stories of the survival or destruction of Modris Eksteins's family members lend an intimate dimension to this vast narrative of those millions who have surged back and forth across the lowlands bordering the Baltic Sea. The immense cataclysm of World War II devastated the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, sending many of their inhabitants to the ends of the earth. WALKING SINCE DAYBREAK belongs in the great tradition of books that redefine our understanding of history, like J. R. Huizinga's THE WANING OF THE MIDDLE AGES and Jacob Burckhardt's THE RENAISSANCE IN ITALY. Eksteins's two-pronged narrative is a haunting portrait of national loss and the struggle of a displaced family caught in the maw of history.