

## The House Of Rothschild Money S Prophets 1798 1848

Compass in Hand  
 From Silk to Silicon  
 The Pity of War  
 Individual retirement arrangements (IRAs)  
 Dark Money  
 The Women of Rothschild  
 Kissinger  
 Summary of The House of Rothschild by Niall Ferguson  
 Nathan Mayer Rothschild and the Creation of a Dynasty  
 House of Trelawney  
 High Financier  
 A Rothschild Renaissance  
 Bank On Yourself  
 Documentary  
 Gold and Iron  
 The House of Rothschild  
 The Rothschilds  
 Mobility and Biography  
 Empire  
 Paper and Iron  
 The World's Banker  
 The Prophet's Manual  
 The Rothschilds: A Family Portrait  
 The Ascent of Money  
 The Great Degeneration  
 Bourbon Empire  
 The Rothschilds  
 The Square and the Tower  
 The World of Private Banking  
 The House of Morgan  
 The House of Rothschild  
 The Improbability of Love  
 The Whims of Fortune  
 Money and the Rise of the Modern Papacy  
 Founder: A Portrait of the First Rothschild and His Time  
 Founder  
 Civilization  
 The Rothschilds at Waddesdon Manor  
 The Ascent of Money  
 Prominent Families of New York

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### WALKER HOUSTON

**Compass in Hand** The Museum of Modern Art  
 Few economic events have had a more profound or enduring impact than the German hyperinflation of 1923, still remembered popularly as a root cause of Hitler's rise to power. Yet many historians have argued that inflationary policies were, on balance, advantageous to post-1918 Germany, both boosting growth and helping to reduce reparations. The scholarly consensus is that there was no viable alternative to inflation. In *Paper and Iron* Niall Ferguson takes a different view. He argues that inflation was indeed an economic and political disaster, and further that there were alternative economic policies which could have stabilised the German currency in 1920. To explain why these were not adopted he points to long-term defects in the political institutions of the Reich which went back as far as the 1890s and which persisted beyond 1918. The book therefore reveals the Wilhelmine origins of Weimar's failure, as well as casting

light on the origins of the Third Reich.

*From Silk to Silicon* Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

Ferguson tells the human story behind the evolution of money, from its origins in ancient Mesopotamia to the latest Wall Street upheavals. The author shows that finance is, in fact, the foundation of human progress.

*The Pity of War* Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

Presents a history of the documentary film

**Individual retirement arrangements (IRAs)** Penguin UK

The 10th anniversary edition, with new chapters on the crash, Chimerica, and cryptocurrency "[An] excellent, just in time guide to the history of finance and financial crisis." —The Washington Post "Fascinating." —Fareed Zakaria, Newsweek In this updated edition, Niall Ferguson brings his classic financial history of the world up to the present day, tackling the populist backlash that followed the 2008 crisis, the descent of "Chimerica" into a trade war, and the advent of cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, with his signature clarity and expert lens. *The Ascent of Money*

reveals finance as the backbone of history, casting a new light on familiar events: the Renaissance enabled by Italian foreign exchange dealers, the French Revolution traced back to a stock market bubble, the 2008 crisis traced from America's bankruptcy capital, Memphis, to China's boomtown, Chongqing. We may resent the plutocrats of Wall Street but, as Ferguson argues, the evolution of finance has rivaled the importance of any technological innovation in the rise of civilization. Indeed, to study the ascent and descent of money is to study the rise and fall of Western power itself.

**Dark Money** British museum Press

*Money's Prophets 1798-1848*. You may associate the name Rothschild with wealth, success, and mystery. For the first time, however, author Niall Ferguson uncovers the mysteries of the Rothschild family and reveals the secrets behind the family's phenomenal economic success. As you read, you'll learn how their vast political network, immense financial success, and their Jewish lineage led to a series of family myths. Furthermore, you'll see how one family was able to defy social stigmas and become the premier banking family of the world. Through this fascinating,

deep, and detailed account of the family's history, you'll learn how bribery was a common means for success, how the family's key to success was communication, and how the Rothschild family had influence in just about everything. Do you want more free book summaries like this? Download our app for free at <https://www.QuickRead.com/App> and get access to hundreds of free book and audiobook summaries. **DISCLAIMER:** This book summary is meant as a preview and not a replacement for the original work. If you like this summary please consider purchasing the original book to get the full experience as the original author intended it to be. If you are the original author of any book on QuickRead and want us to remove it, please contact us at [hello@quickread.com](mailto:hello@quickread.com).

**The Women of Rothschild** Penguin

From the author of *The Improbability of Love*: a dazzling novel both satirical and moving, about an eccentric, dysfunctional family of English aristocrats, and their crumbling stately home that reminds us how the lives and hopes of women can still be shaped by the ties of family and love. For more than seven hundred years, the vast, rambling Trelawney Castle in Cornwall--turrets, follies, a room for every day of the year, four miles of corridors and 500,000 acres--was the magnificent and grand "three dimensional calling card" of the earls of Trelawney. By 2008, it is in a complete state of ruin due to the dulled ambition and the financial ineptitude of the twenty-four earls, two world wars, the Wall Street crash, and inheritance taxes. Still: the heir to all of it, Kitto, his wife, Jane, their three children, their dog, Kitto's ancient parents, and his aunt Tuffy Scott, an entomologist who studies fleas, all manage to live there and keep it going. Four women dominate the story: Jane; Kitto's sister, Blaze, who left Trelawney and made a killing in finance in London, the wildly beautiful, seductive, and long-ago banished Anastasia and her daughter, Ayesha. When Anastasia sends a letter announcing that her nineteen-year-old daughter, Ayesha, will be coming to stay, the long-estranged Blaze and Jane must band together to take charge of their new visitor--and save the house of Trelawney. But both Blaze and Jane are about to discover that the house itself is really only a very small part of what keeps the family together.

*Kissinger* Basic Books

This collection of drawings was acquired by MOMA in 2005, and it as an extraordinary collection of over 2,500 works on paper. This exhibition presents over 300 of these works and includes a number of works that use collage, assemblage, appropriation and montage.

*Summary of The House of Rothschild by Niall Ferguson* Penguin

This the first scholarly study of the finances and financiers of the Vatican between 1850 and 1950. Dr Pollard, a leading historian of the papacy, explores the transformation of the Vatican into a major financial power and the part this played in the development of the modern papacy. Using hitherto unexplored sources, he sheds new light on tensions between the Vatican's engagement with capitalism and the Church's social teaching and conflicts between the Vatican and the Allies during the Second World War and the early Cold War.

*Nathan Mayer Rothschild and the Creation of a Dynasty* Vintage

Winner of the Lionel Trilling Award Nominated for the National Book Award "A major contribution to our understanding of some of the great themes of modern European history—the relations between Jews and Germans, between economics and politics, between banking and diplomacy." —James Joll, *The New York Times Book Review* "I cannot praise this book too highly. It is a work of original scholarship, both exact and profound. It restores a buried chapter of history and penetrates, with insight and understanding, one of the most disturbing historical problems of modern times." —Hugh J. Trevor-Roper, *London Sunday Times* "[An] extraordinary book, an invaluable contribution to our understanding of Germany in the second half of the nineteenth century." —Stanley Hoffman, *Washington Post Book World* "One of the most important historical works of the past few decades." —Golo Mann "In many ways this book resembles the great nineteenth-century novels." —*The Economist*

**House of Trelawney** Vintage

In this short biography of Mayer Amschel Rothschild (1744-1812), historian and journalist Amos Elon describes how the founder of the Rothschild dynasty started out by dealing in rare coins and traveling across Germany while still confined, as a Frankfurt Jew, to its Judengasse. Assisted by his five skilled sons, Rothschild subsequently built up a fortune by helping manage the investments of the Landgrave of Hesse, circumventing Napoleon's blockade of England and funding Napoleon's eventual defeat. "This slim, charming volume is actually a biographical essay, yet it succeeds in snatching its elusive subject from oblivion." — Ron Chernow, *The New York Times* "This is a fascinating story." — *The New York Review of Books* "A memorable first biography of a near-

mythical founding father." — *Publishers Weekly* "A thoroughly researched, fascinating, and altogether exemplary biography." —*Kirkus Reviews* "Amos Elon's portrait of the man who fathered a dynasty makes fascinating reading for anyone even mildly interested in money and power and their effects on history. Founder is a rich and colorful examination of [Meyer Amschel Rothschild]" — Morley Safer "Elon's book... is a thoroughly researched and absorbing biography." — *St. Louis Jewish Light* "A biography that's a must read for today's entrepreneurs." — *Houston Chronicle High Financier Vanguard*

Finalist for the Baileys Women's Prize Annie McDee, thirty-one, lives in a shabby London flat, works as a chef, and is struggling to get by. Reeling from a sudden breakup, she's taken on an unsuitable new lover and finds herself rummaging through a secondhand shop to buy him a birthday gift. A dusty, anonymous old painting catches her eye. After spending her meager savings on the artwork, Annie prepares an exquisite birthday dinner for two—only to be stood up. The painting becomes hers, and Annie begins to suspect that it may be more valuable than she'd thought. Soon she finds herself pursued by parties who would do anything to possess her picture: an exiled Russian oligarch, an avaricious sheikha, an unscrupulous art dealer. In her search for the painting's identity, Annie will unwittingly discover some of the darkest secrets of European history—and the possibility of falling in love again.

*A Rothschild Renaissance* Plunkett Lake Press

From the bestselling author of *The Ascent of Money and The Square and the Tower*, a searching and provocative examination of the widespread institutional rot that threatens our collective future What causes rich countries to lose their way? Symptoms of decline are all around us today: slowing growth, crushing debts, increasing inequality, aging populations, antisocial behavior. But what exactly has gone wrong? The answer, Niall Ferguson argues in *The Great Degeneration*, is that our institutions—the intricate frameworks within which a society can flourish or fail—are degenerating. With characteristic verve and historical insight, Ferguson analyzes the causes of this stagnation and its profound consequences for the future of the West. The Great Degeneration is an incisive indictment of an era of negligence and complacency—and to arrest the breakdown of our civilization, Ferguson warns, will take heroic leadership and radical reform.

*Bank On Yourself* Plunkett Lake Press

From a bestselling historian, a daringly revisionist history of World War I *The Pity of War* makes a simple and provocative argument: the human atrocity known as the Great War was entirely England's fault. According to Niall Ferguson, England entered into war based on naive assumptions of German aims, thereby transforming a Continental conflict into a world war, which it then badly mishandled, necessitating American involvement. The war was not inevitable, Ferguson argues, but rather was the result of the mistaken decisions of individuals who would later claim to have been in the grip of huge impersonal forces. That the war was wicked, horrific, and inhuman is memorialized in part by the poetry of men like Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, but also by cold statistics. Indeed, more British soldiers were killed in the first day of the Battle of the Somme than Americans in the Vietnam War. And yet, as Ferguson writes, while the war itself was a disastrous folly, the great majority of men who fought it did so with little reluctance and with some enthusiasm. For anyone wanting to understand why wars are fought, why men are willing to fight them and why the world is as it is today, there is no sharper or more stimulating guide than Niall Ferguson's *The Pity of War*.

**Documentary** Penguin UK

In the past two centuries, the Rothschild family has been at the center of great events in Europe and the world, such as the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo and the development of the Suez Canal. In this National Book Award finalist, Frederic Morton brings the family to life, starting with Mayer of Frankfurt, longtime adviser to Germany's princes, who broke through the barriers of the Jewish ghetto and placed his family on the road to wealth and power, followed by Lord Alfred in London, Baron Philippe in Paris, and many others. "[Morton's] tale grows fascinating, luxuriating in the social and human details of what happened once the Rothschild tribe had financed England, bailed out the returning French Bourbons, helped Austria intervene in Italy and lent millions to the Holy See itself." — William Harlan Hale, *The New York Times* "Hardly a page without sparkle. Morton writes a chromium-plate style... [he] enables the reader to grasp some of the fundamental secrets of the Rothschild success — above all, its endurance." — *New York Herald Tribune Books* "Vivid, witty and perceptive." — *Saturday Review*

**Gold and Iron** Cambridge University Press

Niall Ferguson's acclaimed bestseller on the highs and lows of Britain's empire 'A remarkably

readable précis of the whole British imperial story - triumphs, deceits, decencies, kindnesses, cruelties and all' Jan Morris Once vast swathes of the globe were coloured imperial red and Britannia ruled not just the waves, but the prairies of America, the plains of Asia, the jungles of Africa and the deserts of Arabia. Just how did a small, rainy island in the North Atlantic achieve all this? And why did the empire on which the sun literally never set finally decline and fall? Niall Ferguson's acclaimed *Empire* brilliantly unfolds the imperial story in all its splendours and its miseries, showing how a gang of buccaneers and gold-diggers planted the seed of the biggest empire in all history - and set the world on the road to modernity. 'The most brilliant British historian of his generation ... Ferguson examines the roles of "pirates, planters, missionaries, mandarins, bankers and bankrupts" in the creation of history's largest empire ... he writes with splendid panache ... and a seemingly effortless, debonair wit' Andrew Roberts 'Dazzling ... wonderfully readable' *New York Review of Books* 'Empire is a pleasure to read and brims with insights and intelligence' *Sunday Times*

*The House of Rothschild* Oxford University Press, USA

From the bestselling author of *The Ascent of Money and The Square and the Tower*, the definitive biography of Henry Kissinger, based on unprecedented access to his private papers. Winner of the Council on Foreign Relations Arthur Ross Book Award No American statesman has been as revered or as reviled as Henry Kissinger. Once hailed as "Super K"—the "indispensable man" whose advice has been sought by every president from Kennedy to Obama—he has also been hounded by conspiracy theorists, scouring his every "telcon" for evidence of Machiavellian malfeasance. Yet as Niall Ferguson shows in this magisterial two-volume biography, drawing not only on Kissinger's hitherto closed private papers but also on documents from more than a hundred archives around the world, the idea of Kissinger as the ruthless arch-realist is based on a profound misunderstanding. The first half of Kissinger's life is usually skimmed over as a quintessential tale of American ascent: the Jewish refugee from Hitler's Germany who made it to the White House. But in this first of two volumes, Ferguson shows that what Kissinger achieved before his appointment as Richard Nixon's national security adviser was astonishing in its own right. Toiling as a teenager in a New York factory, he studied indefatigably at night. He was drafted into the U.S. infantry and saw action at the Battle of the Bulge—as well as the liberation of a concentration camp—but ended his army career interrogating Nazis. It was at Harvard that Kissinger found his vocation. Having immersed himself in the philosophy of Kant and the diplomacy of Metternich, he shot to celebrity by arguing for "limited nuclear war." Nelson Rockefeller hired him. Kennedy called him to Camelot. Yet Kissinger's rise was anything but irresistible. Dogged by press gaffes and disappointed by "Rocky," Kissinger seemed stuck—until a trip to Vietnam changed everything. *The Idealist* is the story of one of the most important strategic thinkers America has ever produced. It is also a political Bildungsroman, explaining how "Dr. Strangelove" ended up as consigliere to a politician he had always abhorred. Like Ferguson's classic two-volume history of the House of Rothschild, Kissinger sheds dazzling new light on an entire era. The essential account of an extraordinary life, it recasts the Cold War world.

*The Rothschilds* National Geographic Books

In *The Women of Rothschild*, Natalie Livingstone reveals the role of women in shaping the legacy of the famous Rothschild dynasty, synonymous with wealth and power. From the East End of London to the Eastern seaboard of the United States, from Spitalfields to Scottish castles, from Bletchley Park to Buchenwald, and from the Vatican to Palestine, Natalie Livingstone follows the extraordinary lives of the Rothschild women from the dawn of the nineteenth century to the early years of the twenty-first. As Jews in a Christian society and women in a deeply patriarchal family, they were outsiders. Excluded from the family bank, they forged their own distinct dynasty of daughters and nieces, mothers and aunts. They became influential hostesses and talented diplomats, choreographing electoral campaigns, advising prime ministers, advocating for social reform, and trading on the stock exchange. Misfits and conformists, conservatives and idealists, performers and introverts, they mixed with everyone from Queen Victoria to Chaim Weizmann, Rossini to Isaiah Berlin, and the Duke of Wellington to Alec Guinness, as well as with amphetamine-dealers, suffragists and avant-garde artists. Rothschild women helped bring down ghetto walls in early nineteenth-century Frankfurt, inspired some of the most remarkable cultural movements of the Victorian period, and in the mid-twentieth century burst into America, where they patronized Thelonious Monk and drag-raced through Manhattan with Miles Davis. Absorbing and compulsive, *The Women of Rothschild* gives voice to the complicated, privileged, and gifted women whose vision and tenacity shaped history.

*Mobility and Biography* St. Martin's Press

The National Book Award-winning history of American finance by the renowned biographer and author of *Hamilton: "A tour de force"* (New York Times Book Review). *The House of Morgan* is a panoramic story of four generations in the powerful Morgan family and their secretive firms that would transform the modern financial world. Tracing the trajectory of J. P. Morgan's empire from its obscure beginnings in Victorian London to the financial crisis of 1987, acclaimed author Ron Chernow paints a fascinating portrait of the family's private saga and the rarefied world of the American and British elite in which they moved—a world that included Charles Lindbergh, Henry Ford, Franklin Roosevelt, Nancy Astor, and Winston Churchill. A masterpiece of financial history—it was awarded the 1990 National Book Award for Nonfiction and selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 Best Nonfiction Books of the Twentieth Century—*The House of Morgan* is a compelling account of a remarkable institution and the men who ran it. It is essential reading for

anyone seeking to understand the money and power behind the major historical events of the last 150 years.

*Empire* Charisma Media

Who are the Rothschilds? Still making headlines today, their fascinating history stretches back to the Jewish ghetto in Frankfurt, Germany, where the first Rothschild ancestors lived in the House of the Red Shield. There, one man and his five brilliant sons made their fortune as court agents to a royal prince. It would take Napoleon's earth-shattering quest to conquer Europe to scatter the five brothers to the four winds, but when the dust of war settled, there was a Rothschild brother and a Rothschild bank in five cities: London, Paris, Frankfurt, Naples, and Vienna. The era of haute finance had begun, and the legend of a banking dynasty more powerful than any royal family in history was established. In this book, you will follow the progress of the Rothschild family through the centuries. Their ranks included not only bankers and financiers but doctors, scientists, bomb experts, and collectors who amassed not only some of the finest art collections in Europe, but also

one of the finest bug collections. Find out for yourself how the Rothschilds prevented wars, crowned and uncrowned kings, helped win the battle of Waterloo, looked down their noses at Nazis, and established a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

*Paper and Iron* Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG

The subject of transnational lives has only recently gained importance in historical research. With its transnational approach to "mobility and biography," this volume brings together research on aspects of mobility and biography across different times and spaces to open up new interdisciplinary perspectives. Networks, movements and the capacity to become socially or spatially mobile in and across Europe are not only analysed as structural factors, but rather seen as connected to concrete practices of mobility among different groups in the spheres of business, politics and the arts: from Jewish merchants via legal and financial advisors all the way to musicians.

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