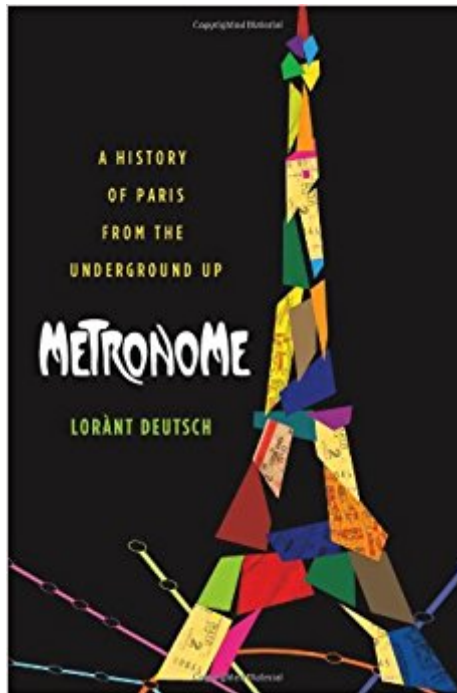


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Metronome: A History Of Paris From The Underground Up



Synopsis

A phenomenal bestseller in France, *Metronome* presents a fascinating history of Paris through the lens of the city's iconic Metro system. Did you know that the last Gallic warriors massacred by the Romans lie beneath the Eiffel Tower? That the remains of Paris's first cathedral are under a parking lot in the Fifth District? *Metronome* follows LorÃƒnt Deutsch, historian and lifelong Francophile, as he goes on a compelling journey through the ages, treating readers to Paris as they've never seen it before. Using twenty-one stops of the subway system as focal points, Deutsch shows, from the underground up, the unique, often violent, and always striking events that shaped one of the world's most romanticized city. Readers will find out which streets are hiding incredible historical treasures in plain sight; peer into forgotten nooks and crannies of the City of Lights and learn what used to be there; and discover that, however deeply buried, something always remains.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A delightful read, and one that has opened the history of Paris to thousands of people who would never ordinarily open a history book."

Stephane Kirkland, author of *Paris Reborn*

"An entertaining guide, full of anecdotes about the hidden treasures of the

capital."

Livres Hebdo "Lively and fun, [*Metronome* tells] the story of the City of Lights in chronological order with little expense."

Le Figaro

Literary "I loved this book . . . [It] invites you to go and see what remains of Parisian history in the Paris of today."

Art Souilleurs (5 Stars)

A comedian and bestselling author in France, LORANT DEUTSCH has always had a passion for history and his native Paris. He is the author of *Metronome*.

This book, *Metronome*, was a runaway best seller in France. When this English translation is read, it is easy to see why. The easy-going, reader-friendly manner in which these and other stories are told shines through in the English translation. It presents the history of France in an innovative, out-of-the-box manner. It makes the narrative of history an enjoyable reading experience. Chapters in the history of France are told with reference to the subway stations found in the inner core of Paris. For example, the story of the Bastille is told through what the commuter sees at the Bastille metro station (which, incidentally, is not a whole lot because the Bastille was completely destroyed during the French Revolution). The story of the Louvre is told with reference to the Palais-Royal-Musee du Louvre metro stop. The chaotic and bloody events of the civil war between the Armagnacs and Burgundians during the Fourteenth Century while the country was battling the Hundred Years War with England are told at the Chateau de Vincennes metro stop. Half-way through the book LORANT DEUTSCH brings the reader barely to 1000 C.E. This should not be surprising. By Western standards, Paris is an ancient city with a rich history. The metro stops described in his book constitute the very core of the city center where the events of Paris's earliest history took place. Throughout the book DEUTSCH will present mini stories on the side of the page. These side stories include, What is on Dogobert's Tomb? How did Les Halles disappear? Where have all the colleges gone? Who was Nicolas Flamel? These stories are almost more interesting than the main text. One does not need to be a Francophile to enjoy this book, but this book will make you one. Good book, history brilliantly told, good translation. What could go wrong? Well, Other customer reviews of this book have complained about the paper on which the text is printed. I dismissed these comments and purchased the book anyway. While the book is highly recommended, these reviewers were correct. The paper the publisher used is cheap, shoddy, and rough. We are not talking about acid-free paper. I have seen comic books printed on better paper. I have seen newspapers PRINTED SIXTY YEARS AGO in better shape. No exaggeration, the paper used for this book feels like sandpaper. I still give this book five stars for the excellent stories told. Shame on the publisher, St. Martin's Griffin, for disrespecting the reading public by printing such a cheap edition of this book!

Good summary of Paris history. A little a bit haphazard in the layout with interleaved geography and

historical lines. A lot of effort dedicated to language, however, a bit light on substance. No illustrations, which make it difficult to relate, particularly for those who have not been there.

What a fascinating history! Visiting "the city of light" as often as I do, I really thought I knew a lot about it. After having read this book, I realized I didn't know half as much as I thought I did! It is filled with historical facts and yet it is not "preachy" about the events leading up to the city's prominence as a vibrant part of Europe. All in all, a terrific volume, one that will indeed delight Francophones, Francophiles and visitors alike. In addition: an award should go to the translator. Very few times in a translated book does it flow so effortlessly as this volume does. BRAVO to all concerned! Dr.

Alan-Clarke Hudson

A well-written history of Paris through the Metro stops and nearby architectural remnants. Paris is wonderful and even more enchanting if you realize that the beautiful door you see near the National Archives is actually the entry of a mansion built in 1380 (L'hôtel de Clisson). The history is presented through brief vignettes that reference locations shown on a map for each chapter, each of which represent a century in Paris's history. Highly recommended!

Easy to follow and appreciate! The book deserves more than one read and can serve as a guide to surviving historical sights in Paris. A great experience overall. Check out the TV episodes on YouTube, especially if you understand French.

This was a pleasant read for anyone who is interested in the history of Paris and some of the traces that remain of its past. It is not the best written book, but I still learned a lot. It did gloss over certain things rather quickly such as Notre Dame cathedral. The strongest part of the book is the earlier history. The closer we get to the present the more one needed a solid foundation in French history to understand what was going on. Overall though, I did enjoy reading this book and using google maps to get a better present day view of the sites that the author talks about.

I read it in French (I'm French born and raised in Paris), so I can say that I know Paris very very well. I actually learnt a lot of stuff reading this book. I'm offering it to an American friend who lived in Paris for 2 years. She had a blast, and is going back at least twice a year for fun. I would recommend reading this book only if you're (very) familiar with the city, if not it may be overwhelming. Happy reading

A book of very interesting information pertaining to Paris' history; yet, with the most intriguing manner of explanation based on l'Metro. For those who enjoy Paris history, seek new ways of learning it and possibly collect such informative books, this is for you! It is the author's flair for writing that causes this book's account of history such an enjoyable treat.

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