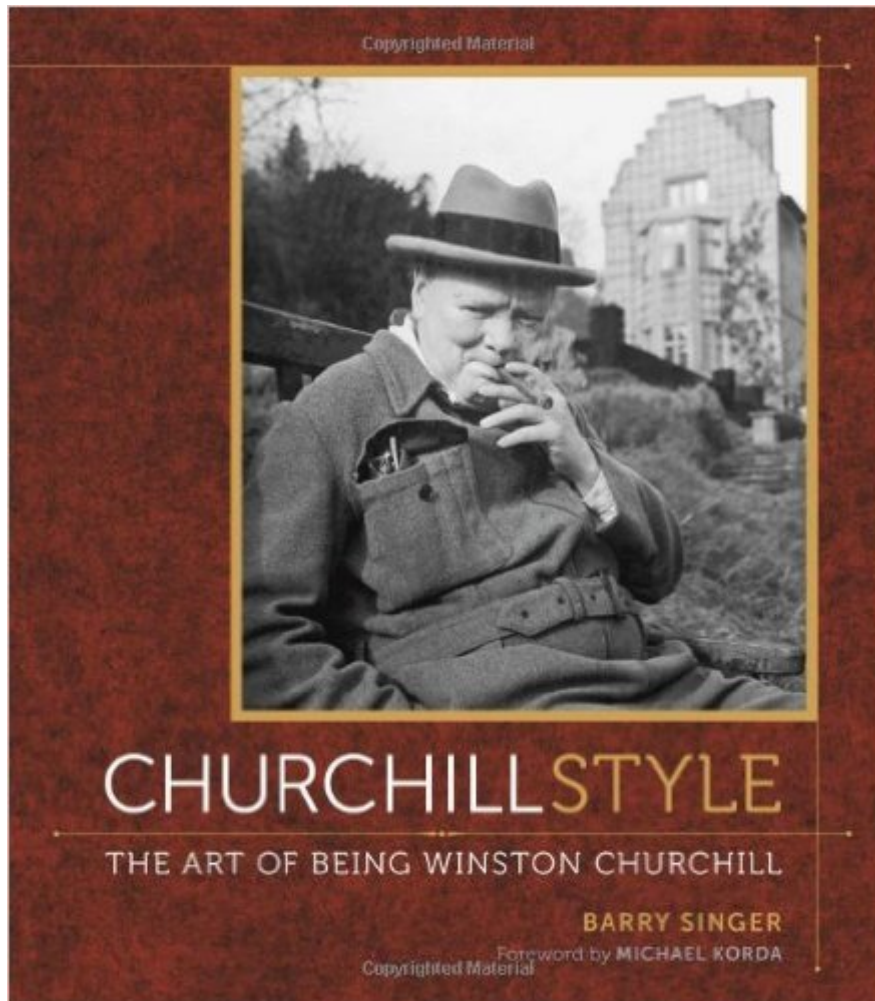


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Churchill Style: The Art Of Being Winston Churchill



Synopsis

One of the most iconic and endlessly fascinating figures of the 20th century, Winston Churchill has been the subject of any number of books, but none of them have analyzed his lifestyle as a way to really understand the man. This book features a vivid and entertaining timeline of his public history, but also focuses on the more personal, nonwork aspects of his day-to-day life, covering topics such as autos, books, cigars, dining, fashion, home, libations, and pastimes. Churchill lived an extravagant life, but in reality did not have much money. His ability to live well beyond his means is a lesson that will intrigue many. Praise for Churchill Style: "Despite the hundreds of books written on the wartime leader, there has been surprisingly little compiled on his lifestyle. Barry Singer "a writer, self-described Churchill fanatic and proprietor of Manhattan's Chartwell Booksellers (which touts itself as "the world's only Winston Churchill bookshop")" "has corrected the deficit." "Wall Street Journal "There's a good deal to like about this jaunty book . . . In brief, Churchill lived beyond his means and appears to have enjoyed every minute of it. Churchill Style puts on display his resourcefulness at doing it." "Buffalo News "Hundreds of books have been written about Winston Churchill, most of which focus on his military service and his leadership during both World Wars, but none assess his personal style like Barry Singer does in Churchill Style: The Art of Being Winston Churchill." • "Cool Hunting.com

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (May 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 081099643X

ISBN-13: 978-0810996434

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars " See all reviews" (50 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #492,151 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in " Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Presidents & Heads of State > U.K. Prime Ministers #1209 in " Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Great Britain #3180 in " Books > History > Europe > Great Britain

Customer Reviews

This is an unusual biography and I truly enjoyed it--Winston Churchill, that towering figure from

World War II is described in terms of his clothing, his furniture, cigars, personal objects and tastes. I don't think I can recall another such book and I liked it so much, I hope the author will write some more of these book about iconic figures of our recent history. I am old enough to remember Churchill--he died when I was thirteen, so he was an important figure even for me--and more so for my parents who lived through World War II. It's hard to describe how people felt about him if you are younger but he was, even for Americans, almost presidential and beloved as a strong figure who was a lighthouse of hope and courage in a desperately bleak time. The layout of this book is absolutely beautiful: nicely formatted text with excellent photos of Churchill at various times in public, and at home, photos of his home Chartwell, casual scenes (painting at an easel), photos with Roosevelt, and pictures of personal effects such as cigar bands, a custom lap desk and oddly enough, a red velvet jumpsuit he liked to wear as a sort of lounging suit. I've never seen any of these pictures before and they are fascinating and throw an entirely different light on Churchill's mannerisms and habits. The book contains a brief outline of Churchill's life and some interesting anecdotes, among which, his comment that if his father had been American rather than his mother, he might, he said as he addressed the US Congress, have got there on his own. His relationship with Roosevelt, who was sometimes obstructive if not outright duplicitous in his dealings with the British, are briefly but poignantly outlined.

It would be easy to dismiss Barry Singer's Churchill Style as a fun, breezy read on Churchill, serving as mostly soft porn for voyeurs interested in the superficial aspects of the Churchill story. Such an impulse, however, would be wrong. That's not because it's not fun, nor easy to read. Indeed it's both. Churchill Style, however, is a vital addition to any true Churchillian's library because it provides a new dimension to understanding the actions of the man who did more to shape the 20th century than perhaps any other. In fact, it serves several purposes, collecting notes about many aspects of Churchill's lifestyle gathered from many other books and sources into one place. Epicureans will delight in the many side bars concerning Churchill's taste in champagne (vintage Pol Roger), cigars (inexpensive American!), scotches (heavily watered to point of being characterized as "mouthwash" by his staff), homes (city and country), books (classics of history and literature), pastimes (painting) and motor cars among others. This, however, is only the icing on the cake. For while Churchill Style masquerades as a series of anecdotes and notes about Churchill's books, liquors, clothes, homes and hobbies, its core is to be found in its subtitle "The Art of Being Winston Churchill." For many of these things were mere props in the pageant that was Churchill's life. The style, i.e., how Churchill conducted himself, was intimately intertwined with the substance of his work and the book's real

value lays in Singer's explanation of how Churchill operated to advance himself into a place where his gifts could ultimately prove useful to King and country.

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