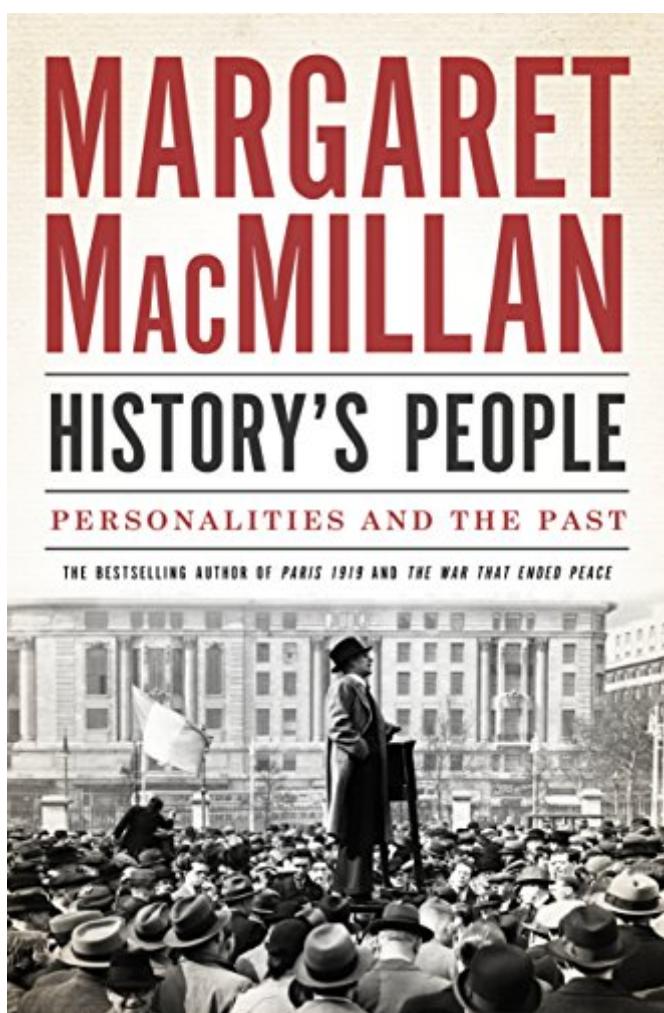


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# History's People: Personalities And The Past (CBC Massey Lectures)



## **Synopsis**

In History's People internationally acclaimed historian Margaret MacMillan gives her own personal selection of figures of the past, women and men, some famous and some little-known, who stand out for her. Some have changed the course of history and even directed the currents of their times. Others are memorable for being risk-takers, adventurers, or observers. She looks at the concept of leadership through Bismarck and the unification of Germany; William Lyon MacKenzie King and the preservation of the Canadian Federation; Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the bringing of a unified United States into the Second World War. She also notes how leaders can make huge and often destructive mistakes, as in the cases of Hitler, Stalin, and Thatcher. Richard Nixon and Samuel de Champlain are examples of daring risk-takers who stubbornly went their own ways, often in defiance of their own societies. Then there are the dreamers, explorers, and adventurers, individuals like Fanny Parkes and Elizabeth Simcoe who manage to defy or ignore the constraints of their own societies. Finally, there are the observers, such as Babur, the first Mughal emperor of India, and Victor Klemperer, a Holocaust survivor, who kept the notes and diaries that bring the past to life. History's People is about the important and complex relationship between biography and history, individuals and their times.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

No earth-shattering revelations but the book is a highly enjoyable read that looks at the personalities of some known and not so known figures in history.

The best history book I've read in a long, long time. Margaret MacMillan has the ability to connect the page turning entertainment of a novelist to the fact driven purpose of the historian. Every page contains nuggets of personality traits of "history's people" such as Bismarck, Stalin, Hitler, and Roosevelt and many others that after you finish reading this wonderfully written and totally reader friendly book you know that you feel as if the author had been in a pub sitting beside you where you have rapped for hours about "history's people" and she has breathed life anew into them. Read this book and in the words of Nabokov, be entertained, taught, and enchanted. A must read!

I was encouraged by the Mackenzie King diaries and i was not disappointed by all the other materials. Read history as it was written by people writing about their own experiences. Also Lord Beaverbrook, Bismarck, Churchill, and all the others. First listened to lecture #1 on CBC Radio Ideas. Would reread. A good addition to the virtual library. Thanks!

Chatty revelations from different times and places. No blinding revelations but charmingly interesting. Tempted to read some of her source references for more details.

Wonderful personal assessment of a number of intriguing characters. MacMillan writes exquisite prose.

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A good themed romp through the good, bad and ugly in history by a perceptive historian..

She writes beautifully. An enjoyable history lesson which you'll want to read to the end.

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