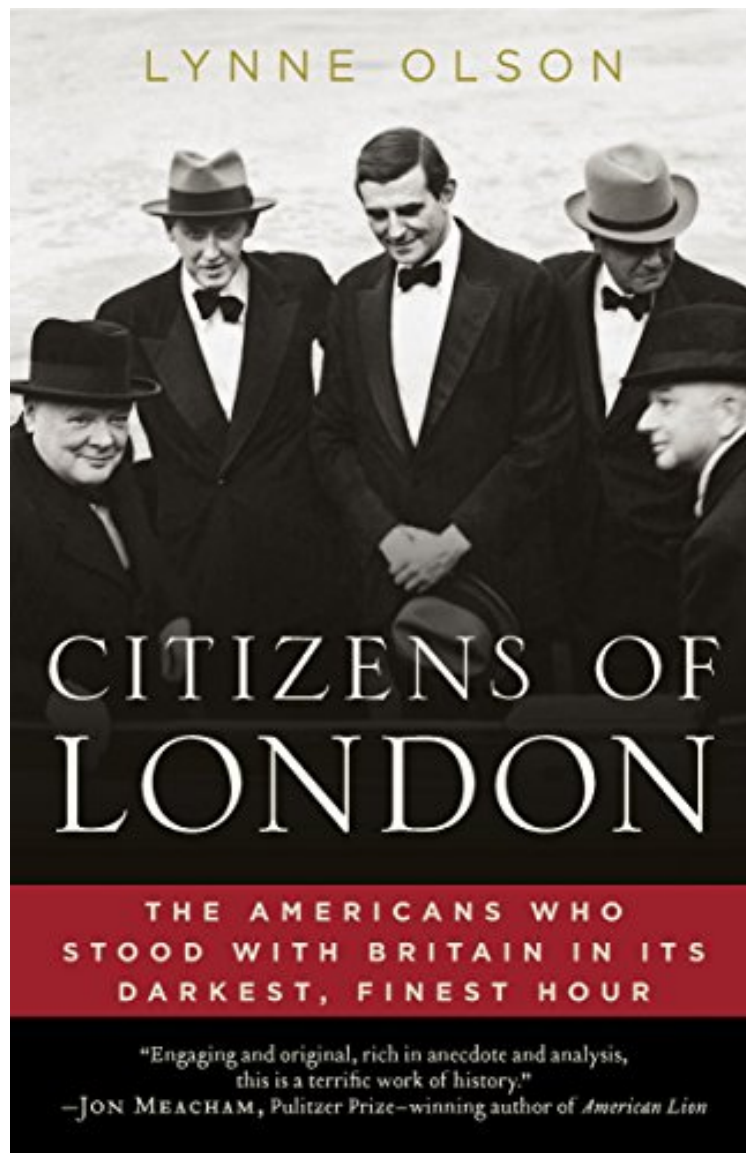


(Download free pdf) Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour

Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour

Von Lynne Olson

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Von Lynne Olson : Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The

Stories Behind The Stories and the People Behind the Scenes Von James G. Thompson "Citizens of London" is the six year long story of those Americans who spent their war in London sharing the thrills, pains, and dangers of their adopted city. Although many traipse across the pages of this book, it focuses on three: John Gilbert Winant, Edward R. Murrow and Averill Harriman. A former Republican Governor of New Hampshire, Winant had burned his political bridges by his enthusiastic support for FDR and the New Deal. This successor to Joseph P. Kennedy as Ambassador to the Court of St. James had an easy act to follow. Whereas Kennedy had been defeatist, who evacuated his family at the first sign of trouble and longed to get away to Palm Beach, Winant arrived saying "There is no place I'd rather be than in England." When Winant arrived in 1941, the American relationship was so important that King George VI broke all protocol by meeting him at the train. Through the rest of the war, Winant served as the friend and confidant of Churchill and the conduit through which the official communications flowed and the Special Relationship grew. Besides his official duties, Winant worked to ease the frictions which could have arisen as Britain was awash in a tide of American servicemen. To the end, Winant earned the tribute as the best ambassador Britain ever hosted. If Winant was the voice of London to the State Department and the White House, Edward R. Murrow was the voice of London to State Street and every house. If Churchill sent the English language into battle, Murrow's broadcasts over the CBS system sent it across the sea. His regular broadcasts beginning with, "This Is London", brought the sights and sounds of wartime London into homes across America. An unabashed defender of Britain, his descriptions of bombings, privations and sufferings, against the backdrop of air raid sirens and exploding bombs, drew American public opinion, irresistibly, to Britain's side. The last of the trio, Averill Harriman, was a wealthy young businessman who, as FDR's special envoy, played a loose role in the days of war. In contrast to Winant and Murrow who devoted themselves to the cause, Harriman seems to have worked the cause for Harriman. Using his status for diplomatic advancement and romantic conquest, Harriman was often a rival of Winant in the struggle for the favor of Churchill and Roosevelt. Author Lynne Olson does a skillful job in weaving other personalities and the stories into this book. Following the leading characters, she takes the reader into Summit meetings strategy debates and personal quarrels. We are given critical analyses of the motives and actions of Churchill, Roosevelt and their military chiefs, as well as their opinions of DeGaulle and other characters. One thing that I enjoyed was the cameo appearances of people like Eric Sevareid and others who, along with Murrow, I remember as newscasters in my childhood. She also covers the "live for today, for tomorrow you may die" attitude prevalent in London at that time as evidenced in the romances of the leading characters. As readers of my reviews know, I read a lot of history, including World War II. Compared to others, this book is top notch. It provides the reader with a different perspective of the war, with insights into the stories behind the stories and the people behind the scenes. This is not the place to start your introduction to World War II, but it is a great place to deepen your understanding.

Kurzbeschreibung The acclaimed author of *Troublesome Young Men* reveals the behind-the-scenes story of how the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain, told from the perspective of three key American players in London: Edward R. Murrow, the handsome, chain-smoking head of CBS News in Europe; Averill Harriman, the hard-driving millionaire who ran FDR's Lend-Lease program in London; and John Gilbert Winant, the shy, idealistic U.S. ambassador to Britain. Each man formed close ties with Winston Churchill so much so that all became romantically involved with members of the prime ministers family. Drawing from a variety of primary sources, Lynne Olson skillfully depicts the dramatic personal journeys of these men who, determined to save Britain from Hitler, helped convince a cautious Franklin Roosevelt and reluctant American public to back the British at a critical time. Deeply human, brilliantly researched, and beautifully written, *Citizens of London* is a new triumph from an author swiftly becoming one of the finest in her field. *Pressestimmen* "Citizens of London is richly anecdotal and chock full of interesting and pertinent analysis, a riveting, well-researched account of a chapter in history when well-timed collaboration helped save the day." --London Free Press "Olson sifts through the immense amount of material on the period and crafts a cracking good read....Finely done." --New York Post "Plenty to appreciate thanks to Olson's storytelling skills, including recaps of romance that never seem too gossipy or out of place." --The Christian Science Monitor "[An] exceedingly well-told story...a superb trip to an amazing city in time of war." --The Providence Journal-Bulletin *Pressestimmen* "Citizens of London is a great read about the small band of Americans and their courageous role in helping Britain through the darkest days of early World War II. I thought I knew a lot about that dangerous period but Lynne Olson has taught me so much more." Tom Brokaw "Brilliantly bursting with beautiful prose, Olson flutters our hearts by capturing the essence of the public and private lives of those who faced death, touched the precipice, hung on by their eyelids, and saved the free world from destruction by the forces of evil." Bill Gardner, New Hampshire Secretary of State "In this engaging and original book, Lynne Olson tells the story of the Americans who did the New World credit by giving their all to help Churchill's Britain hold on against Hitler. Rich in anecdote and analysis, this is a terrific work of history. Jon Meacham, author of *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* "Like any good history book, this is a reminder: a reminder of how some Americans came to London and rallied

to Britain's cause in 1940 and 1941 that is before Pearl Harbor, when Hitler's Germany came very close to winning the Second World War. *Citizens of London* is really two books in one: a detailed record of what an American ambassador (John Gilbert Winant), a Roosevelt appointee (Averell Harriman) and American broadcaster (Edward R. Murrow) did for the British and, yes, also for the American cause. At the same time, it is a detailed account of American/British relations through the War, another tale that is not simple.

"John Lukacs, author of *Five Days in London: May 1940*" This is history at its most personal and compelling, a group portrait of three fascinating individuals Winant, Harriman, and Murrow whose lives intersected at a pivotal moment in the 20th century, when the fates of America and Britain were interlocked. The result is what the English call 'a rollicking read.'

"Strobe Talbott, author of *The Great Experiment: Ancient Empires, Modern States, and the Search for a Global Nation*" *Citizens of London* is a stirring portrait of brave England in its finest hour. At its exciting center are the Americans who became England's true friends as it fought for survival against Hitler's Luftwaffe. Here is Edward R. Murrow reporting on the Blitz as the bombs dropped and city burned about him. You'll meet the young, gutsy American pilots of the Eagle Squadron who broke their country's law to serve with the RAF. Then, nearest to London's heart, you'll discover the noble US Ambassador Gilbert Winant who brought to fighting England all the fineness and generosity his country could spare and more.

Lynne Olson has produced a deeply inspiring chronicle of this special relationship when it mattered most. She's turned out a truly grand companion to Jon Meacham's majestic *Franklin and Winston*.

"Chris Matthews, Anchor, MSNBC's *Hardball*" If you don't think there's any more to learn about the power struggles, rivalries and dramas both personal and political about the US-British alliance in the World War II years, this book will change your mind and keep you turning the pages as well.

"Jeff Greenfield, Senior Political Correspondent, CBS News" Three fascinating Americans living in London helped cement the World War II alliance between Roosevelt and Churchill. Lynne Olson brings us the wonderful saga of Harriman, Murrow, and Winant. A triumph of research and storytelling, *Citizens of London* is history on an intimate level.

"Walter Isaacson, author of *Einstein*" This is history at its most personal and compelling, a group portrait of three fascinating individuals Winant, Harriman, and Murrow whose lives intersected at a pivotal moment in the twentieth century, when the fates of America and Britain were interlocked. The result is what the English call a rollicking read.

"Strobe Talbott, author of *The Great Experiment*" It doesn't seem possible that support for Britain against the Nazis was so unpopular in America before December of 1941. In *Citizens of London*, Lynne Olson tells the stories of Britain's few American champions who ended up on the right side of history. Her book brings alive this crucial time of our country's recent past, and shows us how a few leaders can make such a big difference.

"Bob Edwards, radio commentator and author of *Edward R. Murrow and the Birth of Broadcast Journalism*