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# Humanity: A Moral History of the Twentieth Century, Second Edition

*Jonathan Glover*

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#402672 in Books 2012-09-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.75 x 1.24 x 5.00l, .90 #File Name: 0300186401496 pages | File size: 70.Mb

**Jonathan Glover : Humanity: A Moral History of the Twentieth Century, Second Edition** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Humanity: A Moral History of the Twentieth Century, Second Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the MOST important book I have read By Wendy Sue I gave it

5 stars and 'Love it' came up. I don't love the notion or the theory/outcome, but the conceptualization is mandatory for any person who still believes in free society. This piece reveals a pragmatic application of genocidal maniacs whose brilliance in manipulating and brainwashing millions is only secondary to their sadistic, methodical tendencies, which had clear intended outcomes. Reader beware that you will no longer look at any aspect of society without a chilling cynicism for the true underlying intent as this book gives a chilling rational approach to not only how madmen have run the world at times, but one can easily extrapolate how governments and private industry still subvert 'authority' through reality altering, applied psychology on the masses and at times, the leaders themselves. 16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. An Examination of Man's Inhumanity to Man By Customer Jonathan Glover has written an interesting and lively chronicle of the twentieth century using the prism of morality as his filter. Noting that the last 100 years were the most brutal in human history, Glover seeks the reasons why this became the case. In Europe at the start of the century, most people accepted the authority of morality. What happened to undermine that authority? Glover states that barbarism is not unique to the twentieth century: atrocities have always been with us throughout recorded time. Technology has made a difference; hyped as the answer for a better life, technology has also made it easier for programs such as genocide and biocide, not to mention the total destruction of humanity via nuclear weapons. Never before has the fate of so many been in the hands of so few. Perhaps it has been that the view of human psychology developed during the Enlightenment has stagnated, failing to adjust to new developments and the outgrowths of those developments in the industrialized world. Glover tellingly quotes John Maynard Keynes's criticism of Bertrand Russell's comments about life and affairs as "brittle" because there was "no solid diagnosis of human nature underlying them." But Glover errs by leading his book with a look at Nietzsche as a harbinger of the new type of thinking, concentrating on Nietzsche's values of "cruelty," which the philosopher had associated with the overman, the man who overcomes himself, creating new values in the process. Nietzsche did not endorse his values of the *ubermensch* as values for the mass of humanity. The Nazis attempted to adopt Nietzsche as a philosophical cornerstone, but it is evident from their writings, especially those of Alfred Baumler (quoted by Glover), that they did not understand exactly what their chosen philosopher was really saying. Glover would have been much better off in this study by leading off with a study of Nietzsche's study of resentment. The twentieth century marked the triumph of resentment over rationality, taking the technology developed through and by a brittle rational world-view and using it not for the enhancement of human life, but rather the destruction of life. Glover also misses another opportunity when he fails to note that the bloody reigns of Stalin and Mao are in a very large sense based on the Enlightenment view of human psychology that mankind was perfectible. Those not in step with the new order were deemed expendable, Glover quotes a chilling statement Stalin made while issuing arrest warrants, "Who's going to remember all this riff-raff in ten or twenty years' time? No one." Most of Glover's analysis is spent with Hitler, and from the viewpoint of twentieth century history we can understand why. Much more is known about Hitler and his regime than those of Stalin and Mao, of whom new revelations are made with every passing year. In covering the excesses of all three dictators, Glover remains on target with an analysis that keeps the reader turning the pages. Other strong points include chapters on Hiroshima, Rwanda, the Gulf War, and the refusal of Italians to help their allies, the Nazis exterminate Jews in Croatia, serving as a beacon of hope and rationality in a deadly irrational darkness. Well worth your time and money, especially that it is now in paperback, and thus easier to read on the train or bus. The book will make you think and is the perfect tome to read on the way to and from work. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. great account of the moral history of most of the ... By Jeannette Fernandez great account of the moral history of most of the developed world. useful for analyzing moral dilemmas through multiple perspectives.

Renowned moral philosopher Jonathan Glover confronts the brutal history of the twentieth century to unravel the mystery of why so many atrocities occurred. In a new preface, Glover brings the book through the post-September 11 era and into our own time and asks whether humankind can "weaken the grip war has on us." Praise for the first edition: It is hard to imagine a more important book. Glover makes an overwhelming case for the need to understand our own inhumanity, and reduce or eliminate the ways in which it can express itself and he then begins the task himself. Humanity is an extraordinary achievement. Peter Singer, Princeton University This is an extraordinary book: brilliant, haunting and uniquely important. Almost 40 years ago a president read a best seller and avoided a holocaust. I like to think that some of the leaders and followers of tomorrow will read *Humanity*. Steven Pinker, New York Times Book Review

About the Author Jonathan Glover is director of the Center of Medical Law and Ethics at Kings College, London, and a fellow of the Hastings Center.