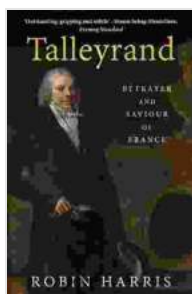


Talleyrand: Betrayer and Saviour of France

Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord was a French diplomat and politician who served as foreign minister under Napoleon Bonaparte and King Louis XVIII. He is best known for his role in the Congress of Vienna, where he helped to redraw the map of Europe after the Napoleonic Wars. Talleyrand was a complex and controversial figure, and his legacy is still debated today. Some historians see him as a traitor who betrayed his country, while others see him as a savior who helped to restore stability to France after the Revolution.



Talleyrand: Betrayer and Saviour of France

by Michel Eltchaninoff

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5619 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 387 pages
Lending : Enabled



Early Life and Career

Talleyrand was born in Paris in 1754. He was the son of a wealthy aristocrat, and he received a privileged education. He studied law at the University of Paris, but he soon abandoned his legal career to pursue a diplomatic career. In 1789, he was elected to the Estates General, the body

that would later become the French National Assembly. Talleyrand played a prominent role in the early days of the French Revolution. He supported the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic. However, he became disillusioned with the radicalism of the Revolution, and he eventually left France in 1792.

Exile and Return

Talleyrand spent the next several years in exile in England and the United States. He returned to France in 1796, after the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. He became a close advisor to Bonaparte, and he played a key role in the coup d'état that brought Bonaparte to power in 1799. Talleyrand served as foreign minister under Bonaparte, and he was responsible for negotiating the Treaty of Amiens, which ended the war between France and Great Britain. However, Talleyrand grew increasingly disillusioned with Bonaparte's authoritarian rule, and he eventually resigned from his post in 1807.

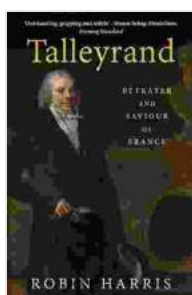
The Congress of Vienna

After Bonaparte's defeat in 1814, Talleyrand played a key role in the Congress of Vienna. He represented France at the Congress, and he was instrumental in negotiating the final settlement. Talleyrand's goal was to restore stability to Europe and to prevent France from being isolated. He succeeded in achieving both of these goals. The Congress of Vienna redrew the map of Europe, and it created a new balance of power that would last for decades.

Later Life and Legacy

Talleyrand continued to play a role in French politics after the Congress of Vienna. He served as foreign minister under King Louis XVIII and King Charles X. He retired from public life in 1830, and he died in Paris in 1838. Talleyrand was a complex and controversial figure. He was a master of diplomacy, and he played a key role in shaping the course of European history. However, he was also accused of being a traitor and a self-serving opportunist. Talleyrand's legacy is still debated today. Some historians see him as a great diplomat who saved France from chaos, while others see him as a traitor who betrayed his country.

Talleyrand was a complex and controversial figure. He was a brilliant diplomat who played a key role in shaping the course of European history. However, he was also accused of being a traitor and a self-serving opportunist. Talleyrand's legacy is still debated today. Some historians see him as a great diplomat who saved France from chaos, while others see him as a traitor who betrayed his country.



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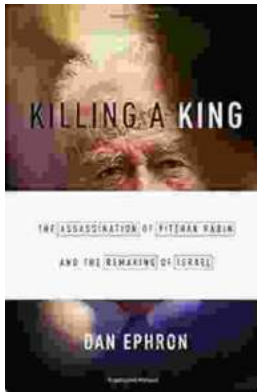
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