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# A SHORT HISTORY OF EUROPE

FROM CHARLEMAGNE TO THE TREATY OF LISBON

GORDON KERR

NEW TITLE

## SALES POINTS:

- An accessible and readable history of the people, ideas, institutions and events that have shaped Europe during the last 1200 years.
- A fascinating beginner's guide to the history of Europe.
- All the key events covered, from the coronation of Charlemagne in 800 to the signing of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007.
- Europe will be a hot topic in 2009 – the member-states of the European Union have promised a ratified Treaty of Lisbon before the middle of the year.

## DESCRIPTION:

*'Europe was created by history.'*

**Margaret Thatcher**

What is Europe? Firstly, of course, it is a continent made up of countless disparate peoples, races and nations, and governed by different ideas, philosophies, religions and attitudes. Nonetheless, it has a common thread of history running through it, stitching the lands and peoples of its past and present together into one fabric and held together by the continent's great institutions, such as the Church of Rome, the Holy Roman Empire, the European Union, individual monarchies, trade organisations and social movements.

Europe, however, is also an idea. From almost the beginning of time, men have harboured aspirations to make this vast territory one. The Romans came close and a few centuries later, the foundations for a great European state were laid with the creation of the Holy Roman Empire – an empire different to any other in that it enjoyed the approval of God, through the Church in Rome. Napoleon overreached himself in attempting to create a European-wide Empire - as did Adolf Hitler. Now, however, Europe is as close as it ever has been to being one entity, yet we Europeans still cling to our national independence. In *A Short History of Europe* Gordon Kerr provides a coherent map of the jumbled history of Europe and the European idea that has brought us to this point.

## BIOGRAPHY:

**Gordon Kerr** is a writer and editor who has worked in bookselling, publishing, journalism and the wine trade. He is the author of *Timeline of Britain*, *Timeline: History of the World* and *Timeline: Kings & Queens of Europe*. His book *Great British Losers* is published by Old Street in autumn 2008 and *Dead Famous* will be published by Oneworld in 2009.