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A SHORT HISTORY OF EUROPE

FROM CHARLEMAGNE TO THE TREATY OF LISBON

GORDON KERR
new in paperback

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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.

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. For millennia, men have harboured aspirations to make this vast territory one. The Romans came close and, centuries later, ambitious leaders such as Napoleon and Adolf Hitler would overreach themselves in their attempts to create a continent-wide Empire. Now, as the European Union increasingly assumes control of the interests and issues of its members, Europe is closer than ever to being one entity, although that path is, as ever, fraught with problems and crises.

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 and *Dead Famous: The Final Hours of the Notable and Notorious* was published in 2009.