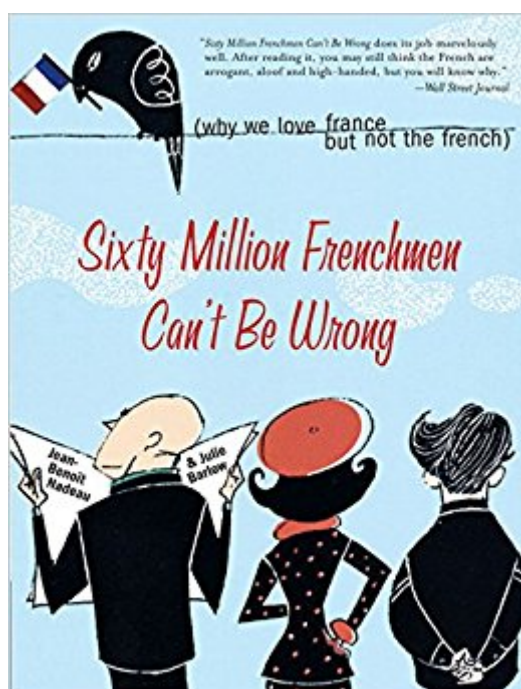


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Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong: Why We Love France But Not The French



Synopsis

The French...-Smoke, drink and eat more fat than anyone in the world, yet live longer and have fewer heart problems than Americans-Work 35-hour weeks, and take seven weeks of paid holidays per year, but are still the world's fourth-biggest economic power So what makes the French so different? Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong is a journey into the French heart, mind and soul. Decrypting French ideas about land, privacy and language, Nadeau and Barlow weave together the threads of French society--from centralization and the Napoleonic Code to elite education and even street protests--giving us, for the first time, a complete picture of the French. "[A] readable and insightful piece of work." --Montreal Mirror "In an era of irrational reactions to all things French, here is an eminently rational answer to the question, 'Why are the French like that?'" --Library Journal "A must-read." --Edmonton Journal

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1999, Canadian journalists Nadeau and Barlow moved to Paris for a two-year fellowship to study France's culture and economy in an effort to understand why the French resist globalization. They began by examining this puzzle: How does a country with "high taxes, a bloated civil service, a huge national debt, an over-regulated economy, over-the-top red tape, double-digit unemployment, and low incentives for entrepreneurs" also boast the world's highest productivity index and rank as the third-largest exporter and fourth-biggest economic power? By delving into France's cultural and political history, the authors show how it all works. Chapters are devoted to the French obsessions about World War II and the war in Algeria and how these events still shape attitudes and policies.

Other chapters explore the French insistence on precision in language, their sense of private space, and the effects of immigration. In an era of irrational reactions to all things French, here is an eminently rational answer to the question, "Why are the French like that?" Beth Leistensnider
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"Should be handed out at Calais and Charles de Gaulle airport to anyone hoping to get a grip on France." Daily Telegraph, 10 March 2004 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is the first really studied critique of the French society and culture that I have ever read. Usually guides just try to tell us how to get along but almost never tell us how to understand another culture. These writers have studied, and expended great effort to remain objective in their studies. I find the juxtaposition of love and frustration, apparent in their work, to be fascinating. I try to spend as much time as I can in France and have not scratched the service of understanding them.

Excellent book that shows you the different between two almost opposite cultures, and helps understand the French.

Despite the stupid title, this is an excellent tutorial on France and the French. It covers pretty much everything but the food--the government; the educational system; approaches to raising children; attitudes towards the language, the US, immigrants, and Europe; on an on. Very educational, and very enjoyable to read.

I first bought this book in 2002 when traveling in France. I enjoyed it so much, I highlighted the pages to death. I have loaned it out several times and finally it disappeared. It is such a good book, I had to replace it on my bookshelves.

Excellent read before traveling to Paris. Author very knowledgeable with first hand experience. Very in depth regarding the culture. I did skip some of the political information after a while but it is an excellent study of the French culture.

This book was well written educating and funny at the same time.

Excellent book with a deep insight into another nation's thinking...12 years old now & interesting to compare NOW what has happened since the publication of this book.

Interesting background on history and culture of both the born and newly French people.

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