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Francesco M. Bongiovanni

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Francesco M. Bongiovanni : The Decline and Fall of Europe before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Decline and Fall of Europe:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 21st Century Europe: Challenges and Opportunities By Chief22 This is a well written, thoughtful text that provides a lot of insight into why Europe has never become and in all likelihood, never will become the 'United States of Europe'. Mr. Bongiovanni has done an excellent job of highlighting why Europe is what it is - and emphasizes the utility or value that the 27 different nationalities find in being members of the EU. The east wants to be part of Europe to counterbalance Russia's influence, and participate in an Economic union that opens up business and employment opportunities. They also want to be members of NATO to cozy up to the

Americans. The west wants a unified Europe to sustain a more peaceful continent, while also open up economic opportunity for its people. Ever mistrustful of too much American - or Russian influence, they will expand only so far to keep the big bear at bay, while also enjoying the security of the US Military superiority that protects all things European. 27 different countries, fighting for independence, but seeking opportunity...nationalistic on many issues (those that could negatively affect their independence) but opportunistic on issues that could expand their wealth and influence...this is just but a small taste and inferior summary of Francesco's insights - he does a masterful job of pulling from his global experience - as a successful and well educated renaissance man who understands a great deal about the complexity of being European, and of the EU. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Another Book Review from the Aleph Blog By David Merkel This book is written by a man who wants to see the European experiment succeed, but is not confident that it will succeed. I think this is a fair book on the topic; it does not absorb all of my biases on why I think the Eurozone is hopeless: a) Currency unions have never worked; they must either become a nation, or break up. b) I have a saying, "Governments are smaller than Economies, and Economies are smaller than Cultures." This saying puts things in their place. Government can't in the long run prevent things that are economically successful, those things fill human needs. But cultures are bigger than economies; we don't live to consume. We live for ideals. Different cultures have different ideals, and it means that a purely individualistic or collectivist view of economics won't be accepted in the Eurozone. They muddle in the middle. The Eurozone is a political and economic experiment, and was pretty successful and harmless until they began to seek a common currency. Yes, there were other problems, bureaucrats in Brussels, seeking human perfection through regulation, helped to strangle a previously more competitive Eurozone economy. That said, the common currency offered some offsetting advantages of efficiency. Other Troubles But there are other troubles. There are unaffordable pensions in many countries that lie behind that economic problems. As one who is 51, and well off, why should anyone, aside from oil wildcatters, who endure a lot of physical stress retire at age 50 on the largess of the taxpayers, that is, if you have taxpayers. Even retiring at age 60 is ridiculous, which France has recently reverted to from 62. France will never be able to afford it as a nation. But then there are cultural issues: do you care what your laws are? Would you care if immigrants are ruled by Islamic Law? Would you care if your grandchildren, a minority like the Maronites (Roman Catholics) in Lebanon, are ruled by Islamic Law? The Main Economic Issue After all of the strangle-regulation, what if economies can't grow at levels sufficient to exceed the rates at which they borrow? They slowly fail, as debts grow, and doubts about repayment grow. In the Euro-zone this is particularly pertinent, because countries can't depreciate; they must repay in Euros. When the Euro was introduced it was heaven for many nations, because they could borrow cheaply. Eventually, they had too much debt, and lenders rebelled. This is the nature of an area that is not a natural currency area -- the Eurozone. This was an experiment doomed to fail. Quibbles None, but I would be a full Euro-sceptic. This can't work. More effective human labor is always better than less. Who would benefit from this book: If you want to learn about the problems in the Eurozone from someone that is fair, you will find it here.

Moving from the birth of Europe to the current crisis, this irreverent and topical book questions the relevance of the European Union today, addressing issues ranging from immigration and Turkish integration to the sovereign debt crisis, and whether this will prove to be merely the beginning of intractable economic challenges.

'It has become impossible to pretend otherwise: Europe is in steep decline. The Continental dream of economic prosperity, social security and international good citizenship has given way to a nightmare of chronic unemployment, unsustainable debt, demographic decline, political paralysis and street violence. In *The Decline and Fall of Europe*, Francesco Bongiovanni offers the most perceptive account to date of a Europe that indulged too many illusions and is now awakening to bankruptcy.' - Bret Stephens, Wall Street Journal 'An important read for anyone interested in the future of Europe.' - John Paulson, President, Paulson Co. Inc 'A very lively and witty survey of Europe's ills.' - Dominique Moisi, author of *The Geopolitics of Emotions* 'Provocative and alarming, a wake-up call for twenty-first century Europeans.' - Nils Pratley, The Guardian 'In view of the current crisis in the European Union in general and the Euro zone in particular, the arrival of this book could not be more timely. It is a comprehensive review of the way the initial favourable development of the E.U. has gone wrong and the range of problems it currently faces. Should be read by every MP in the Union's 27 countries!' - Stephen Valdez, author of *An Introduction to Global Financial Markets* About the Author DR FRANCESCO M. BONGIOVANNI holds an MBA from Harvard and a doctorate in engineering. A former investment banker in Wall Street and London, he subsequently worked in private equity, as an international advisor and as an entrepreneur. He has been made a Knight of the Order of St Charles for his contribution to humanitarian endeavours and biodiversity protection.