

Reading Suggestions for Modern Languages

For All Modern Languages: A Long Read

British Council Languages for the Future

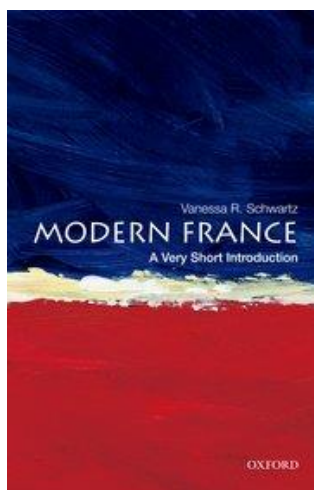
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-policy-insight/policy-reports/languages-future-2017>

French Suggestions

Notre Dame and the Culture It Inspired – from Matisse to the Muppets

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2019/apr/16/the-culture-inspired-by-notre-dame-paris>

Vanessa Schwartz, *Modern France: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)



In this Very Short Introduction, Vanessa Schwartz argues that modern France, as both a world stage and a global crossroads, is an essential actor in the development of contemporary culture. Indeed, French is the only language other than English spoken on five continents, and more people still visit France than anywhere else in the world. French fashion continues to dominate haute couture and, at the same time, French people are at the forefront of international "style," which was as true in the first half of the twentieth century as it is today. This tension between "Frenchness" as both particular and transnational remains one of the most compelling qualities of the culture. If French culture and culture producers are working around the globe, if Paris is an international capital, the marvel is that France still manages to attract visitors from all over the world seeking out the drama of its historic castles and significant battlefields, its more than 300 cheeses and the renowned

wines grown in its rich soil.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/modern-france-a-very-short-introduction-9780195389418?q=Modern%20France:%20A%20Very%20Short%20Introduction&cc=gb&lang=en>

German Suggestions

Why We Should Learn German

https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/jul/02/why-we-should-learn-german-john-le-carre?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Neil MacGregor, Germany: Memories of a Nation

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04dwbwz/episodes/downloads>

Hispanic Studies Suggestions

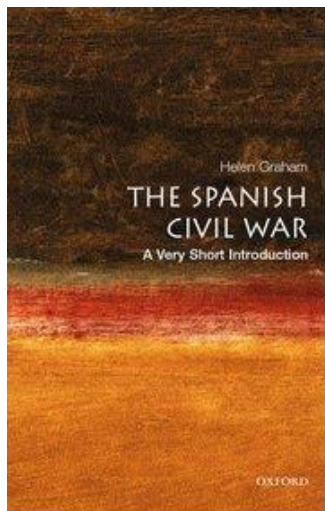
How the Cuban Revolution Kickstarted the Country's Golden Age of Cinema

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-cuban-revolution-kickstarted-the-countrys-golden-age-of-cinema-109342>

Edwin Williamson, *The Penguin History of Latin America*

Available here: <https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/The-Penguin-History-of-Latin-America-by-Edwin-Williamson/9780141034751>

Helen Graham, *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005)



This Very Short Introduction offers a powerfully-written explanation of the war's complex origins and course, and explores its impact on a personal and international scale. It also provides an ethical reflection on the war in the context of Europe's tumultuous twentieth century, highlighting why it has inspired some of the greatest writers of our time, and how it continues to resonate today in Britain, continental Europe, and beyond.

Throughout the book, the focus is on the war as an arena of social change where ideas about culture were forged or resisted, and in which both Spaniards and non-Spaniards participated alike. These were conflicts that during the Second World War would stretch from Franco's regime, which envisaged itself as part of the Nazi new order, to Europe and beyond. Accordingly, this book examines Spanish participation in European resistance movements during World War II and also the ongoing civil war waged politically, economically, judicially and culturally inside Spain by Francoism after its military victory in 1939. History writing itself became a battleground and the book charts the Franco regime's attempt to appropriate the past. It also indicates its ultimate failure - as evident in new writings on the war and, above all, in the return of Republican memory now occurring in Spain during the opening years of the twenty-first century.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-spanish-civil-war-a-very-short-introduction-9780192803771?cc=gb&lang=en&>

Italian Suggestions

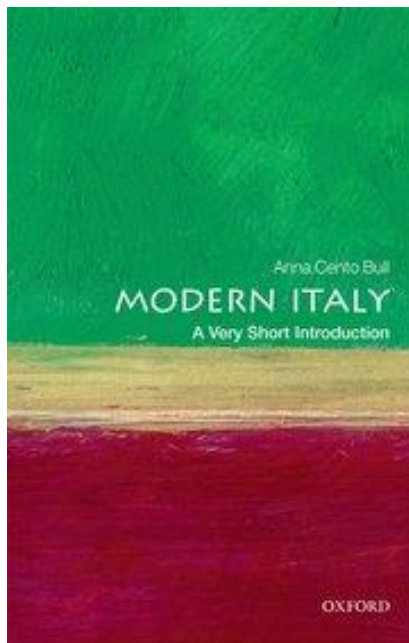
Questions of Identity

Extracted from John Hooper, *The Italians* (Penguin, 2015), pp.264-281.

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Anna Cento Bull, *Modern Italy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)



The history of modern Italy is characterized by recurrent cultural and political projects of modernity, rejuvenation, and regeneration; projects which often had their roots in a widespread dissatisfaction with social and political reality, and perceived moral corruption. The Risorgimento, the movement leading to Italian Unification in 1861, explicitly linked the quest for national unity to a process of moral regeneration and progress. Later forms of nationalism and the rise of fascism in the first two decades of the twentieth century advocated a spiritual revolution and the moulding of new Italians through war and violence. The tragic outcome of Italian fascism led to the emergence of new visions of progress during the post-war First Republic, in which European integration was embraced with conviction. In the last 25 years a project of modernization epitomized by Silvio Berlusconi has characterized Italian politics, invoking a mixture of nationalist themes and an uncritical embracing of consumer and media culture.

In this Very Short Introduction Anna Cento Bull addresses the question of what modernity means to Italy, and asks what modern Italy stands for. She considers Italy's political system and style of government, and looks at its economic modernisation and issues with emigration, internal migration and immigration. Bull concludes by looking at the Italian culture and lifestyle, including modern art and architecture, cinema, literature, gastronomy, fashion and sport.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/modern-italy-a-very-short-introduction-9780198726517?prevNumResPerPage=20&prevSortField=1&type=listing&start=380&lang=en&cc=gb>