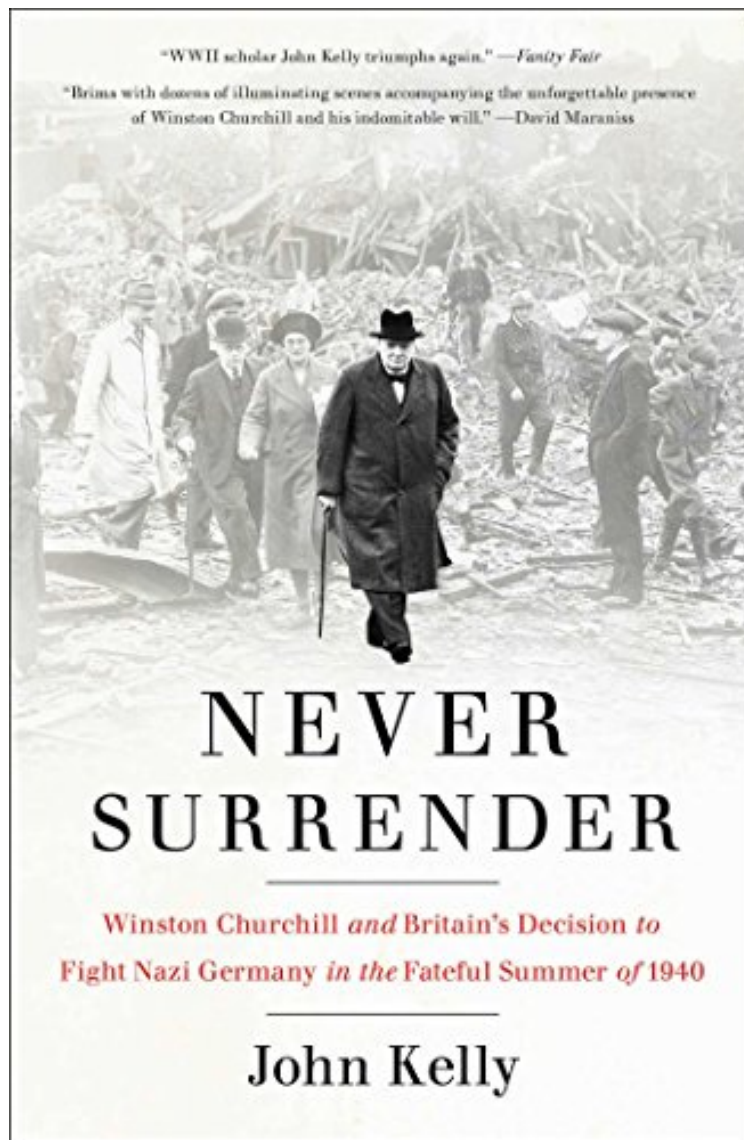


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Never Surrender: Winston Churchill and Britain's Decision to Fight Nazi Germany in the Fateful Summer of 1940

John Kelly

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John Kelly : Never Surrender: Winston Churchill and Britain's Decision to Fight Nazi Germany in the Fateful Summer of 1940 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Never Surrender: Winston Churchill and Britain's Decision to Fight Nazi Germany in the Fateful Summer of 1940:

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Downable Book!By Book Lover 22I love history well told, and this book delivers!! I could not put it down once I started. In this book, you are transported to a very anxious London as Hitler is plundering Europe and many in the British Parliament want appeasement while the people in countryside and London, remembering the toll of the last war, worry deeply. The author enables you to intimately feel a most dramatic and romantic time. And here is a Churchill not quite seen before: cunning and willing to resort to mild deceit to get his fellow Parliamentarians, especially his foes like Lord Halifax, to do the right thing. Even though I knew from history books what would happen, I was on the edge of my seat. Highly recommended for those especially interested in the subject as well as those who have never opened a World War Two book. Human drama, resolve and courage, warts and all, during an unforgettable era.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Another Brilliant Read by John KellyBy davidmarksI've been waiting for this one for months, and frankly, it was worth it.Never Surrender is yet another brilliant and masterful job by John Kelly, who, it must be noted, has never failed to grip me with his illustrative and generous prose and insights. This is the rare genius of an author/historian who, quite literally, brings to life one of the greatest men of the twentieth century. This is the unique and unequalled promise of Mr. Kelly, whose understanding of history is vast, and who can sift through the complexities of our past, and cast light on extraordinary moments in time, making them as real today, as they were when they occurred. This is the genius of a writer who can take us to yesterday, to a time where our very humanity was in peril, and show us how one man was able to transform the world, and change the course of global events.I am utterly thrilled to own this historical masterpiece, and I will proudly recommend it to lovers of history, to students everywhere, to those who wish to learn more about the power and grace of Churchill, and to those who simply yearn for great writing. This is a classic borne of yesterday, written for today, and no bookshelf will be complete without it. What a giant of a read!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Inspiring Read!By Elin Schoen BrockmanI'm not a WWII history buff, but one of my best friends is. And skimming through "Never Surrender" in order to decide whether to buy it for him, I got hooked – on page 22, to be exact, when the crime writer Margery Allingham enters what is essentially the story of Churchill's world-changing decision to take on, rather than appease, Nazi Germany. It is summer 1938. Hitler has annexed Austria and is about to grab the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia. Neville Chamberlain, Churchill's predecessor, has just made his hold-the-course speech, assuring Britons that their government is not about to rush into war over the Czech crisis. But this does not appease people's fears. In "an obscure Essex village whose sole distinction was its possession of one of the two surviving Maypoles in England," Margery Allingham is hosting a backyard meeting of the annual village cricket party. When the subject of Czechoslovakia comes up, Margery, who grew up during the devastating Great War, has "an astonishing thought:" "War, which had savaged the generation before hers, now seemed about to savage the generation after hers. The thought was so staggering, she found it 'hardly to be borne.'" The brilliance of John Kelly's meticulously documented account of the fall of Chamberlain, the rise of Churchill, and the impact of imminent war on the British people lies in its seamless interweaving of personal observations and anecdotes from the diaries of Allingham and others (from Mollie Painter Downes to Vera Brittain to Claire Boothe (Luce) to the foreign minister of Fascist Italy, Galeazzo Ciano) with vivid military and political narrative, making the book not only compulsively readable, but full of revelations that I'm pretty sure must be new even to those more familiar with this territory. Like my friend the history buff. (I bought us each a copy of the book, incidentally, and he loved it as much as I did.) I was impressed, too, by Kelly's ability – he's as talented a writer as he is a researcher – to move and inspire, not just to inform. The portrait he presents of Churchill is far more nuanced and accessible than the usual overblown depiction. In "Never Surrender" we experience in intimate detail The Great Man Out to Save the World instilling courage and forbearance into the hearts and souls of his own countrymen and women – again, through their eyes, often in their exact words. "He brought you up to his level," wrote Margery Allingham. And in the process of doing so, he not only became a hero; he created a nation of heroes.

"WWII scholar John Kelly triumphs again" (Vanity Fair) in this remarkably vivid account of a key moment in Western history: The critical six months in 1940 when Winston Churchill debated whether England should fight Nazi Germany—and then decided to "never surrender."London in April, 1940, is a place of great fear and conflict. The Germans have taken Poland, France, Holland, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia. The Nazi war machine now menaces Britain, even as America remains uncommitted to providing military aid. Should Britain negotiate with Germany? The members of the War Cabinet bicker, yell, and are divided. Churchill, leading the faction to fight, and Lord Halifax, cautioning that prudence is the way to survive, attempt to usurp one another by any means possible. In Never Surrender, we feel we are alongside these complex and imperfect men, determining the fate of the British Empire, and perhaps, the world. Drawing on the War Cabinet papers, other government documents, private diaries, newspaper accounts, and memoirs, historian John Kelly tells the story of the summer of 1940. Kelly takes readers from the battlefield to Parliament, to the government ministries, to the British high command, to the desperate Anglo-French conference in Paris and London, to the American embassy in London, and to life with the ordinary Britons. We see Churchill seize the historical moment and ultimately inspire his government, military, and people to fight. Kelly brings to life one of the most heroic moments of the twentieth century and intimately portrays some of its largest

players—Churchill, Lord Halifax, Hitler, FDR, Joe Kennedy, and others. *Never Surrender* is a fabulous, grand narrative of a crucial period in World War II and the men and women who shaped it. “For lovers of minute-by-minute history, it’s a feast” (Huffington Post).

"WWII scholar John Kelly triumphs again with *Never Surrender*." (Vanity Fair)“For lovers of minute-by-minute history, [*Never Surrender*] is a feast.” (Jesse Kornbluth at *Head Butler*)“With his masterly touch at bringing history alive, John Kelly makes his readers feel as though they are in anxious London during the fateful days of 1940. *Never Surrender* brims with dozens of illuminating scenes accompanying the unforgettable presence of Winston Churchill and his indomitable will.” (David Maraniss, author of *Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story*)"A glorious book." (Simon Winchester, author of *Pacific: Silicon Chips and Surfboards, Coral Reefs and Atom Bombs, Brutal Dictators, Fading Empires, and the Coming Collision of the World's Superpowers*)"This is an outstanding, gripping read by a popular historian. It blends colorful biographies, pungent anecdotes and a solid grasp of the great strategic issues that weighed on decision-makers in 1940." (Geoffrey Wawro, author of *A Mad Catastrophe: The Outbreak of World War I and the Collapse of the Habsburg Empire*)“John Kelly writes brilliantly.” (Judy Collins)About the AuthorJohn Kelly specializes in narrative history. He is the author of *The Graves Are Walking: The Great Famine and the Saga of the Irish People*; *The Great Mortality: An Intimate History of the Black Death; The Most Devastating Plague of all Time*; *Three on the Edge*; and more. Kelly lives in New York City and Sandisfield, Massachusetts.