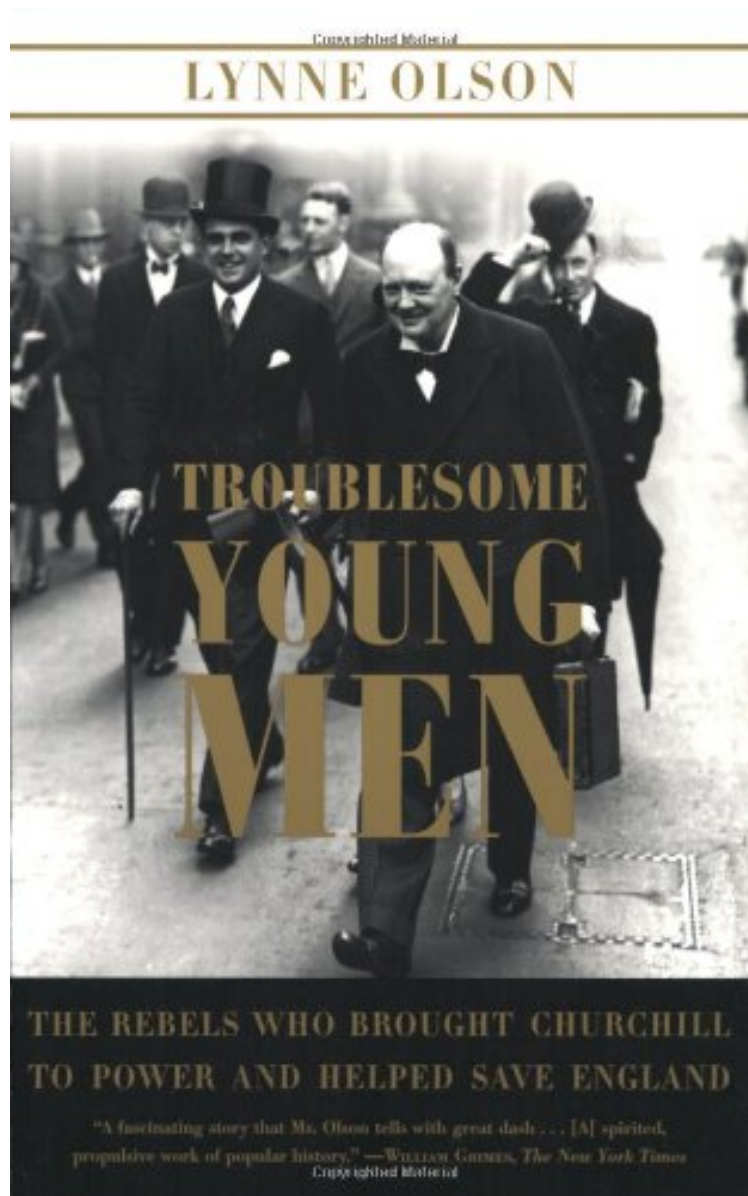


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Troublesome Young Men: The Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England

Lynne Olson

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Lynne Olson : Troublesome Young Men: The Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Troublesome Young Men: The Rebels Who Brought Churchill to Power and Helped Save England:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. As always for Olsen, EXCELLENT!!By Jim in GreenvilleAs always, Lynne Olsen has done an outstanding job of dissecting and analyzing British politics and events of the years before and during WWII. If you really thought that Churchill rose magically to prime minister after the failure of Chamberlain's appeasement approach to Hitler, read this book and you will see that it was a lot messier politics than that!! However, you will also learn the stories of all the "troublesome young men" who finally brought down the very powerful Chamberlain and paved the way for Churchill's ultimate rise to the leadership. If you are not interested in the details and all the personalities, then look for another book! But Olsen writes so well that those details are presented in a most interesting and readable style. You cannot go wrong with Lynne Olsen, especially on this period.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Events leading up to World War !! Remembered by a 90 year old woman!By Alma FoxI saw the book reviewed on C-Span. It read like Fiction and I went through it in two days! It was particularly relevant to me because I was 12 years old when the war began - I do not remember the names of all the participants except for Neville Chamberlain, Churchill and Anthony Eden. But I have a vivid memory of all the dramatic newsreels in the movie houses and the evacuation at Dunkirk. I lived in Cape Town in South Africa then and I remember the dozens of convoys of soldiers who came in to the port. Amazingly, at the time there was no security at the docks and anyone could visit the ships and were taken on board sightseeing!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ReadBy P SavaniI have read a number of books on World War II, but had not read about Britain and the years just prior. This book filled in a lot of gaps for me and reminded me that what seems so obvious looking back is often not at all obvious at the time of the event. The more history I read the more I understand the phrase that history repeats itself. The players change but the circumstances and the response to those circumstances change very little.

A riveting history of the daring politicians who challenged the disastrous policies of the British government on the eve of World War IIOn May 7, 1940, the House of Commons began perhaps the most crucial debate in British parliamentary history. On its outcome hung the future of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's government and also of Britain?indeed, perhaps, the world. Troublesome Young Men is Lynne Olson's fascinating account of how a small group of rebellious Tory MPs defied the Chamberlain government's defeatist policies that aimed to appease Europe's tyrants and eventually forced the prime minister's resignation.Some historians dismiss the "phony war" that preceded this turning point?from September 1939, when Britain and France declared war on Germany, to May 1940, when Winston Churchill became prime minister?as a time of waiting and inaction, but Olson makes no such mistake, and describes in dramatic detail the public unrest that spread through Britain then, as people realized how poorly prepared the nation was to confront Hitler, how their basic civil liberties were being jeopardized, and also that there were intrepid politicians willing to risk political suicide to spearhead the opposition to Chamberlain?Harold Macmillan, Robert Boothby, Leo Amery, Ronald Cartland, and Lord Robert Cranborne among them. The political and personal dramas that played out in Parliament and in the nation as Britain faced the threat of fascism virtually on its own are extraordinary?and, in Olson's hands, downright inspiring.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . In 1930s England, faced with the gathering menace of fascism, 30 or so junior members of Parliament understood that Hitler would not be dissuaded by Prime Minister Chamberlain's policy of appeasement. Their rebellion against their leader and the "elderly mediocrities" of their own Conservative Party is the subject of Olson's absorbing book. The forces opposed to Chamberlain were initially inhibited by party loyalty and the ferocious reprisals threatened against anyone who challenged the prime minister. Olson traces how Hitler's continuing depredations (Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland) served to recruit more insurgents in the House of Commons and galvanize those shamed by England's inaction. Olson's story picks up energy as she reviews the events of 1940, when at long last Chamberlain was replaced by Churchill. Olson is interested in the moral imperatives driving her protagonists. The dominant figure in the narrative, of course, is Churchill, who despised Chamberlain's defeatism but served loyally in his cabinet until Chamberlain's forced resignation. Infused with the sense of urgency felt by the young Tories, Olson's vivid narrative of a critical generational clash leaves the reader wondering what might have happened had they prevailed earlier on. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistHistorians have attacked the problem of explaining Britain's appeasement policy of the late 1930s from every conceivable angle; Olson approaches it through the House of Commons. She integrates an expression of its parliamentary customs with a narrative of the political maneuvers of a small number of Tories who opposed placating Nazi Germany. Through biographical sketches of the antiappeasers, several of whom contemporary opinion tipped as future prime ministers (as three became in fact: Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden, and Harold Macmillan), Olson develops at least one difficulty they faced in challenging Neville Chamberlain: to get along one had to go along, and the price of opposition could be political ruination. The instances of such retribution by Chamberlain's lieutenants illuminate a degree of caution in the antiappeasers' actions, which Olson plentifully details in their parliamentary speeches. Their calculations of when to strike animate her account, and her well-organized research into this crucial background to Churchill's elevation to the premiership in May 1940 should gain readers interested in this fateful period in history. Gilbert TaylorCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "A well-

written, fast-paced book that reads like a political thriller . . . Troublesome Young Men is an extraordinary tale of political courage in perilous times—and a wonderfully written book.” ?Terry Hartle, Christian Science Monitor “[A] riveting book . . . Olson tells her story with verve, never letting the reader forget what was really at risk--and what might have happened if these particular troublemakers hadn't been so willing to stir the political pot.” ?The Atlantic Monthly “During the 1930s, as the rise of Nazism threatened western civilization, Winston Churchill's was a lonely voice warning of the coming danger, opposing the British government's policy of appeasement and urging immediate rearmament. Lonely, but not entirely alone. For a few younger Tory members of Parliament held similar views about the German threat, though they did not necessarily agree with Churchill on other issues. The odds were against them, and in attacking their own party's leaders they put their careers at risk, but in the end they and their allies prevailed: Neville Chamberlain and his defeatist government were overthrown, opening up the room at the top that Churchill so famously filled. Lynne Olson has seized upon their wonderful but neglected story and has told it with verve. It is a riveting tale, immensely readable, that brings to history the excitement of a novel.” ?David Fromkin, author of Europe's Last Summer