A Concise History of France

This book provides a clear and well-informed guide to French history from the early Middle Ages to the present – from Charlemagne to Chirac. It offers the most up-to-date and comprehensive study of French history available. Among the book’s central themes are the relationship between state and society, the impact of war and such crucial questions as who possessed political power and how this power was used. It takes account of the great figures in French history, among them Philip Augustus, Henri IV, Louis XIV, Robespierre, Napoleon, de Gaulle, and also the findings of social historians concerned with ordinary people, social structures, beliefs, and economic activity. This second edition, substantially re-written to take account of recent research, includes a new chapter on contemporary France – a society and political system in crisis as a result of globalisation, international terrorism, racial tension, and a loss of confidence in political leaders.

Roger Price is Professor of History at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He has written extensively on French history; his latest publications include The French Second Empire: an anatomy of political power (2001) and People and politics in France, 1848–1870 (2004).
This is a series of illustrated ‘concise histories’ of selected individual countries, intended both as university and college textbooks and as general historical introductions for general readers, travellers, and members of the business community.

For a list of titles in the series, see end of book.
A Concise History of France

SECOND EDITION

ROGER PRICE
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A concise national history written for an international readership presents an opportunity and a challenge. The local reader looks for the familiar landmarks. The overseas reader, on the other hand, has little familiarity with them. A narrative history composed of the standard fare is unlikely to explain Australia to those who do not bring some prior knowledge to it; a roll-call of names will be of little assistance to those who have not encountered them before. A concise history of Mexico / p. cm. (Cambridge concise histories). Includes bibliographical references. isbn 0 521 58120 6 (hb). isbn 0 521 58916 9 (pbk). 1. Mexico History. i. Title. ii. Series. F1226.H36 1999.