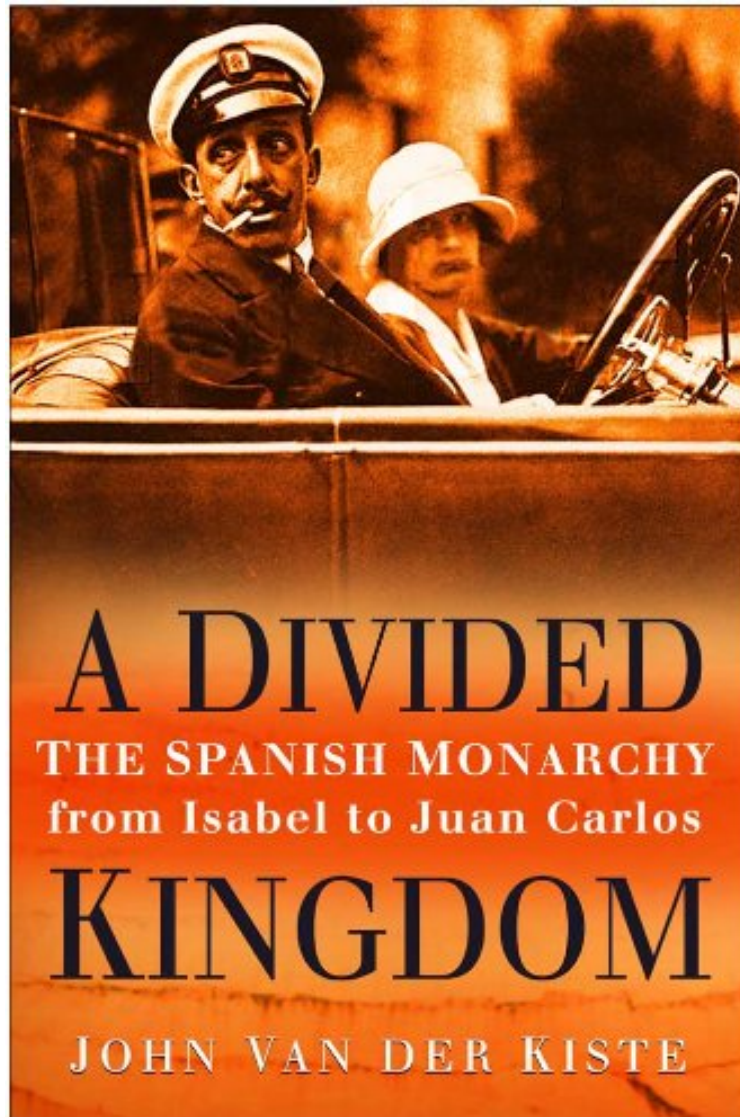


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Divided Kingdom: The Spanish Monarchy

Von John van der Kiste
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Von John van der Kiste : Divided Kingdom: The Spanish Monarchy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Divided Kingdom: The Spanish Monarchy:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Entertaining, but flat and above all only the British views on Spanish Royalty Von Amelrode John Van Der Kiste is one of my favourite authors as he has the unique talent of getting to the personalities of the persons he is writing about. His works on British royalty in particular is fantastic. I enjoy his style of writing as it is fluent, elegant and in general there is a great flow. However, "A Divided Kingdom: The Spanish Monarchy, from Isabel to Juan Carlos" will not go down

as my favourite book by him. While being his usual self with regards to style in writing he does not match his other works in terms of content. This is first of all a book about the Spanish sovereign and their personalities. So the political history of the monarchy remains often vague, unclear and disconnected from the main acting personalities. But even his description of the kings and queens remains on the surface, never gets deep and offers new and convincing insides. If one has never ever read anything on the royal Spanish House and family one might be satisfied with it as it offers one a first inside, however even on this basis one is left dissatisfied. It seems to me that John Van Der Kiste has not at all consulted original Spanish sources. His bibliography is quite revealing in this sense. Therefore he never gets to the bottom of things and presents more or less the picture from the British sources he seems to have consulted. This is really disappointing from a renowned author like von der Kiste. So the real deep understanding of the personalities, their time and Spain during this period of time is missing. Still it is an entertaining book, but it remains only on the surface

Kurzbeschreibung There is little available on the dramatic and colourful history of the Spanish monarchy. Experienced author and historian John Van der Kiste provides a readable and anecdotal look at one of the key European dynasties from the nineteenth century to the present. He begins with the wayward, ill-educated Isabella II, who was forced to marry her nephew. During much of her reign power was in the hands of her generals and her exile and abdication saw the crown of Spain hawked round Europe for two years. It was briefly accepted then refused by Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen - thus starting the Franco-Prussian War - and, after a short, unsuccessful stint as a republic, the monarchy was restored when Isabella's son Alfonso XIII was chosen as King. John Van der Kiste leads us through his popular reign, the reign of his son - who married one of Queen Victoria's granddaughters - and the socialist movement in Spain after the Great War which led to the dictatorship of Primo de Rovera. Finishing with the Spanish Civil War, the 'reign' of General Franco and the return of the monarchy with the present King, Juan Carlos, this is a fascinating look at the Spanish Bourbons.

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