

kaputt curzio malaparte

Kaputt Curzio Malaparte: Exploring the Masterpiece of War Literature

kaputt curzio malaparte is more than just the title of a book; it represents a vivid, haunting journey into the heart of World War II through the eyes of one of Italy's most controversial writers. Curzio Malaparte's *Kaputt* remains a seminal work that blends journalism, memoir, and novelistic flair to offer readers a unique perspective on the chaos and brutality of war. If you're interested in war literature, historical memoirs, or the turbulent European theatre of the 1940s, *Kaputt* is a compelling read that continues to resonate decades after its publication.

The Origins of Kaputt and Its Author, Curzio Malaparte

Curzio Malaparte, born as Kurt Erich Suckert in 1898, was an Italian writer, journalist, and diplomat known for his sharp critiques and sometimes contradictory political stances. His pen name "Malaparte," which means "bad side" or "evil side" in Italian, reflects his complex personality and the provocative nature of his works. Throughout his career, he was often at odds with fascist authorities, yet he also engaged in activities that blurred ideological lines.

Kaputt, written during the early 1940s but published in 1944 in Italian and later translated into multiple languages, came out during the height of World War II. The book is largely based on Malaparte's own experiences as a war correspondent, traveling through war-torn Eastern Europe, witnessing the devastation firsthand.

What Makes Kaputt Curzio Malaparte a Unique War Memoir?

Unlike traditional war accounts that might focus solely on military strategies or political narratives, *Kaputt* delves deep into the personal, human side of conflict. Malaparte's writing is rich with surreal, sometimes grotesque imagery, painting a picture of a world that is both absurd and tragic. His prose is poetic yet brutally honest, often oscillating between detached observation and emotional intensity.

A Blend of Reality and Fiction

Kaputt is often described as a semi-autobiographical novel or a "literary reportage." This means that while much of what Malaparte recounts is grounded in actual events, he employs literary devices to enhance the narrative. Characters might be composites, and scenes are sometimes heightened to underscore the horror or irony of the situation. This

blending of fact and fiction challenges readers to consider not just what happened but how war distorts reality itself.

The Eastern Front Perspective

One of the standout features of Kaputt is its focus on the Eastern Front, a theatre of war less commonly covered in Western literature compared to the Western Front or Pacific battles. Malaparte traveled through places like Poland, Ukraine, and the Soviet Union at a time when Nazi atrocities were unfolding. His descriptions of the suffering endured by civilians and soldiers alike shed light on the complexities and inhumanity of the conflict.

Key Themes in Kaputt Curzio Malaparte

Reading Kaputt reveals several recurring themes that contribute to its enduring impact. Understanding these themes can deepen appreciation for Malaparte's work and the historical context it captures.

The Absurdity and Horror of War

Malaparte doesn't shy away from depicting the grotesque elements of war—the grotesque violence, the displacement of entire populations, and the moral ambiguity of those involved. He highlights the absurdity of human behavior under extreme circumstances, where cruelty and kindness can exist side by side.

Humanity Amid Destruction

Despite the bleakness, Kaputt also explores moments of unexpected humanity. Malaparte recounts scenes where individuals reach out to one another, transcending the hatred and division that war breeds. These glimpses of compassion and resilience offer a counterbalance to the pervasive despair.

The Role of Propaganda and Perception

As a journalist and observer, Malaparte was keenly aware of how propaganda shaped public perception during the war. Kaputt reveals how narratives were constructed, manipulated, and believed—or doubted—by those living through the conflict. This theme remains relevant today in discussions about media and information warfare.

Kaputt's Literary Style and Impact

Malaparte's writing style in *Kaputt* is distinctive and influential. His approach has been praised for its vivid imagery, evocative descriptions, and a tone that moves fluidly between cynicism and empathy.

Poetic Realism

Kaputt is often described as an example of "poetic realism," where the harsh realities of life are presented with a lyrical quality. This style invites readers to engage emotionally and intellectually, making the horrors of war not just facts to be known but experiences to be felt.

Influence on War Literature

Kaputt has inspired numerous writers and critics in the genre of war literature. Its combination of reportage and literary creativity paved the way for works that go beyond straightforward historical accounts to capture the psychological and moral dimensions of war.

Tips for Reading *Kaputt* Curzio Malaparte

Kaputt is a dense and sometimes challenging read, but with a few strategies, you can get the most out of this powerful book.

- **Familiarize Yourself with Historical Context:** Understanding the major events of World War II, particularly on the Eastern Front, will help you grasp the significance of Malaparte's observations.
- **Don't Expect a Linear Narrative:** *Kaputt* is episodic and sometimes fragmented. Embrace its non-linear storytelling as part of the experience.
- **Pay Attention to Imagery and Symbolism:** Malaparte's descriptive passages often carry deeper meanings beyond their surface.
- **Reflect on the Moral Ambiguities:** Be open to the complex portrayals of characters and situations that defy simple categorization.

Kaputt Curzio Malaparte in the Modern Literary Landscape

Even decades after its release, Kaputt remains a significant reference point for those interested in war narratives and Italian literature. Its raw honesty and literary innovation continue to attract scholars, historians, and casual readers alike.

Translations and Editions

Kaputt has been translated into many languages, making Malaparte's insights accessible worldwide. Different editions often include forewords or commentary that help contextualize the work for contemporary audiences.

Adaptations and Cultural References

While Kaputt has not been widely adapted into film or theater, its influence permeates various cultural discussions about World War II and the nature of storytelling under extreme conditions. It is frequently cited in academic works and appears on recommended reading lists for courses in history and literature.

Engaging with Kaputt Curzio Malaparte offers more than just a glimpse into a turbulent past; it provides a lens through which to examine the enduring complexities of human conflict and resilience. Whether you're a history buff, a lover of literary memoirs, or someone curious about the human condition in times of war, Kaputt promises a profound and unforgettable experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Kaputt' by Curzio Malaparte about?

'Kaputt' is a semi-autobiographical novel by Curzio Malaparte that provides a vivid and harrowing account of World War II, focusing on the Eastern Front and the brutal realities faced by soldiers and civilians.

Who was Curzio Malaparte, the author of 'Kaputt'?

Curzio Malaparte was an Italian writer, journalist, and diplomat known for his controversial and vivid literary works, including 'Kaputt' and 'The Skin,' which depict the horrors of war and fascism.

When was 'Kaputt' by Curzio Malaparte first published?

'Kaputt' was first published in 1944, during the final years of World War II, offering a contemporary and eyewitness perspective on the conflict.

What themes are explored in 'Kaputt' by Curzio Malaparte?

'Kaputt' explores themes such as the brutality and absurdity of war, the moral decay of society, human suffering, and the contrast between civilization and barbarism.

Why is 'Kaputt' considered an important war novel?

'Kaputt' is considered important because of its unflinching and poetic portrayal of the suffering caused by World War II, blending reportage and literary style to reveal the psychological and physical devastation of war.

How does Curzio Malaparte's background influence the narrative in 'Kaputt'?

Malaparte's experience as a war correspondent and his complex political background provide him with unique insights and access, allowing him to depict both the frontlines and high-level wartime diplomacy in 'Kaputt'.

What is the significance of the title 'Kaputt'?

The title 'Kaputt,' meaning 'broken' or 'destroyed' in German, symbolizes the shattered lives, destroyed landscapes, and broken morality witnessed during World War II, which are central to the novel's narrative.

Additional Resources

Kaputt Curzio Malaparte: An Analytical Review of a Controversial War Memoir

kaputt curzio malaparte stands as a seminal work in the canon of World War II literature, offering readers a stark, unvarnished portrayal of the chaos and brutality that defined the conflict. Authored by Curzio Malaparte, an Italian writer and journalist known for his complex political stance and vivid narrative style, Kaputt transcends conventional war reporting to become a profound meditation on human suffering, absurdity, and the fragile nature of civilization under siege. This article delves into the multifaceted dimensions of Kaputt, exploring its historical context, literary significance, thematic depth, and the controversies that surround its author and reception.

Historical and Literary Context of Kaputt Curzio

Malaparte

Kaputt, published in 1944, is a semi-autobiographical account based on Malaparte's experiences as a war correspondent for the Italian Fascist regime. The book chronicles the Eastern Front of World War II, particularly focusing on the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. Unlike traditional war memoirs that often glorify military exploits or adhere strictly to political ideology, Malaparte's narrative is marked by a brutal honesty and surreal imagery that challenge the reader's perceptions of heroism and villainy.

The historical backdrop of Kaputt is essential to understanding its impact. Written during the latter part of the war, the work captures the disintegration of the Axis powers and the moral ambiguities inherent in wartime alliances. Malaparte's firsthand observations of atrocities committed by both Axis and Soviet forces provide a rare, unfiltered glimpse into the human cost of ideological conflict. His ambivalent political position—initially a supporter, later a critic of Fascism—adds layers of complexity to the text, positioning Kaputt as both a historical document and a literary experiment.

Stylistic Features and Narrative Techniques

One of the defining characteristics of Kaputt is its unique narrative style, which blends journalistic reportage with poetic and surreal elements. Malaparte employs vivid, often grotesque imagery to depict scenes of devastation, creating a hallucinatory effect that underscores the absurdity of war. This approach distances Kaputt from conventional war memoirs that rely on chronological, fact-based storytelling.

Malaparte's prose oscillates between detached observation and intense emotional engagement. His use of symbolism and metaphor often elevates the narrative to an almost mythic level, while his candid depictions of violence and human degradation ground the work in grim reality. This juxtaposition has led literary critics to categorize Kaputt as a pioneering work of modernist war literature.

Thematic Exploration in Kaputt

At its core, Kaputt is an exploration of the collapse of civilization under the pressures of war. Several interwoven themes emerge throughout the text, each contributing to a nuanced understanding of the conflict and its broader implications.

The Absurdity of War

Malaparte's portrayal of war is steeped in absurdity and paradox. Scenes of lavish banquets held amidst destruction, or conversations between enemy officers that reveal shared moments of humanity, highlight the contradictions inherent in warfare. This theme challenges traditional narratives that frame war in terms of clear-cut good versus evil, instead presenting it as a chaotic, unpredictable force that defies simple moral

categorization.

Human Suffering and Moral Ambiguity

Kaputt spares no detail in its depiction of human suffering, from the physical hardships endured by soldiers and civilians to the psychological toll of witnessing atrocities. Malaparte does not shy away from implicating multiple parties in acts of cruelty, reflecting the moral ambiguity that pervades the wartime experience. This impartiality has been both praised and criticized, as it complicates straightforward interpretations of culpability.

The Fragility of Civilization

Another prominent theme is the fragility of societal structures when confronted by the forces of war. Kaputt illustrates how cultural achievements and norms quickly dissolve in the face of violence, exposing the thin veneer of civility that separates order from chaos. Malaparte's detailed descriptions of destroyed cities, displaced populations, and ruined landmarks serve as poignant reminders of this vulnerability.

Controversies and Reception of Kaputt Curzio Malaparte

The reception of Kaputt has been deeply polarized, influenced by both its content and the contentious figure of its author. Curzio Malaparte's political affiliations and shifting loyalties have led to debates about the reliability and intent behind his narrative.

Author's Political Ambiguity

Malaparte's complex relationship with Fascism—initially an adherent, later a dissident—casts a shadow over the work. Some critics argue that Kaputt serves as a veiled critique of Fascist ideology, while others perceive it as a subtle defense or an opportunistic attempt to distance himself from the regime. This ambiguity complicates the task of interpreting Kaputt solely as an anti-war statement or political manifesto.

Literary Criticism and Legacy

Despite—or perhaps because of—its controversies, Kaputt has secured a lasting place in 20th-century literature. It has been lauded for its innovative style, psychological insight, and unflinching examination of war's horrors. Comparisons have been drawn between Kaputt and other major war narratives such as Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, with Malaparte's work distinguished by its

blend of reportage and surrealism.

Nevertheless, some scholars criticize Kaputt for occasional factual inaccuracies and embellishments, questioning the balance between truth and artistic license. This tension reflects the broader challenges faced by war literature in reconciling subjective experience with historical reality.

Impact on War Journalism and Literature

Kaputt's influence extends beyond its immediate literary sphere, shaping the evolution of war journalism and narrative nonfiction. Malaparte's immersive, often experimental approach prefigured later developments in literary journalism, where personal perspective and evocative storytelling became integral to reportage.

Key Features of Kaputt Curzio Malaparte

- **First-person narrative:** Rooted in Malaparte's direct experiences, providing immediacy and authenticity.
- **Blend of genres:** Combines journalism, memoir, and literary fiction.
- **Surreal imagery:** Use of vivid, often disturbing metaphors to convey the chaos of war.
- **Political ambivalence:** Reflects the author's complex ideological journey during a turbulent era.
- **Focus on human psychology:** Explores the mental and emotional impact of warfare on individuals.

Comparative Analysis: Kaputt Versus Other War Memoirs

When placed alongside other notable war memoirs, Kaputt distinguishes itself through its stylistic and thematic boldness. Unlike straightforward accounts such as Winston Churchill's wartime writings or traditional military histories, Kaputt embraces ambiguity and surrealism as central narrative tools. Its willingness to depict both Axis and Allied forces in a critical light contrasts with more partisan war literature, offering a nuanced perspective that challenges simplistic dichotomies.

Moreover, Kaputt's emphasis on cultural and psychological disintegration sets it apart

from memoirs focused solely on battlefield tactics or political analysis. This comprehensive approach enriches the reader's understanding of World War II's multifaceted impact.

In sum, *Kaputt* Curzio Malaparte remains a provocative, indispensable work for those seeking a deeper, more textured exploration of the Second World War. Its enduring relevance lies in its capacity to confront uncomfortable truths and illuminate the paradoxes at the heart of human conflict.

[Kaputt Curzio Malaparte](#)

kaputt curzio malaparte: *Kaputt* Curzio Malaparte, 1982 Curzio Malaparte was a disaffected supporter of Mussolini with a taste for danger and high living. Sent by an Italian paper during World War II to cover the fighting on the Eastern Front, Malaparte secretly wrote this terrifying report from the abyss, which became an international bestseller when it was published after the war. Telling of the siege of Leningrad, of glittering dinner parties with Nazi leaders, and of trains disgorging bodies in war-devastated Romania, Malaparte paints a picture of humanity at its most depraved. *Kaputt* is an insider's dispatch from the world of the enemy that is as hypnotically fascinating as it is disturbing. Book jacket.

kaputt curzio malaparte: Kaputt- RÚSTICA Curzio Malaparte, 2012-05 Coincidiendo con el inicio de la ofensiva alemana contra Rusia, Curzio Malaparte empezó a escribir *Kaputt*, obra con la que pretendía recoger el testimonio de su experiencia como corresponsal de guerra durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Malaparte recorre la Europa ocupada por los nazis como si fuera un espía: presencia la triste impotencia del príncipe Eugenio de Suecia, se ve obligado a sobrellevar la arrogancia de los líderes nazis delegados en Varsovia y es testigo de la crudeza de los parajes de la fría Carelia o de la noble ciudad de Iasi, desolados por la barbarie y el hambre que convirtieron Europa en un montón de chatarra. Con *Kaputt* – palabra germánica que evoca lo roto, lo hecho añicos, y que deviene un fiel calificativo de lo que quedó de un continente devastado por un lustro de destrucción – Malaparte teje una sobrecogedora obra literaria sobre la realidad, a un tiempo salvaje y grotesca, de la guerra en el frente. Galaxia Gutenberg presenta en una nueva traducción la versión íntegra de unos de los más fascinantes documentos sobre la guerra que haya alumbrado el siglo XX, poniendo así punto y final a una compleja peripecia editorial que se ha dilatado en el tiempo desde que se publicó por primera vez en 1944. «Con *Kaputt*, (Malaparte) no sólo escribió un libro importante, sino que encontró una forma que es una completa novedad y que le pertenece sólo a él.» Milan Kundera.

kaputt curzio malaparte: Curzio Malaparte Sabine Witt, 2022-08-10 Curzio Malaparte (1898-1957) unter Zeitgenossen als Exzentriker bekannt, Schriftsteller, Journalist und skandalumwitterter Individualist und Opportunist aus Prato, Toskana, ist auch der Nachwelt in ambivalenter Erinnerung geblieben. Und das nicht nur durch sein literarisches Werk, sondern auch durch seine schillernde Persönlichkeit, seine manière de vivre und seinen politischen Wankelmut. Hierzulande lange in Vergessenheit geraten, erlebt er seit den 1990er Jahren ein Comeback in Deutschland. Sabine Witt gibt einen Überblick über Malapartes Vita und analysiert sein Erzählwerk. Im Mittelpunkt ihrer Analyse steht die unnachahmliche Erzählweise des Autors sowie deren Besonderheiten im Umgang des omnipräsenten Ich-Erzählers mit der der historischen Wirklichkeit.

kaputt curzio malaparte: Kaputt/ translated from the Italian by Cesare Foligno; afterword by Dan Hofstadter Curzio Malaparte, 2005-06-30 Curzio Malaparte was a disaffected supporter of Mussolini with a taste for danger and high living. Sent by an Italian paper during World War II to cover the fighting on the Eastern Front, Malaparte secretly wrote this terrifying report from the abyss, which became an international bestseller when it was published after the war.

Telling of the siege of Leningrad, of glittering dinner parties with Nazi leaders, and of trains disgorging bodies in war-devastated Romania, Malaparte paints a picture of humanity at its most depraved. Kaputt is an insider's dispatch from the world of the enemy that is as hypnotically fascinating as it is disturbing.

kaputt curzio malaparte: Ästhetik des Bösen Peter-André Alt, 2010 Inhalt Das Böse ist für die Literatur seit der Romantik ein Objekt der offenen Anziehung und lustvoll inszenierten Sympathie. Peter-André Alt erschließt in seinem Werk die Geheimnisse einer unmoralischen Literatur, die das Böse als ästhetisches Phänomen jenseits aller Werte sichtbar werden lässt. Erzählt wird auf diese Weise eine andere Geschichte des Schönen, von der Nachtseite der europäischen Moderne. Wie keine andere Kunstform vermag die Literatur das Böse in imaginären Szenerien und Personen zur Anschauung zu bringen. In den überlieferten Figuren des Mythos und den Schreckgestalten des Aberglaubens empfängt es körperliche Präsenz; in psychologischen Novellen und Fallgeschichten erhält es seelische Tiefenschärfe; im Drama gewinnt es die unausweichliche Wucht einer verhängnisvollen Geschehensdynamik. Erst seit der Romantik löst sich die Literatur jedoch von den Zwängen einer moralischen Sichtweise auf die Erscheinungsformen der Sünde. Die moderne Literatur wird unmoralisch in einem programmatischen Sinn und entdeckt die ästhetischen Reize des Bösen in den Sensationen des Verbrechens, den Abgründen des Triebs und den Schrecken der Gewalt. Peter-André Alt geht den verschiedenen literarischen Genres und Formen nach, in denen moderne Texte ihre Lust am Bösen kultivieren. Von Goethe über E.T.A. Hoffmann, Shelley, Baudelaire, Huysmans, Wilde, George, Kafka bis zu Jünger, Genet, Kertész und Littell wird eine Phänomenologie des Bösen erkundet, die bis heute ein moralisches Skandalon bedeutet.

kaputt curzio malaparte: Nicht wahr?... Curzio Malaparte, 1966

kaputt curzio malaparte: Kaputt Curzio Malaparte, 1961

kaputt curzio malaparte: Men At War: What Fiction Tells us About Conflict, From The Iliad to Catch-22 Christopher Coker, 2014-05-01 Since Achilles first stormed into our imagination, literature has introduced its readers to truly unforgettable martial characters. In Men at War, Christopher Coker discusses some of the most famous of these fictional creations and their impact on our understanding of war and masculinity. Grouped into five archetypes-warriors, heroes, villains, survivors and victims-these characters range across 3000 years of history, through epic poems, the modern novel and one of the twentieth century's most famous film scripts. Great authors like Homer and Tolstoy show us aspects of reality invisible except through a literary lens, while fictional characters such as Achilles and Falstaff, Robert Jordan and Jack Aubrey, are not just larger than life; they are life's largeness-and this is why we seek them out. Although the Greeks knew that the lovers, wives and mothers of soldiers are the chief victims of battle, for the combatants, war is a masculine pursuit. Each of Coker's chapters explores what fiction tells us about war's appeal to young men and the way it makes- and breaks-them. The existential appeal of war too is perhaps best conveyed in fictional accounts, and these too are scrutinized by the author.

kaputt curzio malaparte: Transcultural Diplomacy and International Law in Heritage Conservation Olimpia Niglio, Eric Yong Joong Lee, 2021-05-02 This book provides a substantial contribution to understanding the international legal framework for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage. It offers a range of perspectives from well-regarded contributors from different parts of the world on the impact of law in heritage conservation. Through a holistic approach, the authors bring the reader into dialogue around the intersection between the humanities and legal sciences, demonstrating the reciprocity of interaction in programs and projects to enhance cultural heritage in the world. This edited volume compiles a selection of interesting reflections on the role of cultural diplomacy to address intolerances that often govern international relations, causing damage to human and cultural heritage. The main purpose of this collection of essays is to analyse the different cultural paradigms that intervene in the management of heritage, and to advocate for improvements in international laws and conventions to enable better cultural policies of individual nations for the protection of human rights. The editors submit that it is only through open dialogue between the humanities and jurisprudence that the international community will be able to better

protect and value sovereignty, and promote cultural heritage for the development of a better world. This collection is relevant to scholars working in areas relating to law, management and policies of cultural heritage conservation and protection.

kaputt curzio malaparte: The Literature of Absolute War Nil Santiáñez, 2020-05-28 This book explores for the first time the literature of absolute war in connection to World War II. From a transnational and comparative standpoint, it addresses a set of theoretical, historical, and literary questions, shedding new light on the nature of absolute war, the literature on the world war of 1939-45, and modern war writing in general. It determines the main features of the language of absolute war, and how it gravitates around fundamental semantic clusters, such as the horror, terror, and the specter. The Literature of Absolute War studies the variegated responses given by literary authors to the extreme and seemingly unsolvable challenges posed by absolute war to epistemology, ethics, and language. It also delves into the different poetics that articulate the writing on absolute war, placing special emphasis on four literary practices: traditional realism, traumatic realism, the fantastic, and catastrophic modernism.

kaputt curzio malaparte: European Memories of the Second World War Helmut Peitsch, Charles Burdett, Claire Gorrara, 2006 During the fifty years since the end of hostilities, European literary memories of the war have undergone considerable change, influenced by the personal experiences of writers as well as changing political, social, and cultural factors. This volume examines changing ways of remembering the war in the literatures of France, Germany, and Italy; changes in the subject of memory, and in the relations between fiction, autobiography, and documentary, with the focus being on the extent to which shared European memories of the war have been constructed.

kaputt curzio malaparte: Die Rattenlinie – ein Nazi auf der Flucht Philippe Sands, 2020-11-25 Eine unfassbare Geschichte über die legendäre Fluchtroute der Nazis vom Vatikan nach Argentinien: Meisterhaft entspinnt der bekannte Menschenrechtsanwalt Philippe Sands eine unfassbare Geschichte über Liebe, Intrigen und Spionage. Er erzählt von Leben, Flucht und Tod des SS-Offiziers Otto Wächter, ab 1942 NS-Gouverneur von Galizien. Nach 1945 als Massenmörder gesucht, gelang ihm die abenteuerliche Flucht in den Vatikan. Doch bevor er von dort – beschützt vom berüchtigten Bischof Hudal – über die Rattenlinie weiterflüchten konnte, starb er 1949 überraschend. Jahrzehnte später begegnet Philippe Sands Ottos Sohn Horst Wächter – der Beginn einer komplexen Ermittlung: Horst behauptet, sein Vater sei vergiftet worden. Sands beschließt, die Wahrheit herauszufinden. Und Horst zu beweisen, dass sein Vater für den Mord an Zehntausenden Menschen verantwortlich war. Ausgehend von den privaten Briefen und Tagebüchern der Familie Wächter und auf Basis zahlreicher Dokumente aus Archiven, gelingt Sands ein intimes, verstörendes Porträt des SS-Mannes und seiner Frau. Zugleich deckt er Intrigen, Korruption und Spionage rund um die Fluchthilfe für NS-Kriegsverbrecher aus dem Vatikan auf. Und er lässt uns teilhaben an seinen Begegnungen mit Horst Wächter – und damit an der unwahrscheinlichen Beziehung zweier Männer, die auf unterschiedlichen Seiten der Geschichte stehen. »Eine fesselnde Reise durch die Zeit und ein Porträt des Bösen in all seiner Komplexität, Banalität und Selbstgerechtigkeit.« Stephen Fry

kaputt curzio malaparte: East West Street Philippe Sands, 2016-05-26 THE BRITISH BOOK AWARDS NON-FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 WINNER OF THE BAILLIE GIFFORD PRIZE and THE JQ-WINGATE LITERARY PRIZE THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP 10 BESTSELLER 'A monumental achievement: profoundly personal, told with love, anger and great precision' John le Carré 'One of the most gripping and powerful books imaginable' SUNDAY TIMES When he receives an invitation to deliver a lecture in the Ukrainian city of Lviv, international lawyer Philippe Sands begins a journey on the trail of his family's secret history. In doing so, he uncovers an astonishing series of coincidences that lead him halfway across the world, to the origins of international law at the Nuremberg trial. Interweaving the stories of the two Nuremberg prosecutors (Hersch Lauterpacht and Rafael Lemkin) who invented the crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, the Nazi governor responsible for the murder of thousands in and around Lviv (Hans Frank), and incredible

acts of wartime bravery, *EAST WEST STREET* is an unforgettable blend of memoir and historical detective story, and a powerful meditation on the way memory, crime and guilt leave scars across generations. WINNER OF THE HAY FESTIVAL MEDAL FOR PROSE 2017

kaputt curzio malaparte: *Betting on Famine* Jean Ziegler, 2010-04-20 “The seminal book on global poverty and hunger . . . How rapacious speculators and complicit bureaucrats are starving a billion people” (Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Watch and author of *Foodopoly*). Few people know that world hunger was very nearly eradicated in our lifetimes. In the past five years, however, widespread starvation has suddenly reappeared, and chronic hunger is a major issue on every continent. In an extensive investigation of this disturbing shift, Jean Ziegler—one of the world’s leading food experts—lays out in clear and accessible terms the complex global causes of the new hunger crisis. Ziegler’s wide-ranging and fascinating examination focuses on how the new sustainable revolution in energy production has diverted millions of acres of corn, soy, wheat, and other grain crops from food to fuel. The results, he shows, have been sudden and startling, with declining food reserves sending prices to record highs and a new global commodities market in ethanol and other biofuels gobbling up arable lands in nearly every continent on earth. Like Raj Patel’s pioneering *Stuffed and Starved*, *Betting on Famine* will enlighten the millions of Americans concerned about the politics of food at home—and about the forces that prevent us from feeding the world’s children. “In this devastating book, [Ziegler] describes the horrors of food insecurity, the callousness of ‘crusaders of neoliberalism’ who control food and land access, and the individuals and grassroots organizations fighting for subsistence farmers and the right to food.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) “Passionate, well-researched, objective, and illuminating . . . When we close this book, indignant, we know that those who die of hunger are victims of money and power.” —L’Express

kaputt curzio malaparte: *I was a wanderer in the hungarian banking sector* Balyó László, 2025-09-19 There is a restless, trouble-seeking person who starts working in the banking sector during the socialist era. He finds his place in the field of credit assessment and final decision-making, but his determination, self-confidence, and independence prevent him from being a team player. The way he climbs the ladder is adventurous, sometimes moving forward, sometimes taking a step back. However, his knowledge and perseverance pay off, as he achieves everything he can in his career, despite the occasional headwinds. As a wanderer in the banking system, Dr. László Balyó paints an authentic, sometimes startling and ultimately rather gloomy picture of the inner workings of the Hungarian banking system and much else besides. His book is a promising addition to the literature on the subject and an enjoyable read on the history of banking.

kaputt curzio malaparte: *Inhuman Land* Jozef Czapski, 2018-12-18 A classic work of reportage about the Katyń Massacre during World War II by a soldier who narrowly escaped the atrocity himself. In 1941, when Germany turned against the USSR, tens of thousands of Poles—men, women, and children who were starving, sickly, and impoverished—were released from Soviet prison camps and allowed to join the Polish Army being formed in the south of Russia. One of the survivors who made the difficult winter journey was the painter and reserve officer Józef Czapski. General Anders, the army’s commander in chief, assigned Czapski the task of receiving the Poles arriving for military training; gathering accounts of what their fates had been; organizing education, culture, and news for the soldiers; and, most important, investigating the disappearance of thousands of missing Polish officers. Blocked at every level by the Soviet authorities, Czapski was unaware that in April 1940 many officers had been shot dead in Katyn forest, a crime for which Soviet Russia never accepted responsibility. Czapski’s account of the years following his release from the camp and the formation of the Polish Army, and its arduous trek through Central Asia and the Middle East to fight on the Italian front offers a stark depiction of Stalin’s Russia at war and of the suffering, stoicism, and bravery of his fellow Poles. A work of clear observation and deep compassion, *Inhuman Land* is one of the twentieth century’s indispensable acts of literary witness.

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