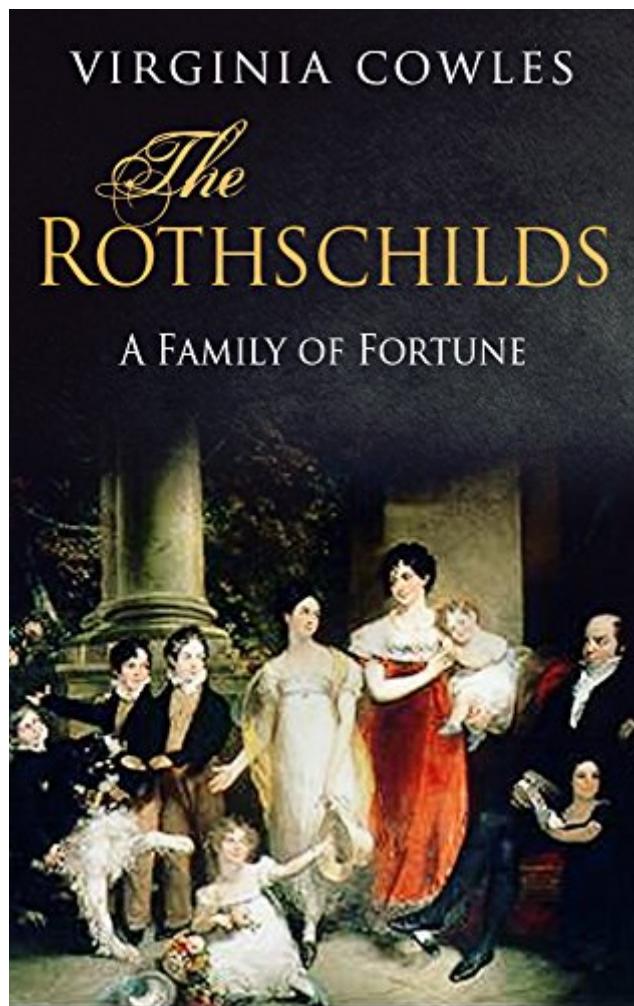


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The Rothschilds



Synopsis

Perhaps no other name in history can so truly encapsulate the phrase "rags to riches" as Rothschild does. In the late eighteenth century, it was a gentle, astute Jew born in a Frankfurt ghetto, Mayer Amschel Rothschild, whose interest in old coins and canny investments would set the family on the path to becoming one of the most powerful dynasties of Europe. Ennobled by the Austrian Emperor, soon the Rothschild name would become a household name. Kings and princes, generals and businessmen, whether their move was political or economic, in a time of war or a time of peace, the controlling force behind them would be the Rothschild family. Dazzlingly rich, the energetic, brilliant and downright extraordinary members of the Rothschild family were the force responsible for innovations in banking throughout the nineteenth century. Times have changed and dynasties crumbled, but this marvellously rich history tells how the Rothschilds always endure. Praise for Virginia Cowles: "The history of the Rothschilds is every bit as rich and remarkable as their wealth." - The Sunday Times: "One of the most splendidly readable books I have read. Miss Cowles has given us a tour-de-force, well researched, comprehensive, frank [it] abounds in amazing stories of extraordinary personalities." - Books and Bookmen: "Virginia Cowles (1912-83) was a renowned American journalist and biographer of historical figures, including Winston Churchill and David Stirling, a founding member of the SAS. Initially covering fashion and society, Cowles made the transition to war correspondent, covering first the Spanish Civil War and then the Second World War, reporting from all over Europe: her service in this was recognised by the British with an OBE in 1947."

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Customer Reviews

The amount of research that went into this book is truly staggering. Not everyone will enjoy The Rothschilds but for those of us with an interest in finance and history, it is a gem. It is not an easy read largely because of the Rothschilds rules about not marrying outside of the family. One reviewer commented that it would have been easier to read had there been a family tree. There might be some truth in that but with cousins repeatedly marrying cousins you would have needed a skilled drafts-person to come up with something remotely understandable. What a remarkable family. To come from a Hamburg ghetto and end up being one of the most powerful families in the world. The accumulation of wealth in the early 1800s would put even Warren Buffet to shame. To think that Nathaniel could turn twenty thousand pounds into fifty million pounds in London is truly staggering. Virginia Cowles did a fantastic job with The Rothschilds and I dread to think how many years the research and writing took. A brilliant, well written masterpiece.

While it gives a lot of detail, some of the most important impacts of the Rothschilds got less attention than descriptions of dinner parties- 2 that come to mind are the financing of the NYC subway and the clandestine purchase of the Suez Canal.

This is the second book I've read in the Rothschild family. I read a book from Cecil Roth as well, which is good, but not near as good as this one. Ms Cowles does a wonderful job of covering the complete family history. I felt very attached to the family by the end of the book. Her writing style is exquisite. It reminds me a lot of Barbara Tuchmann, which may be in odd reference, but it does seem very similar. If you are interested in the subject, I highly recommend this book.

Very interesting book about the rise of the Rothschild family. Many historical implications involving this famous family. A little dry in spots but overall quite informative.

This book gives much insight into how Jews lived in the diaspora in Western Europe through the ages. Also added a monetary/economic facet to my knowledge of history. I had not been aware of all the financial machinations behind the scenes. In school one learns battles and dates; in personal study I had filled in social conditions. But this area hardly ever gets mentioned in times before the 1930s Great Depression.

The story of the 18th and 19th century family was interesting, 20th century family, not so much. I would have liked more information on the family women.

I haven't finished reading it yet. It is a little confusing with all the unfamiliar names and situations but I'm finding it immensely fascinating & a worthwhile read. What a brilliant family who shaped the world's money industry. I recommend it for the remarkable influence they have had on history right up to present day.

I think this is an engaging read, great history and not a dry historical read. The proofreading was great until the sample ran out - I purchased the book and noticed past that point that there were many typeos. Totally understand how that goes as a writer and editor myself - but I'm afraid it does discredit the work slightly. I would read another book from this author due to the enjoyability factor though, regardless.

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