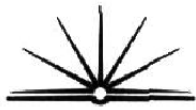


APPEASEMENT.

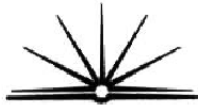
The purpose of history is to understand the past. Chris Bickerton ~~big~~ highlights this notion in his extract. However he also brings forth the notion of "faddling," which implies aggression, the "accepted interpretations" or orthodox views of history. Thus Bickerton is very much a revisionist. In terms of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ area of debate surrounding appeasement, ~~the~~ ~~origin~~ of ~~the~~ ~~second~~ world war ~~the~~ British & French approaches to appeasement in the 1930s, the extract ~~is~~ emphasises the different revisionist interpretation that have emerged as a result of the availability of new information sources.

With regard to ~~the~~ ~~origin~~ of ~~the~~ ~~second~~ world war, ^{British} ~~British~~ approaches to ~~the~~ ~~origin~~ of ~~the~~ ~~second~~ world war, three radical British



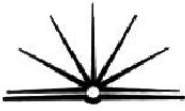
journalist, under the penname 'Cato' established the orthodox interpretation ~~with~~ in the Guilty Men (1940). Guilty Men is best described as a "classical denunciation of appeasement." It was written after the Battle of Dunkirk but before the end with the intention of personalising responsibility for the war. Thus the book offers a blistering ~~a~~ account of British Prime Minister, N. Chamberlain.

Winston Churchill's How mentions Gathering Storm (1948) also emphasised ~~this~~ ^{the} "accepted interpretation" of ~~appeasement~~ of appeasement set down in Guilty Men. Through the use of statements such as "there has never been a war so easy to stop" Churchill gives the illusion that his alternatives



to appeasement ~~was~~ would have
stopped Hitler and ~~that~~ also portrays
himself as the 'saviour' of Britain.
However D.C. Watt Churchill &
Appeasement 1935 ~~is~~ tackles this
accepted view of Churchill and
states that 'in the light of what
we now know, - Churchill's policies
~~would~~ would have never stopped Hitler.

~~As~~ David Reynolds ~~also~~ in Command
of History (2004) also reinforcing
the idea that Churchill's political
standing ~~gave him~~ allowed his
interpretation to become "accepted."
Reynolds refers to the ~~Secret~~ Secret
Act, where ordinary historians &
biographers were not allowed to access
Official Government documents, however,
as First Lord Churchill was given



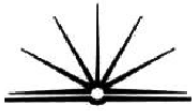
special access, ~~to~~ ~~the~~ whereas Chamberlain's biographer, ~~the~~ Keith Feiling was not. ~~The~~ This significantly disadvantaged Feiling, ~~and resulted~~ in further credited Churchill's argument. As a result ~~the~~ ^{Churchill's} interpretation of appeasement remained unchallenged and 'accepted' by historians as truth.

However in 1967, with the release of the British Government Official Records, the British Blue Book, (due to an alteration of the 50 year rule), historians were able to come to new conclusions about British approaches to appeasement in the 1930s, and hence "tackle" Churchill's "accepted interpretation lead-on". As a result the debate over appeasement changed to one between Chamberlain

* Churchill.

~~As~~ Revisionist historian, John Charmley, Churchill: The End of Glory (1995) ~~is~~ attacks ~~Cham~~ Churchill's allegations ^{in the Gathering Storm}, and presents the most complete defence of ~~Cham~~ Chamberlain. Charmley concludes that criticism should be ~~not~~ left to Hitler rather than Chamberlain. Therefore, ~~as the extract, points out,~~ as referenced in the extract, Charmley was able to use the new sources available to him, to come to a completely different interpretation of the and hence, dispute Churchill's and Cato's ~~noted~~ orthodox view.

Further more, counter revisionist R.A.C. Parker, Churchill and Appeasement (2000)

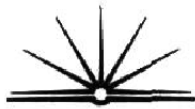


combines the older, accepted view of ~~Chate~~ Chamberlain with the insights from revisionist, ~~as~~ and thus create a more balanced interpretation. Parker concludes that the alternatives to ~~as~~ ^{consequently} Parker accepts the revisionist view but rejects the idea that appeasement was the result of military & economic weaknesses.

Hence the British interpretations to appeasement reinforce the accepted assumption ~~to~~ of an Anglocentric view of ~~as~~ as appeasement is ~~is~~ usually associated with Britain & Churchill. This somewhat franco-phobia has ~~signified~~ meant that many historians dismiss French approaches to appeasement and its impact on the collapse of French society.

French approaches to appeasement have also been significantly shaped by the availability of sources. The French Court strongly inspired the 50 year rule and the invasions of both Russia, & Germany meant that many documents were either seized or burnt. As a result very little was written about French foreign policy until the 1970s. Historians who wrote prior to this often focus on the personal involvement to ~~create~~ ^{evaluate} ~~appeasement~~ "understand the past."

Consequently French approaches often focused on the Vichy Government. The Vichy Court was seen as a traitor to the French people. This led to many pockets of resistance such as Marc Bloch.



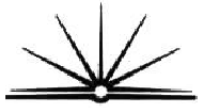
Marc Bloch war memoir, *The Strange Defeat* (1940) established an accepted interpretation of the ~~past~~ appeasement. ^{However} Bloch's Jewish background, experiences in both WWI and WWII influenced his writing. ~~His~~ His anti-Germany image of appeasement ^{is} ~~is~~ significantly influenced French historiography. ~~every~~

Another historian who's personal experiences ^{with} ~~allowed~~ ~~them~~ to ~~properly~~ understand ~~the~~ ~~past~~ is American historian W. Shirer *The Collapse of the Third Republic* (1969). Shirer was a foreign correspondent in France during the 1930s, and hence was witness to the major events through Europe. Shirer emphasises the benefit of his first hand experience as to allowing him to properly understand the past.

He ~~can~~ reinforces this idea through his use of ~~the~~ reference to the fact that even in 1969 he could not access British documents after ~~the~~ 1900s.

Nonetheless, ten years later, R.D. Duroelle, *La Décadence* (1979) established an orthodox interpretation of ~~the~~ French approaches to appeasement. Duroelle ~~the~~ characterized French foreign policy as "decadence," stating that the reasons for French collapse was ~~the~~ due to "~~the~~" depressed political, social, and economic weaknesses."

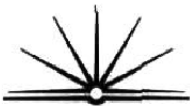
^{historian}
However, A. Adamtzwite disputes Duroelle's claims. ~~in his book~~, stating that the ~~reason~~ for French ~~defeat~~ Having access to official records



Adamthwaite, ~~with~~ "factors" ~~the~~
durell's ~~the~~ accepted interpretation
"lead on" and presents a revisionist
interpretation based on "contingency."

"A ^{crisis} ~~crisis~~" concludes Adamthwaite
"not the decline of decadence best
describes France's predicament."

E. Weber, The Hollow Years, (1994) includes
some of Adamthwaite's argument but
disputes his idea of "contingency." In this
sense Weber is seen as ~~as~~ a counter
revisionist. However it is difficult
to disagree with historians with regard
to French approaches to appeasement
because each ~~fact~~ have different
purposes and ^{as a result} focus on different themes
such as social, military, & economic
issues that resulted in the downturn
of French society.



Therefore, it is evident that not all historians have their ^{sole} purpose of understanding the past. Many, like Churchill seek to achieve their own personal ambitions. Nonetheless it is ^{evident} ~~obvious~~ that the British & French approaches to appeasement in the 1930s has had ~~several~~ ^{several} revisionist interpretations which as Sickerston describes, have ~~challenged~~ ^{challenged} the accepted interpretation ~~lead on~~ ^{lead on} and ~~presented~~ ^{presented} a ~~better~~ ^{better}