

George Steiner at The New Yorker (New Directions Paperbook)

By George Steiner

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An education in a portmanteau: *George Steiner at The New Yorker* collects his best work from his more than 150 pieces for the magazine.

Between 1967 and 1997, George Steiner wrote more than 130 pieces on a great range of topics for *The New Yorker*, making new books, difficult ideas, and unfamiliar subjects seem compelling not only to intellectuals but to “the common reader.” He possesses a famously dazzling mind: paganism, the Dutch Renaissance, children’s games, war-time Britain, Hitler’s bunker, and chivalry attract his interest as much as Levi-Strauss, Cellini, Bernhard, Chardin, Mandelstam, Kafka, Cardinal Newman, Verdi, Gogol, Borges, Brecht, Wittgenstein, Chomsky, and art historian/spy Anthony Blunt. Steiner makes an ideal guide from the Risorgimento in Italy to the literature of the Gulag, from the history of chess to the enduring importance of George Orwell. Again and again everything Steiner looks at in his New Yorker essays is made to bristle with some genuine prospect of turning out to be freshly thrilling or surprising.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Editor, author, and professor Boyers presents an important collection of work by author and social commentator George Steiner that first appeared in the pages of The New Yorker. Steiner's brilliance is revealed in every one of these essays, showcasing his vast topical knowledge alongside his deft ability to pin down the significance of history's most important people, events and ideas. Steiner hones in on figures often left in the background, such as Albert Speer, Hitler's architect and minister of armaments, who spent nearly 20 years in the prison Spandau. Steiner's 1983 examination of the George Orwell's 1984 is witty, detailed and authoritative, proving an insightful look at the novel's importance even after some 35 years of scholarly attention. Steiner's essays are each marvelously executed feats of synthesis, internalizing, interpreting and contrasting timeless events, literature and figures (including Graham Greene, Borges, chess playing and the OED). Steiner's intelligence and intuitiveness won't fail to impress, providing ample justification for his three decades as a powerful cultural critic.
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From Booklist
Often criticized as elitist, Steiner wrote for the New Yorker between 1967 and 1997 on a broad array of topics, with evident depth of knowledge and an enthusiasm that is contagious to readers whether or not they are familiar with the subject. In this collection of 150 essays, Steiner puts art, literature, even chess into broader context, providing rich language and fine analysis. In an essay on Anthony Blunt, British art historian and Soviet spy, Steiner offers lessons on art history, an appreciation for all that goes into the craft, the tools and techniques as well as sensory awareness, then coolly goes on to detail Blunt’s treason, “as ancient as whoredom.” In 1984, Steiner examined George Orwell’s 1984, how and why it came to be so titled, its enduring significance, and the potential coercion of prophecy as Orwell “put his signature and claim on a piece of time.” The essays are organized according to topic: history and politics, writers and writing, thinkers, and life studies. This collection showcases Steiner’s depth of analysis and the thrill of sharing with readers. --Vanessa Bush

Review
“The essence of Steiner’s magic?I don’t really know what else to call it?has been his singular ability to articulate and elucidate, through nuance, allusion, and a peerless precision of language, those Phoebus-rays of wisdom that lie beyond wisdom and almost always elude words.” (Nick Tosches - Bookforum)

“A keenly discriminating literary mind.” (The New York Times Book Review)

“A remarkably powerful writer.” (The Christian Science Monitor)

“[He] seems to know most things worth knowing and is acutely perceptive and energetically serious about them all.” (Jeff Simon - The Buffalo News)

Users Review

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Lisa Knight:

Here thing why this kind of George Steiner at The New Yorker (New Directions Paperbook) are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading a book is good however it depends in the content from it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. George Steiner at The New Yorker (New Directions Paperbook) giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no publication that similar with George Steiner at The New Yorker (New Directions Paperbook). It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your method home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of George Steiner at The New Yorker (New Directions Paperbook) in e-book can be your option.

Dora Bair:

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Ashley Johnson:

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