



Paris: Capital of the World

By Patrice Higonnet

Download now

Read Online ➔

Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet

In an original and evocative journey through modern Paris from the mid-eighteenth century to World War II, Patrice Higonnet offers a delightful cultural portrait of a multifaceted, continually changing city. In examining the myths and countermyths of Paris that have been created and re-created over time, Higonnet reveals a magical urban alchemy in which each era absorbs the myths and perceptions of Paris past, adapts them to the cultural imperatives of its own time, and feeds them back into the city, creating a new environment.

Paris was central to the modern world in ways internal and external, genuine and imagined, progressive and decadent. Higonnet explores Paris as the capital of revolution, science, empire, literature, and art, describing such incarnations as Belle Epoque Paris, the Commune, the surrealists' city, and Paris as viewed through American eyes. He also evokes the more visceral Paris of alienation, crime, material excess, and sensual pleasure.

Insightful, informative, and gracefully written, *Paris* illuminates the intersection of collective and individual imaginations in a perpetually shifting urban dynamic. In describing his Paris of the real and of the imagination, Higonnet sheds brilliant new light on this endlessly intriguing city.

↓ [Download Paris: Capital of the World ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Paris: Capital of the World ...pdf](#)

Paris: Capital of the World

By Patrice Higonnet

Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet

In an original and evocative journey through modern Paris from the mid-eighteenth century to World War II, Patrice Higonnet offers a delightful cultural portrait of a multifaceted, continually changing city. In examining the myths and countermyths of Paris that have been created and re-created over time, Higonnet reveals a magical urban alchemy in which each era absorbs the myths and perceptions of Paris past, adapts them to the cultural imperatives of its own time, and feeds them back into the city, creating a new environment.

Paris was central to the modern world in ways internal and external, genuine and imagined, progressive and decadent. Higonnet explores Paris as the capital of revolution, science, empire, literature, and art, describing such incarnations as Belle Epoque Paris, the Commune, the surrealists' city, and Paris as viewed through American eyes. He also evokes the more visceral Paris of alienation, crime, material excess, and sensual pleasure.

Insightful, informative, and gracefully written, *Paris* illuminates the intersection of collective and individual imaginations in a perpetually shifting urban dynamic. In describing his Paris of the real and of the imagination, Higonnet sheds brilliant new light on this endlessly intriguing city.

Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet Bibliography

- Rank: #2386146 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Belknap Press
- Published on: 2002-10-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.51" h x 7.70" w x 9.84" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 536 pages

 [Download Paris: Capital of the World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Paris: Capital of the World ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In 1323, the first book to treat Paris exclusively appeared; the number since then has grown to about 10,000, notes Higonnet, a professor of French history at Harvard who seems to have read them all before adding this original and illuminating work to their number. In constructing "a history not of factual events but of the way the city has been perceived, conceived, and dreamed," Higonnet (*Sister Republics; Goodness Beyond Virtue*) draws a fresh social, cultural and political portrait of Paris from the mid-18th century through the 19th century, augmented by some looks back and forward. Higonnet manages to be both intensely intellectual and deftly vivid as he escorts readers through a very wide range of reading. Organized thematically ("Capital of Revolution"; "Capital of Science"; "Capital of Sex"; "Capital of Crime"; "Capital of Art"; "Capital of the Modern Self"), the book uses three dates as focal points: "1750, when the first secularized myths of Paris appeared; 1830, the point at which they started to flower; and 1889, when they began to atrophy [and] 'phantasmagoria' comes into its own." Higonnet appears to have missed nothing that touched or was touched by Paris-Twain and James, Balzac and Zola, *sansculottes* and surrealists, salons and expositions. In passing, his eye takes in clothes, gastronomy, street names and panoramas. Tidbits of historical gossip color the densely imbricated text: an 18th-century architect's plan for a bordello in "the form of an enormous phallus"; Les Lesbiennes, Baudelaire's preliminary title for *Les Fleurs du mal*; Marx meeting Engels for the first time at the Cafe de la Regence in the Palais Royal, "a mecca for the city's chess players." Higonnet, in a remarkably readable translation, achieves a seamless synthesis between the myth and the history of modern Paris.

Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

This is a complex work of cultural and intellectual history that should interest specialists in the field. Higonnet (French history, Harvard) has drawn from a vast array of sources to produce an "urban biography" of Paris from the mid-18th century to World War II. The result is not a standard chronological and political narrative but a history of how the city has been seen, remembered, conceived, and visualized. The organizing construct used is the concept of myth, which Higonnet defines as life stories used by societies to explain themselves. Citing 1750, 1830, and 1889 as critical years in the creation of key Parisian myths, Higonnet shows that Paris has alternately been seen and has seen itself as the capital of modernity, revolution, self-identity, pleasure, and culture. The author also demonstrates how myths change and even engender opposition. Thus, a Paris perceived as a symbol of freedom and revolution later came to be seen by others through the lens of a "counter-myth" that viewed it as the site of revolt, crime, and immorality. The author also explains how myths are made real through visible landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the basilica of Sacre Coeur. Higonnet's comparative references to similar developments in London and New York are also helpful. Recommended for academic collections.

Marie Marmo Mullaney, Caldwell Coll., N.J.

Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

In his new book...Higonnet looks back, to a time when the city was, arguably, the capital of it all...Higonnet's discussions of Paris as a city of revolution, or of the social alienation modernity brought to Parisians...are compelling. Such historical depth gives weight to the experience of anyone drawn to modern Paris, once or a dozen times. (Tom Haines *Boston Globe* 2002-09-01)

Original and illuminating...Higonnet draws a fresh social, cultural and political portrait of Paris from the

mid-18th century through the 19th century, augmented by some looks back and forward. Higonnet manages to be both intensely intellectual and deftly vivid as he escorts readers through a very wide range of reading...[He] appears to have missed nothing that touched or was touched by Paris...In passing, his eye takes in clothes, gastronomy, street names and panoramas...In a remarkably readable translation, [Higonnet] achieves a seamless synthesis between the myth and the history of modern Paris. (*Publishers Weekly* 2002-09-09)

This is a complex work of cultural and intellectual history...Higonnet has drawn from a vast array of sources to produce an "urban biography" of Paris from the mid-18th century to World War II. The result is not a standard chronological and political narrative but a history of how the city has been seen, remembered, conceived, and visualized. (Marie Marmo Mullaney *Library Journal* 2002-09-15)

This beautifully produced study of Paris--elegant layout, many illustrations--adopts a "mythic" approach to the city's tumultuous, many-faceted past...[This] is the kind of history of Paris we might expect from a Roland Barthes (cf. *Mythologiques*) or Walter Benjamin (cf. *The Arcades Project*). If this prospect excites you, here is your book. (Michael Dirda *Washington Post* 2002-11-10)

Unobtrusively learned master of ceremonies, [Higonnet] draws on a vast knowledge of the culture and history of the 19th century. He misses very little: gastronomy and cafes, Haussman's urban facelift, museums and stations, the Parisienne, "le tout Paris", modernism and its enemies...Higonnet's high-octane thesis of an "inauthentic" but powerful mythic residue is seductive. (David Coward *Independent Magazine* 2002-12-21)

Higonnet's [book], with its cream-and-blue cloth binding, wide margins, elegant typeface and generous illustrations, has a clear edge in *belle époque* opulence. Higonnet's intention is to explore the myths of Paris. He focuses on well over a dozen familiar and less familiar themes--including revolution, crime, the self, la parisienne, literature, art, alienation and pleasure--that compose the city's heady mythic cocktail. His wide learning is worn lightly, and his technique is a pointilliste application of quotations, incidents and images. (Robert Tombs *Times Literary Supplement* 2002-11-22)

Already known for his incisive books on eighteenth-century France and the French Revolution, Higonnet will now be celebrated as the author of a beautifully produced work on the Paris of a century ago....All Francophiles will be enriched by this book and grateful to both the author and his perfect translator. A rich and intelligent tour of Paris by an erudite guide with an acerbic, playful mind and a passionate heart. (Stanley Hoffman *Foreign Affairs* 2003-03-01)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Jacquez:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed Paris: Capital of the World? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have other opinion?

Mary Thomas:

What do you regarding book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what you problem? How about your time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question due to the fact just their can do that. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on pre-school until university need this Paris: Capital of the World to read.

Grady Long:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the title Paris: Capital of the World suitable to you? The actual book was written by popular writer in this era. The particular book untitled Paris: Capital of the World is the one of several books that will everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know previous to. The author explained their concept in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily to know the core of this reserve. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world with this book.

Chris Wolf:

You may get this Paris: Capital of the World by look at the bookstore or Mall. Just simply viewing or reviewing it may to be your solve challenge if you get difficulties on your knowledge. Kinds of this reserve are various. Not only through written or printed but in addition can you enjoy this book by e-book. In the modern era similar to now, you just looking from your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your current ways to get more information about your book. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still up-date. Let's try to choose appropriate ways for you.

Download and Read Online Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet #Q2X9F3Y6417

Read Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet for online ebook

Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet books to read online.

Online Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet ebook PDF download

Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet Doc

Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet Mobipocket

Paris: Capital of the World By Patrice Higonnet EPub