



New York Times bestselling author Jay Winik brings to life in gripping detail the year 1944, which determined the outcome of World War II and put more pressure than any other on an ailing yet determined President Roosevelt.

It was not inevitable that World War II would end as it did, or that it would even end well. 1944 was a year that could have stymied the Allies and cemented Hitler's waning power. Instead, it saved those democracies—but with a fateful cost. Now, in a superbly told story, Jay Winik, the acclaimed author of *April 1865* and *The Great Upheaval*, captures the epic images and extraordinary history as never before.

1944 witnessed a series of titanic events: FDR at the pinnacle of his wartime leadership as well as his re-election, the planning of Operation Overlord with Churchill and Stalin, the unprecedented D-Day invasion, the liberation of Paris and the horrific Battle of the Bulge, and the tumultuous conferences that finally shaped the coming peace. But on the way, millions of more lives were still at stake as President Roosevelt was exposed to mounting evidence of the most grotesque crime in history, the Final Solution. Just as the Allies were landing in Normandy, the Nazis were accelerating the killing of millions of European Jews. Winik shows how escalating pressures fell on an all but dying Roosevelt, whose rapidly deteriorating health was a closely guarded secret. Here then, as with D-Day, was a momentous decision for the president. Was winning the war the best

way to rescue the Jews? Was a rescue even possible? Or would it get in the way of defeating Hitler? In a year when even the most audacious undertakings were within the world's reach, including the liberation of Europe, one challenge—saving Europe's Jews—seemed to remain beyond Roosevelt's grasp.

As he did so brilliantly in *April 1865*, Winik provides a stunningly fresh look at the twentieth century's most pivotal year. Magisterial, bold, and exquisitely rendered, *1944: FDR and the Year that Changed History* is the first book to tell these events with such moral clarity and unprecedented sweep, and a moving appreciation of the extraordinary struggles of the era's outsized figures. *1944* is destined to take its place as one of the great works of World War II.

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<http://www.amazon.com/1944-Year-That-Changed-History/dp/1439114080>

Praise for 1944

“Nimbly toggling between hemispheres, Winik knits familiar WW II headlines with surprising details from leaders' lives, though the highlighting of FDR-Hitler coincidences can have the jarring feel of a Kennedy-Lincoln conspiracy theory. His recounting of concentration-camp logistics is haunting, and the tales of those who tried desperately to stop the mass murder have cinematic force.”

— [Time Magazine](#)

“So we have here Winik's assured overview of world war, deft portraits of FDR and Churchill and Stalin and Eisenhower and Hitler, battle plans, political machinations, Pearl Harbor, D-Day, the building of the atomic bomb, the imprisonment of Americans for the crime of being Japanese (while Americans of Italian and German descent remained unmolested)—all in compelling detail and with a clear sense of how events seemed at the time.”

— [Bookfilter](#)

“An accomplished popular historian unpacks the last full year of World War II and the excruciatingly difficult decisions facing Franklin Roosevelt. . . . Winik asks whether, by focusing so wholly on winning the war, Roosevelt missed ‘his own Emancipation Proclamation moment,’ the chance to make the war about something bigger, specifically ‘the vast humanitarian tragedy occurring in Nazi-controlled Europe.’ . . . The author's fair assessment of the evidence, detailed scene-setting, deft storytelling, and sure-

handed grasp of this many-stranded narrative will inspire any reader to rethink this issue. Do we ask too much of Roosevelt or too little? A complex history rendered with great color and sympathy.”

— [Kirkus Reviews](#) (starred review)

“To understand the 20th century, you need to understand 1944. With his usual great research and storytelling talent, Jay Winik makes that dramatic year come alive.”

— *Walter Isaacson*, author of *The Innovators and Steve Jobs*

“Posing as a book on President Roosevelt in 1944, this extraordinary book is in fact a compelling, comprehensive history of the Second World War told from FDR’s point of view, certainly, but also featuring profound insights into Churchill, Hitler, the ordinary soldiers and civilians, and the monstrous suffering of Europe’s Jews. The width of the canvas is astonishing. 1944 might have been, as Winik calls it, ‘The year that changed history’, but 1944 is a book that will change history-writing.”

— *Andrew Roberts*, author of *Masters and Commander: How Four Titans Won the War in the West, 1941-1945*

“A gifted storyteller with a proven talent for finding universal meaning in particular historical moments, Jay Winik has now turned his attention to 1944, an epochal year that shaped the way we live now. With grace and energy, he tells a vital story well, bringing those distant days back to vivid life. This is a terrific read.”

— *Jon Meacham*, author of *Franklin and Winston and the Pulitzer-winning American Lion*

“Jay Winik is a master storyteller and in 1944 he has a horrifying, mesmerizing story to tell. FDR was a great hero of World War II, but as Winik shows, even the wisest of men can have moral blind spots. With drama, power, and passion, Winik brings to life a magnificent and terrible time.”

— *Evan Thomas*, author of *Ike’s Bluff and Being Nixon*

“Jay Winik is a master of the historical moment. His April 1865 distilled the Civil War and Reconstruction into a few fraught weeks. 1944 fittingly encompasses more time, as his canvas is larger, but it delivers the same insight and impact, in similarly vivid and compelling prose. A wonderful book!”

— *H. W. Brands*, author of *Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt*