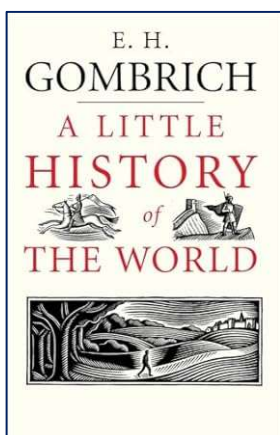
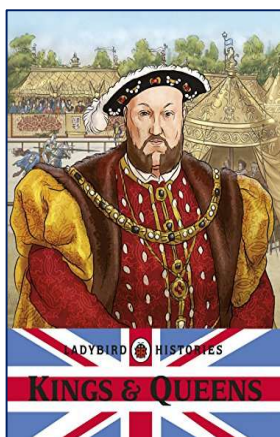


Reading Book Recommendations

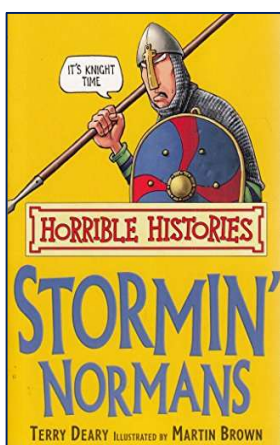
Year 7



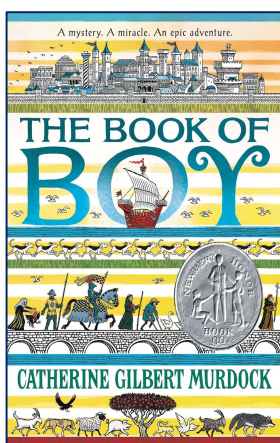
In forty concise chapters, Gombrich tells the story of man from Stone Age to the atomic bomb. He paints a colourful picture of wars and conquests; of grand works of art; of the advances and limitations of science; of remarkable people and remarkable events - from Confucius to Catherine the Great to Winston Churchill. This is a text dominated not by dates and facts, but by the sweep of mankind's experience across the centuries, a guide to humanity's achievements and an acute witness to its frailties.



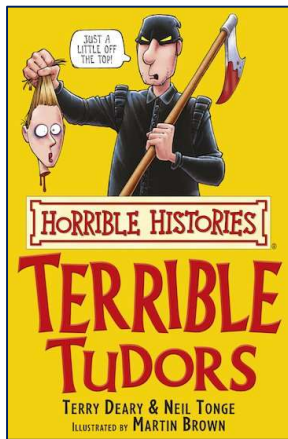
Kings and Queens by Lorna Read is an excellent wider reading option for those exploring the Plantagenets. Part of the Ladybird Histories series, it introduces young readers to the lives and reigns of England's monarchs in a clear and engaging way. With accessible language and colourful illustrations, it helps students understand where the Plantagenets fit into the wider story of English royalty, supporting their learning with fun facts and key dates throughout.



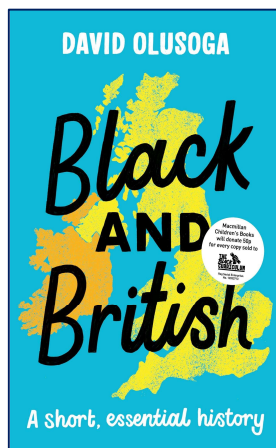
Stormin' Normans by Terry Deary and Martin Brown is a fantastic wider reading option for KS3 students studying the Norman Conquest. Part of the Horrible Histories series, it presents key events like the Battle of Hastings in an engaging, humorous style that appeals to young readers. With its accessible language, fun facts, and memorable illustrations, it helps students understand the significance of 1066 while sparking curiosity about medieval history beyond the classroom.



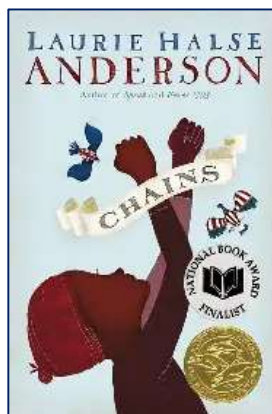
The Book of Boy by Catherine Gilbert Murdock is a captivating historical fiction novel that introduces readers to the world of medieval Europe and the legacy of the Crusades. Set in 1350, it follows a young boy on a pilgrimage across Europe to collect sacred relics. Rich in historical detail, with themes of faith, identity and adventure, it gives readers an engaging insight into medieval beliefs, religious life and the Crusading past.



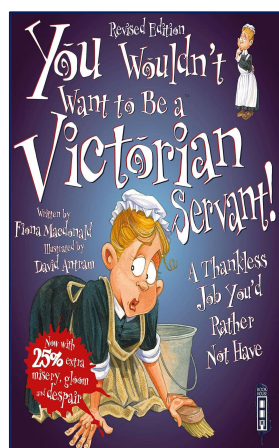
The Terrible Tudors by Terry Deary is a brilliant wider reading choice for those studying Tudor history. Part of the popular Horrible Histories series, it presents the lives of Tudor monarchs and ordinary people through gruesome facts, quirky jokes, and entertaining illustrations. From Henry VIII's six wives to Tudor punishments and explorers, it brings the period to life in a way that's fun, memorable, and packed with historical detail to support classroom learning.



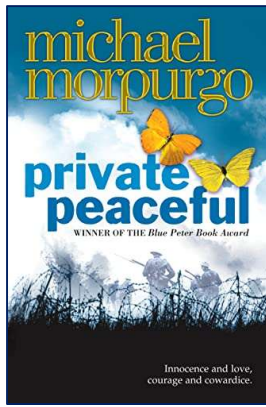
A short, essential introduction to Black British history for readers of 12+ by award-winning historian and broadcaster David Olusoga. When did Africans first come to Britain? Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings? Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution? These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history: from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day.



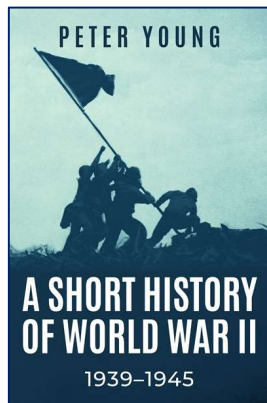
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson is a powerful historical fiction novel suitable for KS3 readers. Set during the American Revolution, it follows Isabel, an enslaved girl fighting for her freedom. Though not about the French Revolution directly, it explores similar themes of liberty, oppression, and rebellion that link strongly to revolutionary ideas in Europe. With vivid storytelling and emotional depth, it brings the experience of injustice and the fight for rights to life for young readers.



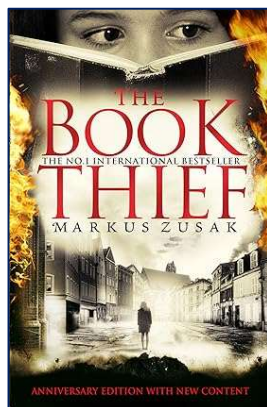
You Wouldn't Want to Be a Victorian Servant! by Fiona Macdonald is a fun and informative read for those exploring life in Victorian Britain. Part of the popular *You Wouldn't Want to Be...* series, it uses humour, cartoons, and vivid facts to show the harsh realities of working as a servant in a wealthy Victorian household. With accessible language and engaging visuals, it helps students understand class differences and the tough conditions faced by the working poor.



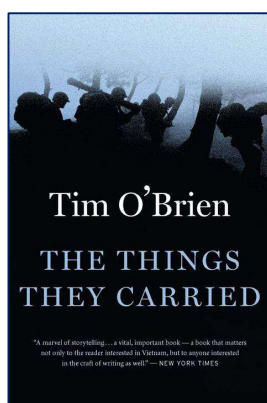
Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo is a powerful historical novel that helps students understand the emotional impact of World War I. Through the story of two brothers who enlist in the army, it explores themes of loyalty, love, and injustice. With vivid descriptions of trench warfare and the moral dilemmas faced by soldiers, it brings the war to life in a moving and accessible way, encouraging students to reflect on the human cost of conflict.



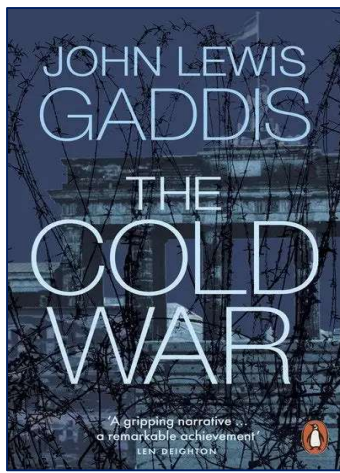
The Shortest History of World War II by Peter Young is an excellent non-fiction choice for students wanting a clear and fast-paced overview of the war. It covers the causes, key events, and global impact of WWII in an accessible and engaging style. With sharp insights, maps, and timelines, the book helps students make sense of the complex political and military developments that shaped the 20th century, offering a concise yet informative perspective on this global conflict.



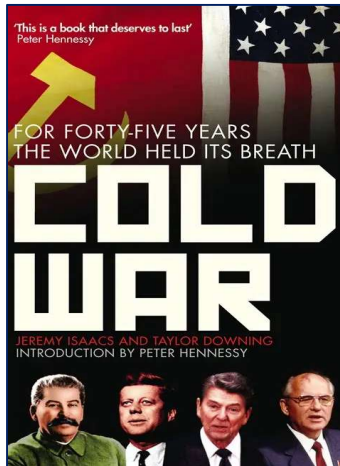
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak is a compelling historical novel that offers students a unique perspective on Nazi Germany. Narrated by Death, it follows a young girl living with a foster family who hides a Jewish man during the Holocaust. Through her love of books and storytelling, the novel explores themes of humanity, resistance, and the power of words. Richly written and emotionally powerful, it encourages students to consider the impact of war on ordinary lives.



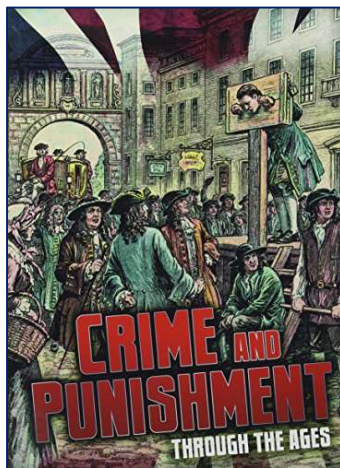
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien is a fictionalised memoir that gives students a deep and thought-provoking insight into the Vietnam War. Told through a series of linked stories, it blends fact and fiction to explore the physical and emotional burdens carried by American soldiers. With powerful language and shifting narrative perspectives, the book challenges students to consider memory, truth, trauma, and the human cost of war, making it a valuable companion to learning about modern conflict.



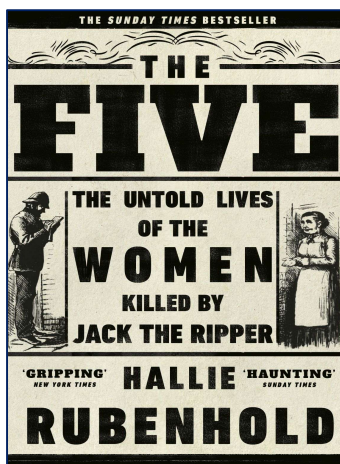
The Cold War: A New History by John Gaddis is a clear and engaging account of the Cold War written by one of the world's leading historians on the topic. It provides GCSE students with a broad understanding of the key events, leaders, and ideological tensions that shaped the conflict. Gaddis explains complex ideas in accessible language, helping students make sense of the causes, crises, and consequences that underpin the Cold War depth study.



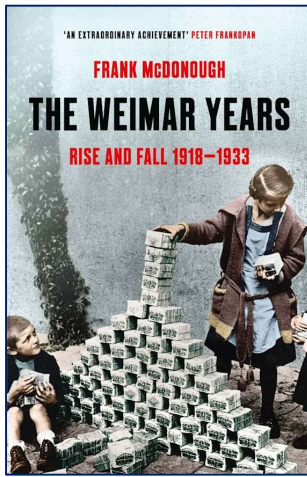
The Cold War by Isaacs and Downing offers a detailed and structured overview of the Cold War, ideal for supporting GCSE students' knowledge and understanding. It covers key events from the end of World War II to the fall of the Soviet Union, including the Berlin Blockade, Cuban Missile Crisis, and détente. With a clear layout, timelines, and source extracts, it helps students consolidate key knowledge and grasp the broader significance of Cold War developments.



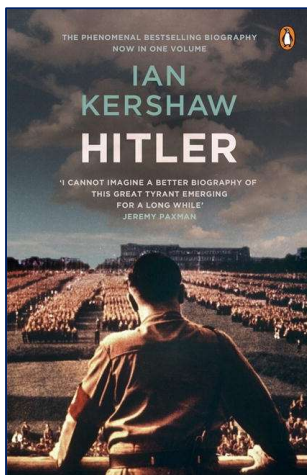
Crime and Punishment Through the Ages by Ben Hubbard is a highly accessible and visually engaging overview of how crime, policing, and punishment have developed from ancient times to the present. Closely aligned with the GCSE Crime and Punishment course, it covers key turning points such as the Bloody Code, the development of the police, and modern reforms. Its clear structure, rich illustrations, and focus on continuity and change make it a valuable wider reading resource for students.



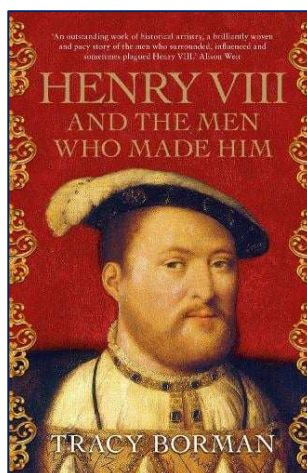
Written by Hallie Rubenhold, *The Five* tells the stories of the women murdered by Jack the Ripper, focusing on their lives rather than the killer. It offers vital context for the Whitechapel case study by exploring poverty, homelessness, and policing in late 19th-century East London. Rubenhold challenges common myths and provides a humanising, social history that helps students understand the conditions that shaped crime and justice during the Victorian era.



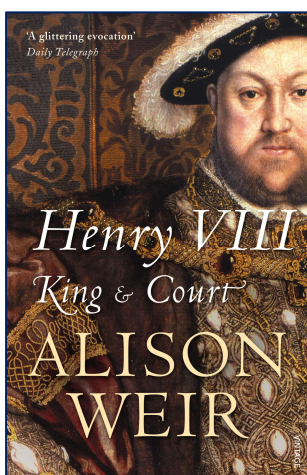
The Weimar Years by Frank McDonough is an accessible and visually rich resource that helps students understand the challenges and achievements of Germany's first democracy. Covering the political instability, economic crises, and cultural developments of the Weimar Republic, the book supports key GCSE content while encouraging deeper thinking about democracy and extremism. With source extracts and a strong chronological structure, it's an ideal wider reading option to reinforce understanding of the Republic's vulnerability and eventual collapse.



Hitler by Ian Kershaw is a concise, authoritative biography that introduces students to the key events, ideas, and personal traits behind Hitler's rise and rule. Written by a leading historian, this shorter version of Kershaw's acclaimed work is ideal for GCSE students seeking a deeper understanding of Nazi ideology, propaganda, and dictatorship. It connects closely to course themes on control, opposition, and Hitler's consolidation of power, helping students place his leadership in historical context.

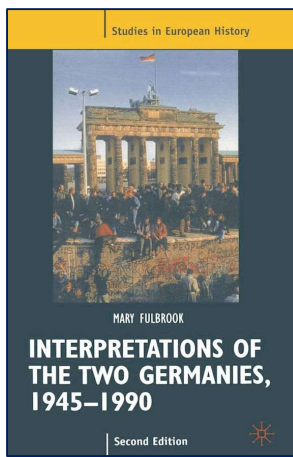


Henry VIII and the Men Who Made Him by Tracy Borman is a useful, accessible and insightful book that focuses on the key advisers and courtiers who shaped Henry's reign, including Wolsey and Cromwell. For students studying Henry VIII and his ministers, it offers valuable context on how these figures influenced government, religion, and royal policy. Borman's engaging narrative brings court politics to life and deepens understanding of power, loyalty, and rivalry in Tudor England.

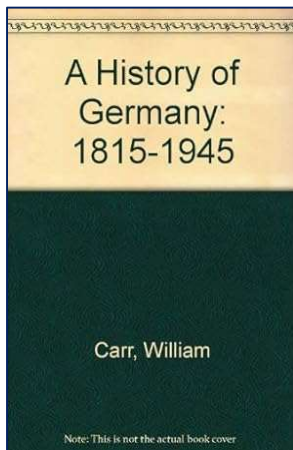


Henry VIII: King and Court by Alison Weir provides a richly detailed account of life at Henry VIII's royal court, offering students a vivid picture of the king's personality, priorities, and daily rule. The book explores his relationships with key figures like Wolsey and Cromwell, giving insight into how the court operated and how power was exercised. It's an excellent wider reading choice for students wanting to deepen their understanding of Henry's government and personal rule.

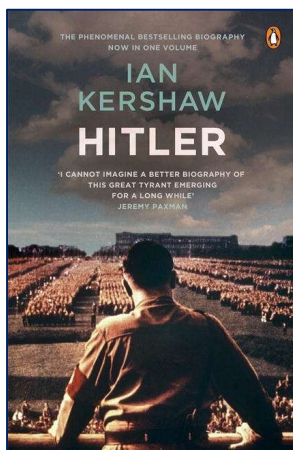
Year 12 & 13:
*The Quest for
Political
Stability:
Germany,
1871–1991*



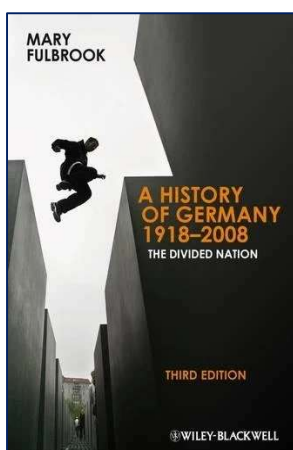
This accessible yet scholarly text is ideal for A Level students seeking to understand the contrasting developments of East and West Germany during the Cold War. Fulbrook explores political, economic, and social differences between the FRG and GDR while placing them in broader international context. Her thematic approach helps students evaluate key debates and understand how the two states evolved before reunification. It's especially valuable for understanding divided Germany within the scope of post-war European history.



Carr's comprehensive study is a valuable resource for students covering Germany's unification, imperial era, and the path to Nazism. It clearly explains the major political, economic, and social developments from the post-Napoleonic era to the end of WWII. With well-balanced analysis and accessible prose, it supports A Level students in developing chronological understanding and evaluating long-term causes of instability and authoritarianism in German history.

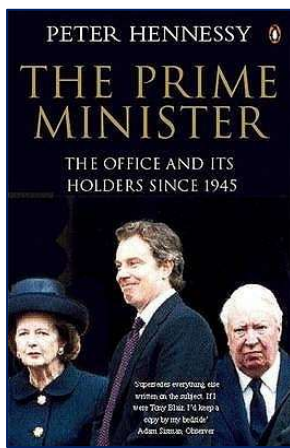


Ian Kershaw's work is essential for A Level students studying the rise and rule of Hitler. It offers a critical examination of how Hitler gained and maintained power, supported by the author's influential "intentionalist vs. structuralist" interpretation. Kershaw combines biography with wider analysis of the Nazi state, making this book vital for those exploring Nazi Germany's political system, ideology, and legacy. It encourages critical thinking about individual agency and structural forces in German history.

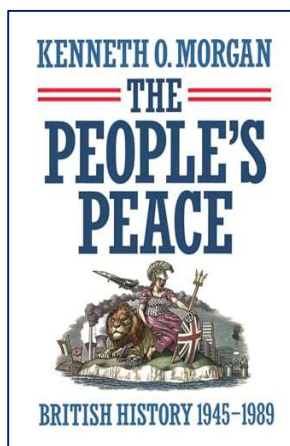


Fulbrook's longer study – *A History of Germany, 1918-2008: The Divided Nation* - helps A Level students see German history in continuity, from the Weimar Republic through to reunification and beyond. It provides depth on both the Nazi period and the Cold War era while also placing emphasis on social and cultural trends. This book is excellent for building context around key exam topics, and for students seeking to go beyond surface-level narratives with analytical, source-based insights.

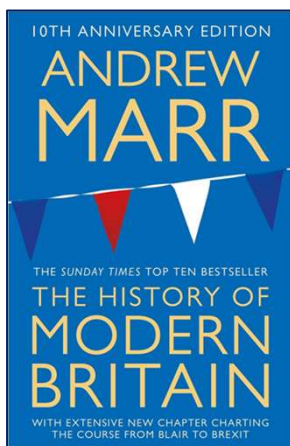
Year 12 & 13:
*The Making of
Modern
Britain, 1951
— 2007*



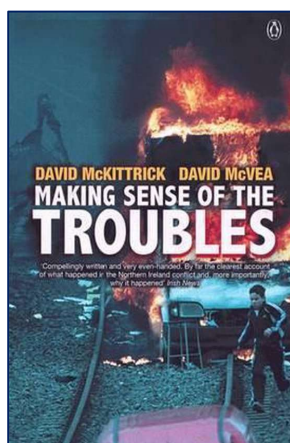
Hennessy's authoritative account is perfect for students studying British political leadership and constitutional change. It explores how the role of Prime Minister evolved through the post-war period, focusing on key figures from Attlee to Blair. This supports A Level students in analysing leadership styles, the balance of power within government, and the significance of individual agency in shaping modern Britain. Detailed, analytical, and rooted in primary sources.



Morgan's work is a classic of post-war British history, combining political analysis with attention to social, economic, and cultural change. It is especially useful for A Level students needing a broad yet detailed overview of Britain's transformation, from austerity to affluence and beyond. Covering everything from industrial decline to immigration and education, it offers context for interpreting key historical developments within society, not just in Westminster.



Marr's popular narrative offers an engaging overview of political, social, and cultural developments in Britain from 1945 onwards, with a strong focus on the A Level period (1951–2007). While not an academic text, it gives students valuable context on key themes including the welfare state, Thatcherism, and Britain's changing place in the world. Ideal for reinforcing understanding of major political figures and moments in an accessible, story-driven format.



This balanced, accessible account is essential for A Level students studying the conflict in Northern Ireland. It traces the roots, development, and resolution of the Troubles with clarity and empathy. Drawing on multiple perspectives, it helps students grasp the political complexity of the period and the human cost of sectarian violence. This book is especially useful for understanding Anglo-Irish relations and the challenges of maintaining unity and stability within the UK.