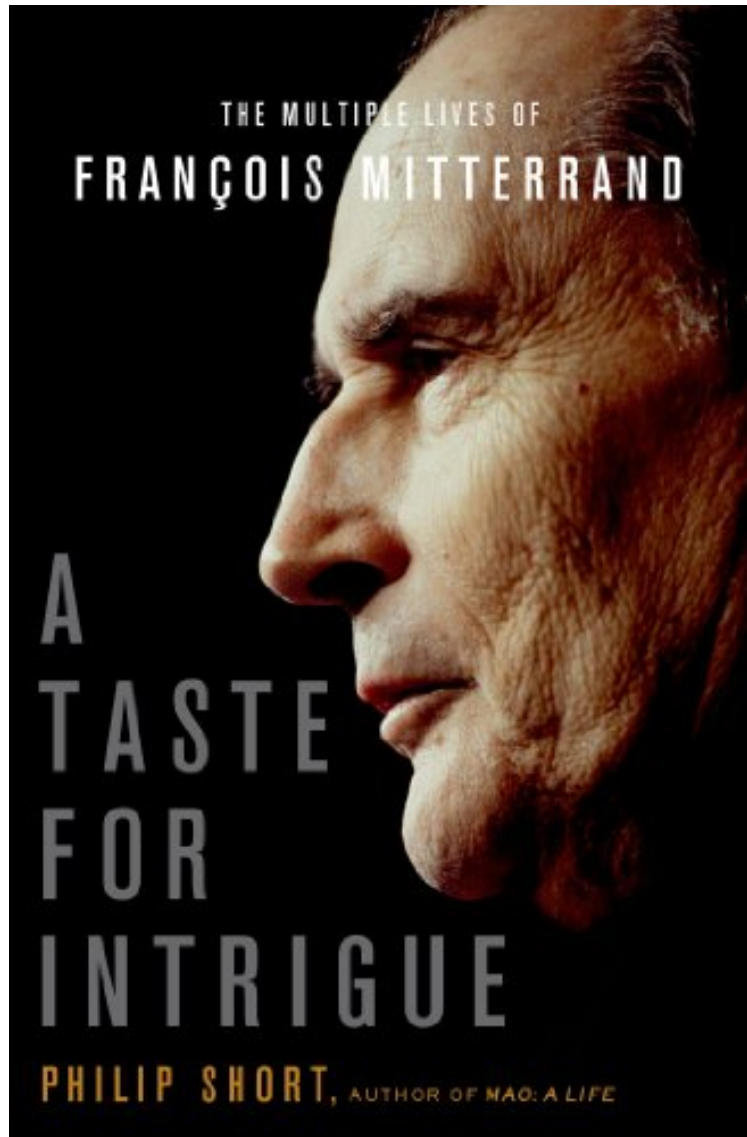


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Von Philip Short

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Taste for Intrigue: The Multiple Lives of François Mitterrand (John MacRae Books):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A key to understanding France in Europe and in the worldVon Martin BrettenthalerA brilliantly composed, well to read and

extensive biography providing enormous background in France's history from the 1930ies to the 1990ies. The major political, social and economic themes of the past 60 years (WWII, communist threat, decolonisation, European unification, nuclear arms, etc.) are thoroughly presented from a French point of view but always put into an international perspective. François Mitterrand is presented as a tactical mastermind, as a highly flexible opportunist and as a gifted foreign policy maker leveraging best France's international position. Having studied, lived and worked for a couple of years in France myself and being a close follower of French politics for many years this book has still succeeded in providing various new insights and perspectives to me. A book worth reading for anybody interested in European history of the 20th century!

KurzbeschreibungThe man who changed the course of modern France
In 1981, François Mitterrand became France's first popularly elected socialist president. By the time he completed his mandate, he had led the country for 14 years, longer than any other French head of state in modern times. Mitterrand mirrored France in all its imperfections and tragedies, its cowardice and glory, its weakness and its strength. In the wake of the Observatory affair (in which he orchestrated his own assassination attempt), his secretiveness and mistrust grew more pronounced, especially when details of a second family came to light; he was a mixture of "Machiavelli, Don Corleone, Casanova and the Little Prince," said his doctor. During the German occupation, Mitterrand hedged his bets by joining Petain's Vichy government. Later in 1943, under the nom de guerre of Morland (and 30 other aliases), Mitterrand quit Vichy for the Resistance and a paramilitary organization. He changed the ground rules of French social and political debate in ways more far-reaching and fundamental than any other modern leader before him, helping set the agenda for France and Europe for generations to come. Philip Short's *A Taste for Intrigue* will fill the gap and become the standard against which all other Mitterrand biographies are set. *Pressestimmen*
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"Philip Short's writing combines the tenacity of an investigative journalist, the critical insight of an historian, and the suspense of a gifted novelist. His biographies of "Mao" and "Pol Pot" showcased his ability to elucidate complex historical figures, the sources of their influence, and the multiple forces shaping their ultimately brutal exercise of power. Without compromising the integrity of his research, his style is highly accessible, inviting readers to connect our own histories to a larger shared history. On the basis of this impressive record, his new biography of Mitterrand promises first-class scholarship--and an intriguing tale."--Vaddey Ratner, author of "The New York Times" bestselling "In the Shadow of the Banyan"
"Philip Short's new book on François Mitterrand is the best sort of biography--deeply informed, entirely readable, and at the level of sophistication and complexity needed for its particular subject. Like Short, I covered France as a foreign correspondent during the Mitterrand era, and I thought I knew the man. Short's fascinating book has showed me how much I didn't know, not only about Mitterrand himself but also about the fraught eras of French and European history on which he left his mark."--Richard Bernstein, author of "The Coming Conflict with China"
"A balanced synthesis of a fascinating political career."--"Library Journal"
"[A] comprehensive and balanced biography of one of the most important European leaders of the last century."--"Booklist"
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gripping, insightful, and often entertaining account of one of Europe's most complicated and fascinating men. It's a must-read for any Francophile and enthusiast of 20th century political history."--"Popmatters.com ""Celebrated biographer Short again proves himself an adept storyteller in this look at France's magnetic former president Mitterrand, bringing him back to life with a deeply intimate and intriguing history."--"Publisher's Weekly""An accessible biography... Short delivers a clear, useful picture of his subject and his country."--"Kirkus""Philip Short's writing combines the tenacity of an investigative journalist, the critical insight of an historian, and the suspense of a gifted novelist. His biographies of Mao and Pol Pot showcased his ability to elucidate complex historical figures, the sources of their influence, and the multiple forces shaping their ultimately brutal exercise of power. 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