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David Charter

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David Charter : Au Revoir, Europe: What if Britain left the EU? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Au Revoir, Europe: What if Britain left the EU?:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For foreigners (and Britons) who want to understand why the UK will likely leave the EU By DACampbell As an expatriate Briton, I'm frequently left shaking my head at both American and European incomprehension about British eurosceptism and their frequently ludicrous commentary on it. If you

aren't British, and want to know why the British public and a good portion of Britain's elites are now so hostile to the European Union that the UK's membership is now in jeopardy, read this book. If you're British and want a primer, this is also a good starting point (it has been praised by Labour Party MP and shadow cabinet member John Cruddas, for example). Charter was European correspondent for the Times (of London) and thus had a front-row seat when it came to the EU in general and the acrimonious EU-UK relationship in particular. Charter, unlike too many commentators on the EU, actually understands how it works and has spoken to many of the key players, which in and of itself is valuable. Essentially, Charter's thesis is that the United Kingdom and the rest of the European Union are headed in divergent directions and, despite an earlier period of relatively harmonious relations, have always been at variance. Simply put, the end goal of the EU always was some sort of federal system (although not necessarily a United States of Europe) and that not only has this idea never held any appeal among the British public, but that Britain's elites have, through deception, self-deception or ignorance, never clearly explained to the public what membership in the EU actually entails. We are now at the point where there is an EU inner core (the Eurozone) moving towards a federal destination to ensure the survival and viability of the euro and an outer core moving to the margins and, in the case of the UK, the exit. While this is not an entirely original thesis, the strength of this book is the evidence Charter provides in support of it. This includes an intelligent potted history of Britain's membership of the EU (chs. 1-2); an honest assessment of the pros and cons of EU membership (ch. 3); a responsible assessment of the likely direction the rest of the EU is headed (ch. 4); an examination of the possibilities of the UK's repatriating powers ceded to the EU while retaining membership (short answer: virtually none)(ch. 5); an exploration of whether the so-called Swiss or Norwegian option is a possibility for the UK (short answer: unlikely and yes, but would only anger the British public further) (ch. 6); a sober consideration of Britain's options if it breaks off relations entirely -- so no access to the single market whatsoever (ch. 7); and a bean-counting analysis of how everything from jobs to the financial services to farming to education to fishing to several other aspects of British life would be directly affected by a British departure (ch. 8). The weakest chapter is the last which, set ten years in the future, imagines life in a Britain which voted to leave the EU in a 2017 referendum (ch. 9). This review is already too long, but in answer to such questions as does Charter recognize that Scotland and Wales are more pro-European than England; that euroscepticism is hardly unique to the British; that it is not a case of the UK versus some behemoth in Brussels, but negotiations among European nations of which the UK is one; and that a lot of what constitutes the EU is as a result of British negotiations: yes, yes, yes, and yes. This book covers it all. To Europhiles who believe the recent history of the UK is the story of missed opportunities en route to an inevitable European future will need to answer Charter's arguments to the contrary. Similarly, Eurosceptics who believe departure from the EU will be painless and without negative consequences will also have some explaining to do in response to this book. Individuals guilty of self-deception or deception who are gleefully skewered in here include Peter Mandelson, Vince Cable, Nigel Farage and David Cameron. In short, if you have any interest in the question of the UK's place in the EU -- past, present and future -- this is the book to read. Another possible benefit may be that reading it will, in the future, prevent Americans like Frank Rich of the New York Times and Europeans like Daniel Cohn Bendit talking out of their backsides on this subject. Although that may be asking too much. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Essential Reading for UK Voters By Chris This is important reading for anyone who wants to understand the EU and all matters concerning the UK's relations with it. It clears away various shades of prejudice generated by the UK media and explains things in a clear and objective manner. It should become "essential reading" for all voters who will participate in any future UK In/Out referendum. It debunks many myths generated by the UK media and unveils the simple facts. An excellent book!

Forty years ago, Britain joined the club of European nations. The idea was to guarantee peace and prosperity on the continent through 'ever closer union' following centuries of terrible wars. But after four decades of membership, costing the UK more than ?200 billion, public disenchantment with the European Union has never been so great. In Au Revoir, Europe David Charter, Europe Correspondent for The Times, looks at what went wrong - and what happens next. It charts Britain's increasing detachment from the European project amid a barrage of bureaucracy, mindboggling expenditure and concern at sharing sovereignty for goals that were never truly embraced. From trade to transport, fishing to finance, investment to immigration, the decision that Britain takes on its future relationship with Brussels will touch many parts of everyday life. In presenting the unvarnished truth of what it would really mean for Britain to say goodbye, this book is a unique contribution to the European debate and essential reading for all.

[a] timely contribution to the debate 40 years after the UK joined [the EU] Philip Johnston, Daily Telegraph Brutally lucid, this road-map for a UK exit from the Union should sharpen every political mind Jon Cruddas MP, The Independent This is a shockingly coherent book. It ascribes logic to what, from the outside at least, appears degenerative Tory thinking - This book is a brutal contribution to a consideration of the options that this country now faces. Belfast Telegraph an essential handbook to the understanding of a debate that will dominate the next five years. Tribune What is lacking thus far is any dispassionate analysis of how we got to where we are today and hard facts on which to base decisions about the future. Into that gap steps David Charter. [Charter] has produced a well-researched,

well-documented and, above all, lucid and objective account of Britain's increasingly fraught relationship with the EU. The Times
About the Author
DAVID CHARTER has spent five years living and working in brussels for The Times and this work is the result of his own journey to the heart of the european project.