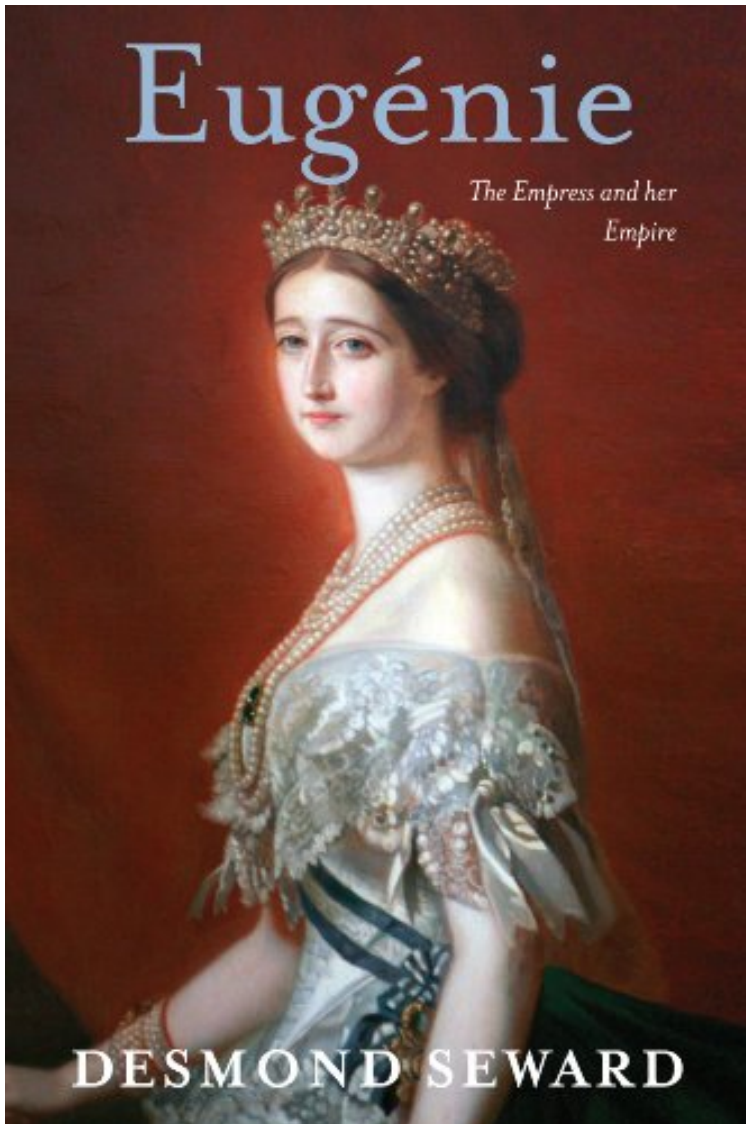


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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurFrom 1853 to 1870 Eugnie de Montijo was Empress of the French, sharing the Second Empire with her husband Napoleon III. The last woman to reign over France (and the only one to reign over the Paris we know today), she personifies the allure glimpsed in Winterhalters portraits and the music of Jacques Offenbach. Eighteen years of self-indulgence, folly and wild gaiety, of love affairs and unbelievable elegance, a survivor wistfully recalled. For a short time, too short a time, it seemed as if we were glittering ghosts from the splendours of the eighteenth century. In many ways the Second Empire was a final flicker of the ancien regime.Successfully persuades us that any history of the nineteenth century which ignores her

impact is hardly worth reading. Literary A brilliantly told biography that resurrects Eugenie and her Empire in all its shimmering glitziness. Daily Mail This is revisionist history at its best. Andrew Roberts Presentation de l'Empereur From 1853 to 1870 Eugenie de Montijo was Empress of the French, sharing the Second Empire with her husband Napoleon III. The last woman to reign over France (and the only one to reign over the Paris we know today), she personifies the allure glimpsed in Winterhalter portraits and the music of Jacques Offenbach. Eighteen years of self-indulgence, folly and wild gaiety, of love affairs and unbelievable elegance, a survivor wistfully recalled. For a short time, too short a time, it seemed as if we were glittering ghosts from the splendours of the eighteenth century. In many ways the Second Empire was a final flicker of the ancien regime. Successfully persuades us that any history of the nineteenth century which ignores her impact is hardly worth reading. Literary A brilliantly told biography that resurrects Eugenie and her Empire in all its shimmering glitziness. Daily Mail This is revisionist history at its best. Andrew Roberts Biographie de l'Impératrice Eugénie Desmond Seward is best known for *The Monks of War* (1972), *The Wars of the Roses* (1995) both republished by the Folio Society and *A Brief History of the Hundred Years War* that has stayed in print in Britain and the United States since its publication in 1978. However, his own favourites among his books are *Old Puglia: A Portrait of South Eastern Italy* (with Susan Mountgarret, 2009) and *Wings over the Desert* (2009), an account of his father's experiences as an RFC pilot in Palestine during the First World War. He was born in 1935 in Paris where his father was managing director of Timken Franais, into a family of Anglo-Irish origin that had been wine-merchants at Bordeaux since the 1870s (a background that instilled a lasting love of France) and educated at Ampleforth and at St Catharine's College, Cambridge as an Exhibitioner in History. Unfashionably, harking back to Gibbon and Macaulay, he believes that history is literature - that readability and accessibility are of vital importance.