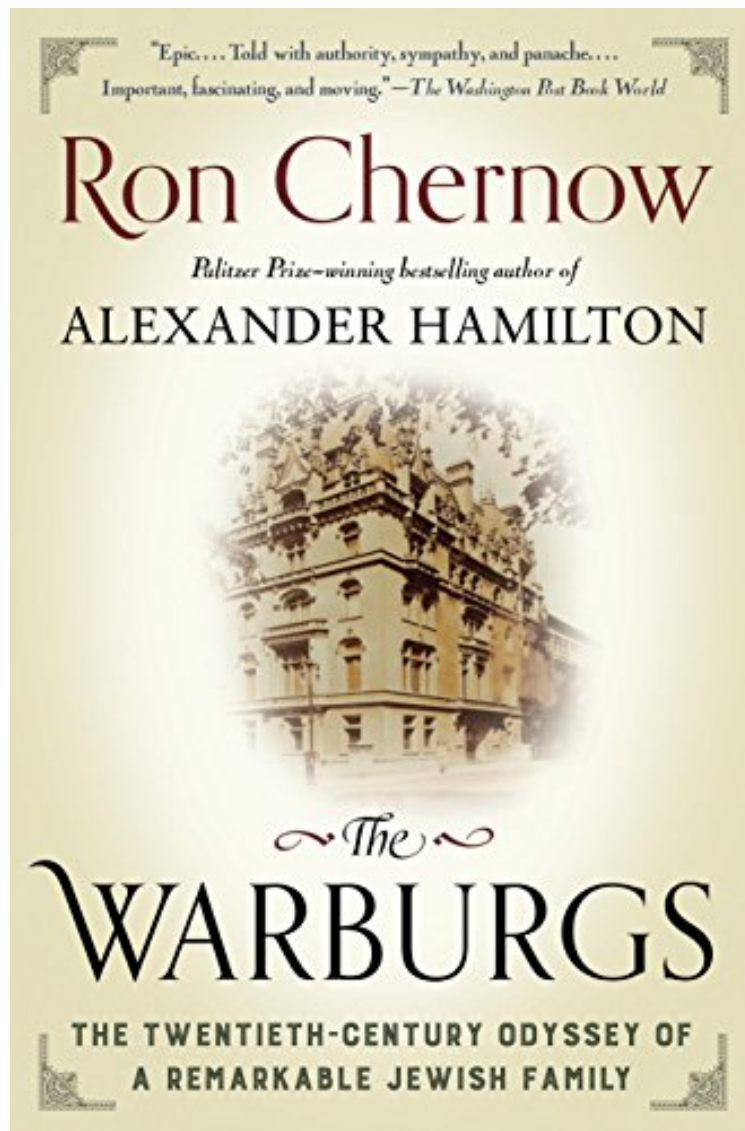


[Ebook free] The Warburgs: The Twentieth-Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family

## The Warburgs: The Twentieth-Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family

Ron Chernow

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**Ron Chernow : The Warburgs: The Twentieth-Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Warburgs: The Twentieth-Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family:

45 of 46 people found the following review helpful. I wish it had been done better By Howard Schulman I imagine I'm going to get unhelpful votes by saying this, but this biography was not up to par with the author's other biographies. I've read Titan, which I thought was great, House of Morgan, which was really good, and Hamilton, which was also

good, and this book just isn't up to those other books. The beginning was very frustrating because we learn about this supposedly very successful and widely acclaimed and established German banking family, yet there is practically nothing concerning how they got to be well known and exceedingly wealthy, nor what their business dealings were at the time. And this lack of information goes on and on, focusing almost to exclusion on inter-personal issues. Looking up the Warburgs in Wikipedia, I learned that the family had been a very successful banking family from the 1600's back in Venice, even before they settled in Warburg, Germany. Starting the narrative in the mid to late 1800's with the success of Jews in what was to become Germany just left me hanging and feeling like I was missing a large part of who the Warburgs were and how they got that way. Additionally, the family had been around for a very long time and there are scattered references to visiting or staying with uncles and aunts, but the overall breadth of the family is not addressed. Thinking about his problem now, it almost would make more sense and read better if there was a short intro and perhaps 10 separate bios on separate family members, instead of skipping around. It would help the flow. I have a feeling the author's inability to read German or Swedish or other European languages and his lack of primary research in Europe, where the Warburgs achieved fame and fortune, contributed to this incomplete biography. On the other hand, it appears that not much had been written on the Warburgs prior to this book (at least in English), and that is why I read the book. Additionally, the whole build up to the Holocaust and how the Warburgs kept their warm feelings for Germany throughout the experience, as a constant theme, was very interesting and well done, especially since I'm Jewish. The reading got more focused and poignant the closer the Holocaust got and immediately afterwards. 3 or 3.5 stars is probably the best score, but will upgrade so I don't get canned too badly. If you're interested in the Warburg it's a good starter book, though I imagine if this weren't one of the first books Chernow wrote, he would have done a better job as a more mature and accomplished biographer. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Very informative and interesting, if not the best of Chernow's biographies. By Ellen Maserati This multi-generational history of the Warburg banking dynasty, though not as riveting as Chernow's biographies of Rockefeller, Washington, and Hamilton, is definitely worth reading. In addition to the interesting, and often quirky, family members, one gets a very good sense of how assimilated the German Jews had become by the beginning of the twentieth century. And not only assimilated, but extremely successful, and integrated into the business and banking world, not only in Germany, but in America as well. The very detailed account of what was going on not only in the Warburg banking world, but also in their psyches, goes far to answer the question of why so many Jews refused to see the holocaust coming and leave the country. It documents well what Germany was like for wealthy Jewish families, up until some years into the 20th century, what it was in the national psyche that made the time ripe for Hitler, and the continued resistance of FDR to help the German Jews. I give The Warburgs three, rather than four, stars only by comparison with Chernow's other superb, page-turning biographies. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wow ! What a great read. By Dave I've read most of Ron Chernow's books and they all are just overpowering. The history that you will learn is astounding, and it comes to you as a wonderfully told story. The Warburgs, will put the pieces of the history puzzle together from pre-WWI Germany to the Treaty of Versailles, WWII, post-WWII Germany, plus Warburg involvement with the creation of the current US Central Bank and service on the board of the Federal Reserve. The story covers the split of the family telling the stories of those who remained in Germany some of whom suffered death in the Holocaust, while others lost wealth, position, and sanity yet one remained relatively unscathed building a library of great works while in Germany through Hitler's reign. The journey of the family is a European, American, and Anglo journey, of a family that prospered and suffered and prospered again leaving it's mark on history for the last three centuries, and still survives.

From the Pulitzer Prizewinning bestselling author of Alexander Hamilton, the inspiration for the hit Broadway musical, comes this definitive biography of the Warburgs, one of the great German-Jewish banking families of the twentieth century. Bankers, philanthropists, scholars, socialites, artists, and politicians, the Warburgs stood at the pinnacle of German (and, later, of German-American) Jewry. They forged economic dynasties, built mansions and estates, assembled libraries, endowed charities, and advised a German kaiser and two American presidents. But their very success made the Warburgs lightning rods for anti-Semitism, and their sense of patriotism became increasingly dangerous in a Germany that had declared Jews the enemy. Ron Chernow's hugely fascinating history is a group portrait of a clan whose members were renowned for their brilliance, culture, and personal energy yet tragically vulnerable to the dark and irrational currents of the twentieth century.