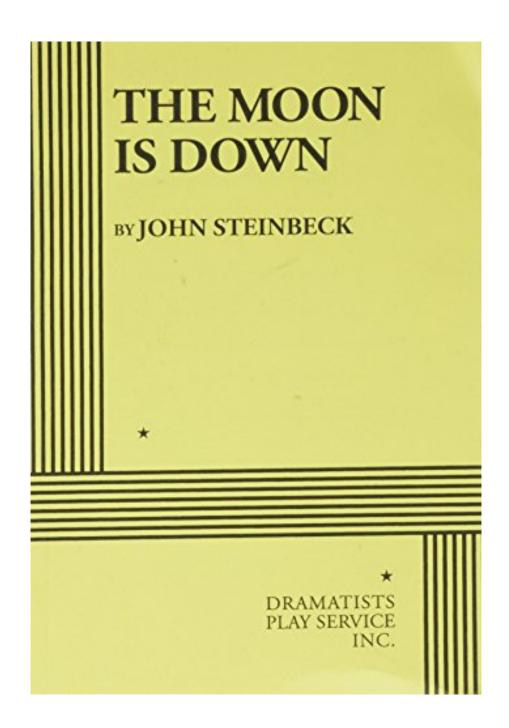


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### Review

John Steinbeck knew and understood America and Americans better than any other writer of the twentieth century. (The Dallas Morning News) A man whose work was equal to the vast social themes that drove him. (Don DeLillo)"

#### About the Author

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"Free men cannot start a war, but once it is started, they can fight on in defeat." This compelling, dignified and moving novel was inspired by and based upon the Nazi invasion of neutral Norway. Set in an imaginary European mining town, it shows what happens when a ruthless totalitarian power is up against an occupied democracy with an overwhelming desire to be free. Hardback (including notes) 153pp

• Sales Rank: #105769 in Books

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Published on: 1942-10-01Original language: English

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• Binding: Paperback

• 72 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Very interesting and intriguing!

By Jacqueline Murray

This book was chosen by a member of our book club and I found it to be very engaging and extremely thought provoking. Since it was meant to be a work of propaganda for those in Europe under Nazi control, and was later criticized for not being critical enough of the Nazi soldiers, it was very intriguing. In the end, it was very popular to the audience it was meant to uplift and I completely understand why it was! It is not a "feel good" book, but it reflects the patriotism and the strength an oppressed civilization can have when an oppressor tries to completely break them. I found the Nazi characters also very interesting as it seemed realistic that some of them, I'm sure, were not happy with their roles in that war either. The soldiers, in some cases, were very unhappy in that they didn't have a choice but to carry out the orders of their maniacal leader. All in all, I believe that Steinbeck served as a hero to Occupied Europe by writing this book, and the brave men and women who risked their lives printing and distributing it were the ultimate heroes.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Inspiring book.

By Danwood

This book has been translated into many languages and forbidden by dozens of countries - for very good reasons. It is a constant reminder that evil and occupations by other countries cannot and will not persevere. While it is not a story about any particular country, it is widely believed that John Steinbeck had Norway and the German occupation in mind when he wrote the book.

I think it is a must read for everyone, but in particular for those who advocate military solutions on a whim: They might learn that no matter how many bombs, how many kills and no matter how totalitarian a regime you create, you cannot win a war against its people.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

One of his best and probably least well known.

By Aretenno

Steinbeck though anti war realized that at some point violence is the only defense left when all else has failed. The cogent statement in the book 'there are men in power who still do not dare to put weapons in the hands of common people' probably hasn't and won't fit the model taught on campus these days but it all to

clearly describes the aftermath of 9/11 and the rise of a new police state. Sadly no one has yet figured out the Second Amendment had two parts. A citizen may have a weapon but it automatically put said citizen in the ranks of the military defending the Constitution. It never was rocket science. Try reading Carlos Marighella and the the Cycle of Repression to find out what really happened.

Steinbeck was far ahead of his times but squarely in tune with the times in which we live. True to his beliefs.

He's probably up there somewhere chuckling and saying...someone gets it.

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