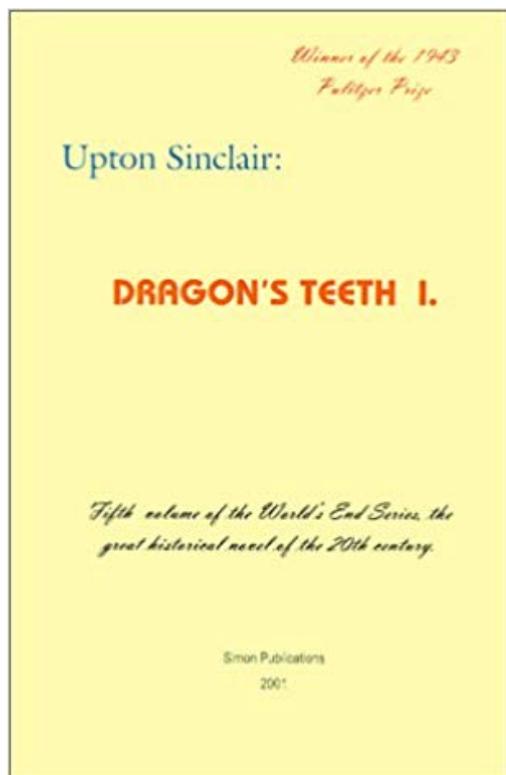


Dragon's Teeth I (World's End) by Upton Sinclair



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Author: Upton Sinclair

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Reviews of the Dragon's Teeth I (World's End) by Upton Sinclair

Tekasa

I had previously read, Dragon's Harvest, written by Sinclair in 1944. I became incensed with his historical accuracy, and literary style. I then noticed that Dragon's Teeth had won awards, so I decided to satisfy my curiosity, and see why this version became so successful. Chronologically, it was published in 1941, just prior to the commencement of WW II. So, even though the characters are similar, the political events in Europe had not yet reached their critical level. I sometimes make an analogy to the Godfather films. If you see I before II, you don't get to see the development of the family crises. In any case, I am more impressed with the Harvest publication, as I can see the eventuality of all the decisions necessary to defend against the Nazi regime. However, reading Sinclair is an arduous process. There are quite a few personages mentioned in the text. It is often

difficult to identify all of them, as he will identify them with a variety of descriptions or "aliases". He is also a world traveler, so, he is always describing a location that is not always familiar to the reader. It helps to keep a dictionary at hand, as he uses the English, French and German vernacular quite liberally. Google helped me greatly. If I was writing a screenplay, I would eliminate a number of "scenes", which seem more like a "diary", than a contribution to the plot structure; or adding to this international intrigue. Overall, it is worthwhile reading this Lanny Budd series. But, if I had to choose only one, I would lean towards the Harvest, since I learned a great deal about the strategies necessary to stop the spread of Nazism throughout the globe. Actually, I see some ominous parallels to our strategies dealing with Middle Eastern Jihadi Terrorist tactics today. The ominous lesson should be: If you allow a murderous regime to flourish.....since it is "far away" , it will eventually invade your backyard, and be too vicious to overcome.

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Opimath

Lanny Budd , newly married and able to maintain the life of the privileged rich despite the ever encroaching Great depression, can open doors to meet the good and the evil that are shaping the world of the early 1930's and witnesses the growing terror that slowly engulfs Germany...

The 3rd book in Sinclair's 'World's End' series; this is a fascinating and gripping step into the politics and world of the most volatile era in recent history. You're there with Lanny Budd as the arguments, debates and political polemics and posturing's (not to mention downright stupidities) unfold that allowed Hitler to slowly take power. The naivete that sees Hitler as no real threat (the workers/people will reject him) and his "Legitimacy" complex which is scorned by others in his party, but ultimately allows him the keys to absolute power.

There is so much here that is "off radar" in in historical accounts which often give the false idea that Germany simply went collectively mad for 13 years before sanity was restored. Maybe that's due to the issues Sinclair debates via Budd that have led to empowering people like Hitler-the ludicrous Versailles treaty; stopping Germany from trading; the toxic effect of the Wall Street crash on the world; the weakness of democratic politics to deal with the crisis...Also you feel Sinclair's own political viewpoint changing from the preaching socialist in 'Oil' (where to be honest, you feel tempted to join the anti red mobs so as you could give Bunny a good slap!) to one who wonders where true , humane and meaningful social justice can come from-and sees it in FDR's 'New Deal' ; a middle democratic pathway away from the extremes engulfing Europe...

Yes, there are fault lines-Lanny Budd is a little implausible with his 'access all area's ticket-getting to meet Hitler and attend rallies of all political hues and a family to match- but Budd is perfect as the tool for Sinclair to explore and give the reader all the tinder box politics of the time that read just like the political debates that we have today-most of which will be lost when today's events are recorded by historians. This is what makes this book so vital.

A fantastic book. Why is Sinclair's "World's End" series not in popular print ? It covers the years 1913-49 and 'Dragon's Teeth' makes you realise how important a document this series is. It's going to be expensive-as only a dedicated few publish and keep alive this series-but I will be reading the whole set. A criminally overlooked important and classic set of works.

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