

THE PHOENIX GENERATION

AN
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THE PHOENIX GENERATION (1965)

covering the period May 1929 to early September 1939

In this novel of the troubled and decadent years before the Second World War, Phillip Maddison sees the survivors of the Western Front as a phoenix generation impelled to reject the past in order to make a country 'fit for heroes'. Yet he remains aloof from any direct action, preferring to plan his own history of the Great War and its aftermath while becoming deeply involved in his own personal problems. Looming meanwhile over the international scene, as the storm clouds of war gather inexorably, the Faust-like figure of Hitler is preaching the advent of a new Europe, based on a thousand years of peace.

'He commands, and is able to turn to artistic ends, a powerful and mournful sense of the near past which has shaped and distorted us into what we are.'

Norman Shrapnel, The Guardian.

(Dust-jacket)



Chronology

- 1929 May General Election, Labour wins, Ramsay MacDonald P.M.,
Sir Oswald Mosley a junior Minister
- 1930 May Mosley's/Birkin's resignation from Government (see p 52)
- 1933 David Maddison and Edward Ancroft born (David said to be six
in 1939, see p 326)
- 1934 Roehm (or Röhm or Rhoem assassinated) see p 174
- 1935 May Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary (May), see p 168
- August Jonathan Maddison born, see p 197
- August Nurnberg/Nuremberg Rally, Germany (pp 172-197)
- 1936 January death of George V (p 206)
- March Germans re-occupy the Rhineland (p 212)
- November death of Hetty Maddison (p 237)
- November Crystal Palace burned down (pp 234-237)
- 1937 late Phillip and Ernest arrive at Norfolk (p 251)
- 1938 Lucy and children move in to cottages at 'Crabbe' (p 277)
- 1939 September 1st Germans bomb Warsaw- WW2 begins (p 381)

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- datable events ch 1(General Election May 1929);
52 (Birkin's/Mosley's resignation May 1930)
168 (*Silver Jubilee May 1935*)
174 (Roehm/Röhm/Rhoem assassinated July 1934)
206(death of George V, January 20th 1936)
212 (Germans reoccupy the Rhineland March 1936)
237 (Crystal Palace burned down November 30th 1936)
247 (abdication of Edward VIII, December 11th 1936)
381 (Germans bomb Warsaw September 1st 1939)
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