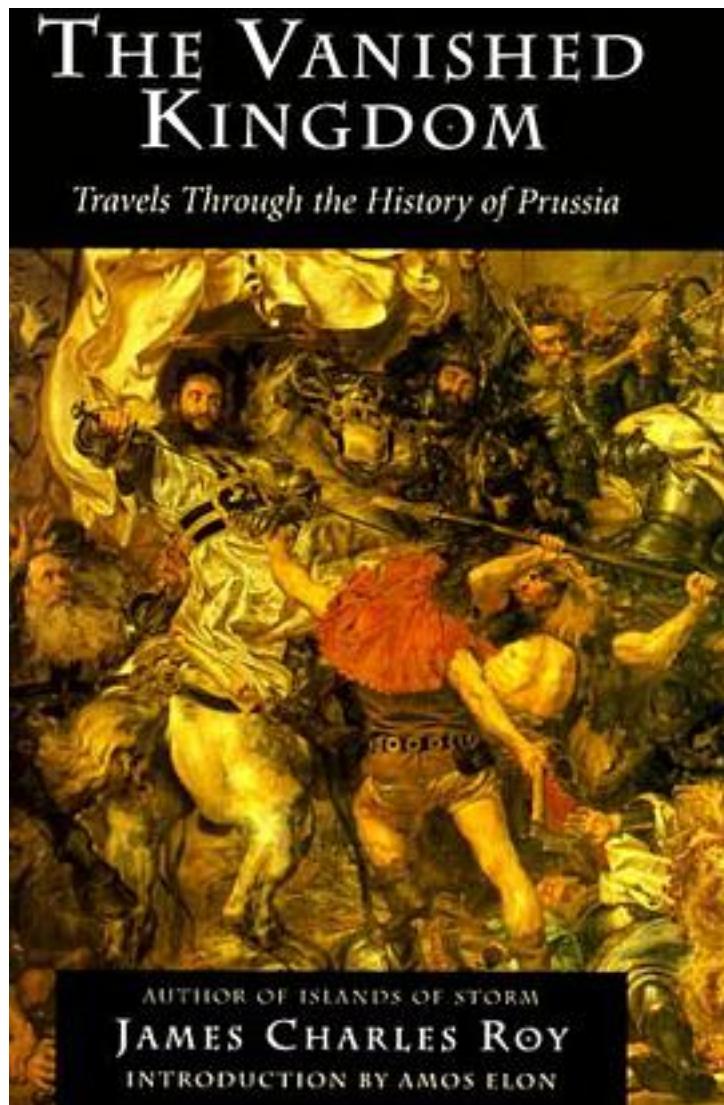


The Vanished Kingdom



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Twice in this century, Germany initiated wars of unimagined terror and destruction. In both cases, defense of the Prussian” realm, the German homeland, was the perceived and vilified perpetrator. Few today understand with any precision what Prussia” means, either geographically or nationally, but neither would they deny the psychic resonance of the single word. To most, it means unbridled aggression, the image of the goose-stepping Junker .But what was once Prussia is now a significant portion of Eastern Europe, a contested homeland first won by Christian knights of the Teutonic Order. For centuries thereafter its terrain has been crisscrossed by war and partitioned by barbed wire. In its final catastrophe of 1945, nearly two million German refugees fled the region as Russian armies broke the eastern front, perhaps the greatest dislocation of a civilian population at any time during World War II. With the Berlin Wall now a memory and the Soviet Union in a state of collapse, this remains a geography in shambles. Modern travelers can now, for the first time in decades, see and ponder for themselves what Prussia really was and now is.James Charles Roy and Amos Elon, two writers noted for their inquisitive natures, have gone to search through the rubble themselves. They intermingle present-day observations with moving vignettes from the German and Prussian past, sketching a portrait of the Europe we know today. The story is spiced with interviews and reminiscences, unforgettable in their sadness, of people looking back at a life now gone, a life full of turmoil and heartache, memories both fond and tragic. The final result: a far deeper understanding of the tattered lands of today’ s Eastern Europe.

作者介绍:

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标签

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历史

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政治

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history

评论

……请用马克把立波露全部普鲁士化了吧，阿西。

作者身为一个美国人，对普鲁士的用情之深让人感叹。这本书结合了历史与游记两个部分。作者在游记中露骨地宣泄着对共产主义的不满与对东欧人民的偏见；但在历史部分里却难能可贵地秉持公平的态度，对东欧该有的赞誉一点也不少。

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书评

——我讨厌西德，那里物质至上纸醉金迷，人们没有理想和灵魂，我也讨厌东德，那里贫困落后，充满犯罪、敌视和愚昧。——那么你想要什么？

——我想要普鲁士……或者说，我想要普鲁士的德意志。

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