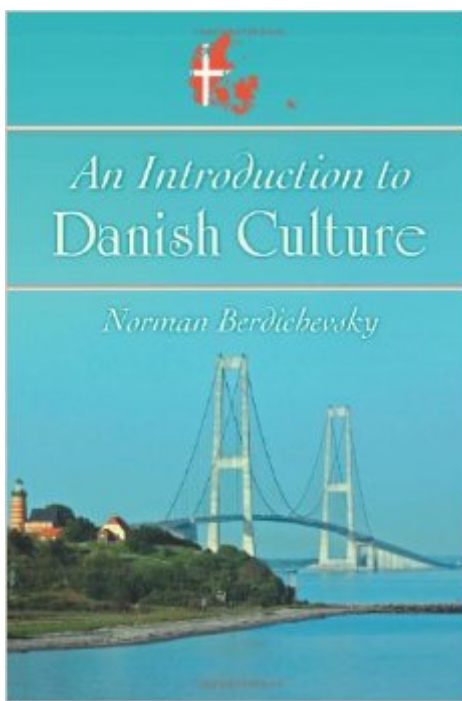


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An Introduction To Danish Culture



Synopsis

For many non-Danish citizens of the world, Denmark remains an enigma. Too often confused with other Scandinavian countries, this southernmost Nordic nation has been characterized by stereotypes and cliches related to socialism, cradle-to-grave security, football, pornography, Hamlet, pigs, dairy cattle, and beer. This enlightening guide to Danish society, culture, and history offers an inside look at the "real" Denmark, highlighting the best of both the country and its people. It details Denmark's substantial contributions to science, engineering, exploration, seafaring, literature, philosophy, music, architecture, and many other fields. Brief portraits depict well-known Danes, including "Clown Prince of Denmark" Victor Borge, Hans Christian Andersen, Kierkegaard, and Out of Africa author Karen Blixen. Throughout, Denmark's outstanding human rights record, democratic institutions, and humanistic traditions are clear. By illuminating Danish culture and clarifying misperceptions, this work fosters a greater appreciation of Denmark, its people, and their way of life.

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Customer Reviews

An Introduction to Danish Culture is an incisive up to date analysis of Denmark and Danish culture by former long term resident Norman Berdichevsky. It is a substantial contribution to the gaps in the English language literature about Denmark. The book covers the essential regional uniqueness of the country's constituent parts including the overseas outliers of the Faroes, Greenland and Bornholm, biographies of eleven important historical figures and contemporary personalities including the Queen and the late great much beloved Danish-American humorist Victor Borge. It examines the Danish language, differences between town and country, the special mind-set of

"coziness" known as hygge, cuisine, the famous pedestrianized streets and a look at the great historical epochs of the Viking age and the little known border dispute with Germany over Schleswig-Holstein. Of special interest for Jewish readers are the chapters on the Virgin Islands (former Danish West Indies) and why Jews have had such a long and fortunate relationship with their fellow citizens. Berdichevsky's long standing love affair began with an actual one leading to marriage and his long term connection to the country. His earliest notions of Danish culture were formed as a result of 'a healthier approach to social relations, love of the outdoors, rejection of the hard-sell American approach to commercial success, anti-militarism, modesty and anti-snobbery'. These were precisely the things that attracted him to Denmark but like other Americans, he discovered that there is also something "rotten in Denmark" as Hamlet became aware of.

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