

A History of the English-Speaking Peoples Since 1900 by Andrew Roberts.  
Weidenfeld and Nicolson 2006.

Winston Churchill won the Nobel Prize for Literature for his four volume history of the English-Speaking Peoples, which ended in January 1901. Any historian undertaking a project to bring this work up to date in the 21<sup>st</sup> century therefore has an un-enviably high standard to attain.

Andrew Roberts' A History of the English-Speaking Peoples since 1900, climbs this mountain with great success and aplomb, as he details the major events in the 20<sup>th</sup> century history of those nations bound together by a common language and sharing a history of endeavour, fortitude, courage and resilience in the face of external assaults, as well as achieving an extraordinary amount in science, technology, politics and the arts at the same time.

Andrew Roberts is unequivocal in his view about the reasons why the English-Speaking Peoples have triumphed over all the other nations of the earth, and of how our systems in so many areas have achieved supremacy over the systems of others; he also notes the universal trait of the English-Speaking Peoples to denigrate and belittle their achievements in a manner that is not shared by those whose glories, unlike our own, are buried in a much more distant past.

In spite of the gloom and introspection that is now so prevalent in Western societies, in spite of the anxieties about the rise of militant Islam and the economic explosion in China, Roberts concludes his book in an upbeat and optimistic mood about the future.

This is a work that will delight all amateur historians, and is a worthy successor to the four volume text whose title it shares.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh