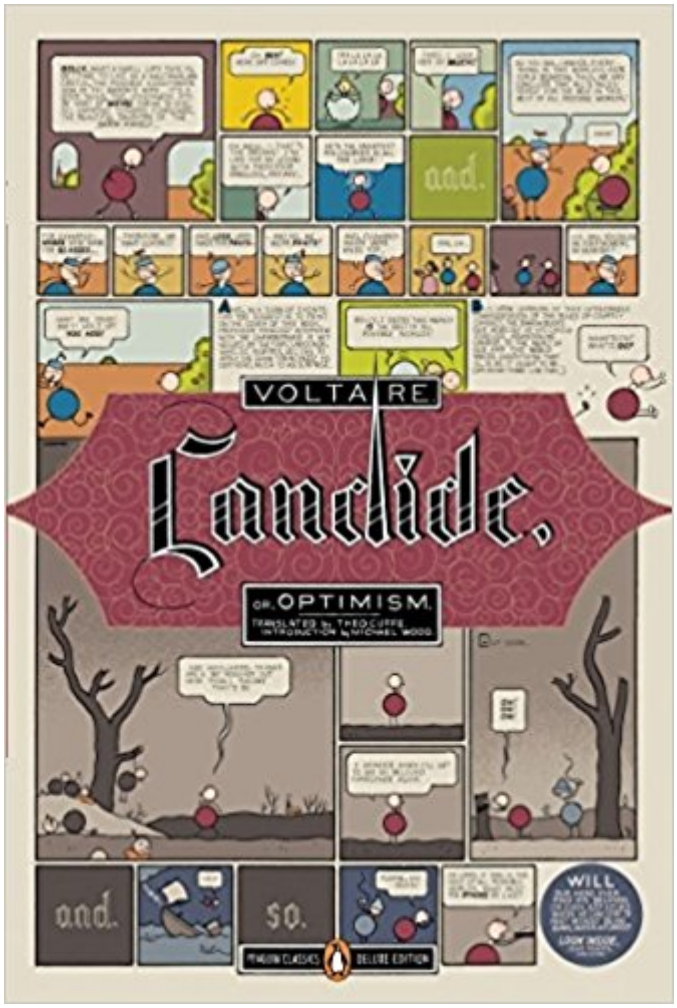
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Candide: Or, Optimism (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition)



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Synopsis

With its vibrant new translation, perceptive introduction, and witty packaging, this new edition of VoltaireÃ¢â ¬â„¢s masterpiece belongs in the hands of every reader pondering our assumptions about human behavior and our place in the world. Candide tells of the hilarious adventures of the naÃƒÂ ve Candide, who doggedly believes that Ã¢â ¬Å“all is for the bestÃ¢â ¬Â• even when faced with injustice, suffering, and despair. Controversial and entertaining, Candide is a book that is vitally relevant today in our world pervaded byÃ¢â ¬â •as Candide would sayÃ¢â ¬â •Ã¢â ¬Å“the mania for insisting that all is well when all is by no means well.Ã¢â ¬Â•

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Political satire doesn't age well, but occasionally a diatribe contains enough art and universal mirth to survive long after its timeliness has passed. Candide is such a book. Penned by that Renaissance man of the Enlightenment, Voltaire, Candide is steeped in the political and philosophical controversies of the 1750s. But for the general reader, the novel's driving principle is clear enough: the idea (endemic in Voltaire's day) that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and apparent folly, misery and strife are actually harbingers of a greater good we cannot perceive, is hogwash. Telling the tale of the good-natured but star-crossed Candide (think Mr. Magoo armed with deadly force), as he travels the world struggling to be reunited with his love, Lady Cunegonde, the novel smashes such ill-conceived optimism to splinters. Candide's tutor, Dr. Pangloss, is

steadfast in his philosophical good cheer, in the face of more and more fantastic misfortune; Candide’s other companions always supply good sense in the nick of time. Still, as he demolishes optimism, Voltaire pays tribute to human resilience, and in doing so gives the book a pleasant indomitability common to farce. Says one character, a princess turned one-buttocked hag by unkind Fate: "I have wanted to kill myself a hundred times, but somehow I am still in love with life. This ridiculous weakness is perhaps one of our most melancholy propensities; for is there anything more stupid than to be eager to go on carrying a burden which one would gladly throw away, to loathe one’s very being and yet to hold it fast, to fondle the snake that devours us until it has eaten our hearts away?"--Michael Gerber --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

CANDIDE, Voltaire’s 1759 novel, resembles in some ways an old Warner Bros. cartoon in its frantic pace and zest, its wit and sarcasm, its target audience of adults, and its characters’ inability to be killed by the most ghastly violence. When Dr. Pangloss proudly recounts the pedigree of the syphilis that rots him away (he traces the virus back to Columbus’s sailors), Neville Jason slurps his syllables in a wonderfully cartoony way. On the whole, Jason performs this classic with the required straight face (or voice), which conforms to Voltaire’s aim of using the wide-eyed, naÃƒÂ ve Candide and the matter-of-fact narration to mask a philosophical work about suffering and human evil. ZADIG, Voltaire’s 1749 novel of comparable length, lives in the shadow of CANDIDE but is also especially accessible in Jason’s reading. --G.H. Ã Â© AudioFile 2009, Portland, Maine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

NOTE: Due to difficulties in posting this review, until it is completely updated the full text of the review, with links, can be found in the comments section directly below. I apologize for this but have been having an unusually difficult time in getting this review to post. This note will be removed once the review is finalized and posted in final form.This review will address the newly issued Kindle edition of Candide that has been released by Open Road Media as well as give an overview of editions of Candide available for the Kindle and available on .Many Kindle versions of well-known classic books are available. For books available in the public domain, as is the case for Candide, oftentimes these Kindle versions are available for free or for very low price.Some of these Kindle editions are of low quality and have various issues that make them less desirable for those who like to read classics on their Kindles. When I am looking for a classic book to purchase for my Kindle, it is usually a minor research project to determine which one I think will be the ’best’ for my reading, and sometimes I end up purchasing more than one version in order to get one that is well presented

and formatted for the Kindle.This is a relatively short book, normally about 100 pages in printed form, and not a difficult read. This Kindle edition is well produced, the publishers website claims that it has been professionally proofread, and I have detected no errors myself (such as often appear in Kindle books which have been scanned and published without careful check).This Open Road Media version of Candide appears to be the most common version offered on Kindle and uses the translation by Philip Little (see note below) which was originally published by Modern Library in 1918 and is public domain and readily available online (see for example Project Gutenberg link below). It includes the following:- short introduction written by the translator Philip Littell- complete text of Candide (presumably also translated by Philip Littell)- table of contents is included and functions properly, with book 'locations' indicated but not page numbersIt does not include footnotes, which the Gutenberg Library (online) version of Candide does include (see comments section below for link to the Gutenberg Library website). The two versions are otherwise identical as far as I can tell, and the Gutenberg Library version indicates where edits have been made in order to correct typos, and those corrections have all also been included in this Open Road Media version.(I note that this Kindle edition does not indicate which translation is used, nor does the Open Road media website provide that information, however it does show Philip Littell as the author of the introduction and several references I've found also indicate Littell is the translator. However, the NY Public Library article on Candide (see link in comments below) refers to this as an anonymous translation, saying "NYPL is using the most widely available e-text of the book, from the anonymous translation published by the Modern Library in 1918, available on Project Gutenberg").Candide has been well reviewed on and is available in many different editions, both for the Kindle and in print. The listings on with the greatest number of reviews are listed below. I would refer to these listings and the accompanying reviews for discussion of the book itself, which is generally regarded as a major classic and which has been included on many lists of 'best' or 'most influential classic novels:-Ã Â CandideÃ Â with 166 reviews at the present time (1918 Modern Library translation)-Ã Â Candide: Or Optimism (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition)Ã Â (Listed on as ASIN B00B7NP1HQ - Candide: Or Optimism (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition) with 72 reviews and this page on also provides links to the greatest number of formats available, including 8 different versions for the KindleCandide was written by the French philosopher Voltaire (FranÃƒÆ'Ã Â§ois-Marie Arouet) and first published in 1789, in France. It has been translated into English numerous times. I am not going to attempt to judge which of the various translations might be preferable for one reason or another. I do list some of the translations currently available below, for those interested. Generally they can be sampled using 's 'Look Inside" feature to get an idea of

the quality of the translation, and in some cases the customer reviews here on will also address the quality of the translation. I do not know that there are huge differences in the various translations but I'll include in the notes below any comments I do run across that might indicate a preference for any of the translations (some works, War and Peace for example, have strong points of view from different scholars regarding which translation is more true to the original writing). Not all translations are available in Kindle editions.Other editions and more recent translations available include (this is not intended to be a complete listing of all translations currently available, only a selected few):- this 1947 translation by John Butt available in Penguin edition (I do not find this translation available for Kindle): (Ã Â Candide: Or Optimism (Penguin Classics)Ã Â Listed on as ASIN 0140440046 - Candide) The Annenberg Learner website considers this to be the recommended version, saying "This is our recommended edition. This 1947 translation by John Everett Butt provides a clear and stylish English equivalent for the mordant original. This edition has an introduction by the translator, a noted scholar and literary editor, who was Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature at Edinburgh University." See [...]- This 1961 translation by Daniel M. Frame (I do not find this translation available for Kindle): (Listed on as ASIN 0451531159 - Candide, Zadig and Selected Stories) which includes 15 additional stories by Voltaire.- a newer 2005 translation by Theo Cuffe also released by Penguin and available on Kindle: (Listed on as ASIN B00EK28X1C - Candide, or Optimism (Penguin Classics) or (Listed on as ASIN B00B7NP1HQ - Candide: Or Optimism (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition). These Penguin editions for Kindle do include a number of supplementary notes (translators note, note on the text, note on names, map, appendices, chronology, further reading) but do not include any additional works by Voltaire in addition to Candide.- translation by Peter Constantine available in Everyman's Library edition (I do not find this translation available for Kindle): (Listed on as ASIN 067941746X - Candide and Other Stories (Everyman's Library Classics & Contemporary Classics), includes other stories by Voltaire (according to one of the reviews the included stories are: Micromegas, Zadig, What Pleases the Ladies, The Ingenu, The White Bull).- 1990 translation by Roger Pearson available in Oxford World Classics edition (the first link is an earlier edition published by Oxford and the second link is a Kindle edition that is a newer version of the same thing): (Listed on as ASIN 0192807269 - Candide and Other Stories (Oxford World's Classics), or the more recent printing (Listed on as ASIN B005JJ9RME - Candide and Other Stories (Oxford World's Classics) includes several other stories by Voltaire (Micromegas, Zadig, What Pleases the Ladies, The Ingenue, and The White Bull).- Norton Critical Edition, translated by Robert M. Adams and including extensive accompanying essays giving background and criticism, and first published in 1966 (I do not find this translation

available for Kindle): (Listed on as ASIN 0393960587 - Candide (A Norton Critical Edition). This edition does not include other works by Voltaire but does, as mentioned, include a great deal of supplementary material on Candide.My opinion is that this is a fully satisfactory version of Candide for those readers interested in this book and wanting an inexpensive copy for their Kindle. It is being offered for free at the present time on but will probably be sold at a slightly higher price once this 'introductory' period has been completed. It is essentially equivalent to the several other 99 cent Kindle versions presently available for the Kindle, from Dover Publications, and a couple from unidentified publishers and simply showing " Digital Services".

Francois-Marie Arouet (1694--1778), who later took the name of Voltaire, was the illegitimate son of a wealthy notary and his mother who died when he was seven years of old. He was educated at a Jesuit school in Paris. His father wanted him to study the law, but he was determined on a literary career. Voltaire was the friend and guest of Friedrich the Great of Prussia. He wrote many plays, essays and poetry and was a great success. In 1758, at the age of 64, he wrote his masterpiece--Candide or Optimism.Candide tells the story of "a young boy (illegitimate like Voltaire) on whom nature had bestowed the gentlest of dispositions. His countenance expressed his soul. He combined solid judgement with complete openness of mind; which is the reason, I believe, that he was called Candide." The picaresque novel follows the adventures and tribulations of Candide through the world.In the very fist chapter, he is kicked out of the Westphalian castle of Monsieur the Baron von Thunder-ten-tron for kissing his true love, the 17 year-old daughter of the Baron and Baroness--the beautiful Cunegonde.Dr. Pangloss, who is Candide's tutor, "could prove to wonderful effect that there was no effect without cause, and that, in this best of all possible worlds, his Lordship the Baron's castle was the finest of castles and Her ladyship the best of all possible baronesses." Pangloss is an optimist. Through the Pangloss character Voltaire satirizes the Leibnizian doctrine that this is the best of all possible worlds. Leibniz argued that an omnipotent and benevolent God could not have created a world that was anything other than the best of all possible worlds.Moreover, Pangloss is a Utopian socialist who parrots Rousseau's Discourse on the Origins of Inequality, 1755. After her jewels and money are stolen, Cunegonde asks, "'What shall we live on? How will we manage?'...'The good Pangloss often demonstrated to me,' said Candide with a sigh, 'that the things of this world are common to all men, and that everyone has an equal right to them.'"The remainder of the book demonstrates the folly of Pangloss' s philosophy. It ultimately becomes a disquisition on the nature of evil. How can the reality of evil in the world be reconciled with the existence of a divine and omnipotent creator?This is simply one of my favorite books of all

time.Christopher Kelly is the author ofÃ Â America Invades: How We've Invaded or been Militarily Involved with almost Every Country on EarthÃ Â andÃ Â Italy Invades.

Candide is one of my top ten novels due to just how hilarious and sarcastic of a work it is. It is very tongue-in-cheek, and a must read for anyone who enjoys classic/world literature. Voltaire holds back zero punches in this work, and his condemnation of politics, war, religion, and social status drips through the pages. For just an example of also how brutal Voltaire gets within this work, there is a passage where Candide asks, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å"But what did she die of...was it from seeing me chased from their beautiful castleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• And the response he gets is like a round-house kick to CandideÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s moronic Disney like world view. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å"No...She was disembowelled by Bulgar Soldiers...ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• There is more to the passage, but my point is there are many moments like this through the work where Candide has this beautiful idea of how the world is supposed to be, and then his perceptions are shattered in some pretty horrific ways. There are zero dull moments in this work, but it is also a very quick read. All of the horrors, and comedy (this is def a dark comedy) leads to a well thought out point. I wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t spoil it here for other readers, but the ending is actually a happy one. Voltaire illustrates superb writing skills within the simple fact that he can write about such insane and gruesome events throughout almost the whole book, but end the whole dark sandwich with a peaceful, almost Zen like calm. I give this little book five out of five stars.

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