

## Dr Sudhir Hazareesingh

Sudhir Hazareesingh was born in Mauritius. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and has been a Fellow and Tutor in Politics at Balliol College, Oxford, since 1990. He has written extensively about French intellectual and cultural history; among his books are *The Legend of Napoleon*, *In the Shadow of the General* and *How the French Think*. He won the Prix du Mémorial d'Ajaccio and the Prix de la Fondation Napoléon for the first of these, a Prix d'Histoire du Sénat for the second, and the Grand Prix du Livre d'Idées for the third.



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### Publications

#### Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
<b>HOW THE FRENCH THINK</b> 2015 Penguin	Sudhir Hazareesingh's <i>How the French Think</i> is a warm yet incisive exploration of the French intellectual tradition, and its exceptional place in a nation's identity and lifestyle Why are the French an exceptional nation? Why do they think they are so exceptional? An important reason is that in France intellectual activity is regarded not just as the preserve of the thinking elite but for almost everyone. French thought can sometimes be austere and often opaque, yet it is undeniably bold and innovative, and driven by a relentless quest for the regeneration of humanity. Sudhir Hazareesingh traces its tumultuous history in an enormously enjoyable and highly original manner, showing how the French ways of thought and life connect. This will be one of the most revealing books written about them - or any other European country - for years.

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<b>IN THE SHADOW OF THE GENERAL</b> 2011 OUP	While not a companion volume to Hazareesingh's earlier THE LEGEND OF NAPOLEON, this book will offer much in common - in that it too looks at the creation (and in this case, self-creation) of a legend, and the journey (in life and death) to becoming as mythical, iconic figure. It's definitely not a biography but nor is it a book that assumes any great previous knowledge of its subject's life. Along the way, there are some fascinating and appealing aspects to be examined: the French fetish for statues and objects of cult; the perception of France by outsiders, on the "Anglo-Saxon" views of France, with De Gaulle embodying all the things "we" hate about the French: arrogance, ingratitude, obstinacy, deceit, jammyness; the French obsession with national strength (taking a look at Asterix and how he is in many ways the cultural embodiment of Gaullism!); and France's need for heroic father-figures. In that sense the book will also tell a wider story of who the French are, what makes them tick.
<b>THE LEGEND OF NAPOLEON</b> 2004 GRANTA	'God was bored with Napoleon' wrote Victor Hugo and as is well-known, the Emperor was duly defeated at Waterloo in 1815 and exiled to St Helena, where he died an agonising and horrifying death. The Emperor's real legacy is the modernising and beautifying of Paris, the official promotion of religious tolerance, the current French legal and educational systems, and the European Union, to name but a few Napolenic initiatives. And of course, the legend lives on. Drawing on new archival research, Hazareesingh traces not only the emergence of the Napoleonic myth and how it developed into a potent political culture, but also the amazing tenacity of popular affection for the emperor, manifest in countless busts and portraits in ordinary citizens' homes, grass-roots political activism, miraculous apparitions reported after his death, and the memories kept alive by thousands of imperial war veterans. With a new wave of Napoleonic commemorations due in 2004 to mark the bi-centenary of the proclamation of the First Empire, this book is a timely study of why the fascination with Napoleon has endured for two centuries.