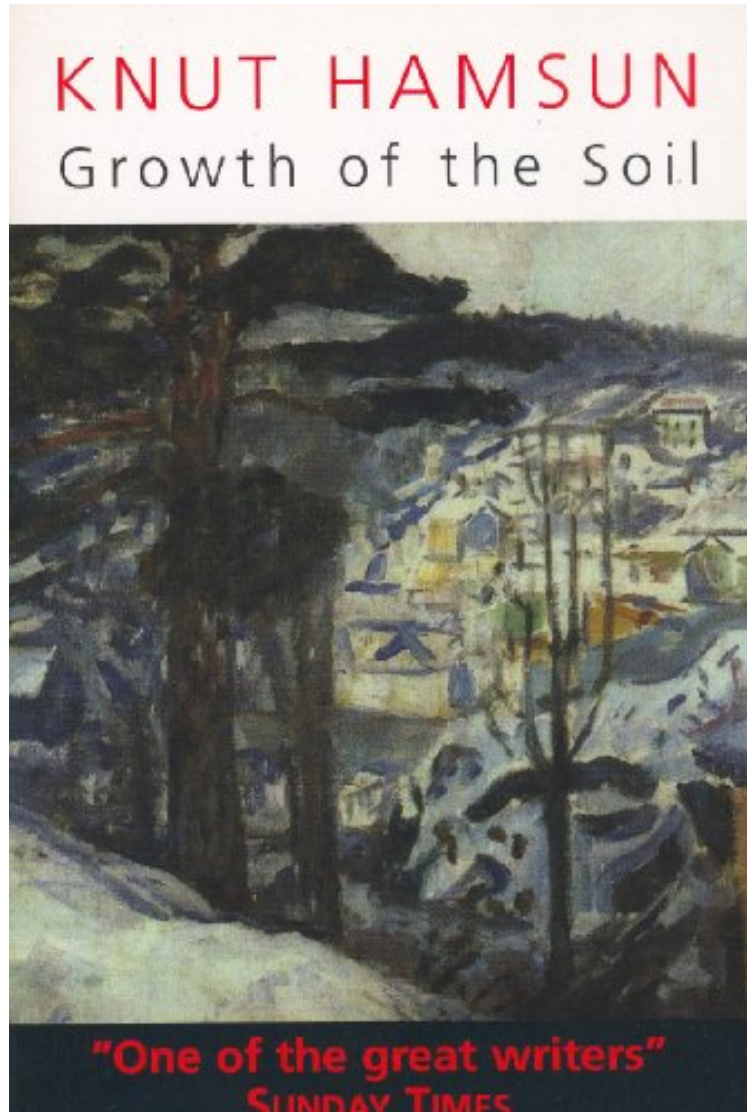


(Download ebook) Growth of the Soil

Growth of the Soil

Von Knut Hamsun

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Von Knut Hamsun : Growth of the Soil before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Growth of the Soil:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a 20th-century masterpieceVon Bruce KendallThis book is in my top-twenty list of 20th-century novels. I can't fathom how anyone with any literary sense could call the prose "stilted." Simple, yes, prosaic, perhaps; but spare and lean does not mean devoid of grace. Hemingway strove all his life to write this way. And let's not forget, Henry Miller held Hamsun and Celine (another politically incorrect master-novelist) in the highest possible regard and wrote that they both

influenced him greatly. I cannot recommend this novel highly enough to anyone who loves literature. As far as the political context is concerned, let's remember that Zubin Mehta performed Wagner in Israel after a long ban and received an enthusiastic reception. I'm a little weary of those politically sensitive souls that want to remove Twain from school reading lists and find Shakespeare too chauvenistic, etc. etc. I certainly can find no evidence of Hamsun's political views expressed in any of his novels. Give this one a chance and decide for yourself. Don't be put off by the thought-police.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fantastic portrait with great human insight

Von Frank-Tommy Olsen (ramsund@xtra.co.nz) People have different opinions of which was the greatest of Knut Hamsun's novels, and very often one of the works from the 1890s will range highest. People also have a lot to say about Hamsun's terms with Nazi-Germany and which made the common Norwegian to see him as a betrayer. He was their greatest hero, up there with King Haakon and Fridtjof Nansen. All these circumstances are more complex to be drawn up here, so let's stay with the fact that Hamsun was one of the greatest and most influential authors of all time. "Growth of the Soil" is the book that secured him the Nobel Prize for literature in 1920, the book the common man of the day valued more than any other of his works, the book that the Germans had printed in "field-editions" to send with their soldiers to the fronts. But this is not an ideally portrait of the values in life - it is a very accurate description of how the life was in the outback for these early settlers, how extremely simple they were. It was not because they had achieved a great understanding of the meaning of life, readers in that belief are totally wrong. They had no choice, were not on terms with their inner-self at all, did not know comfort and beautiful music, could not afford to be fastidious. I can't think of any other book in world literature that comes anywhere near "Growth of the Soil" in portraying these simple, unsophisticated people breaking the land and struggle to live. I am sure this could be the life story of several of my ancestors in North-Norway, the diaries of their lives, but they (like Isak) could not read or write or tell their story. Instead Knut Hamsun has done it with such wisdom, humour and tenderness and most of all his great talent, that in many respects this is his best work

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. eyah, Herregud!

Von Juliana Wyese Like the rocky fjords and peat bogs of the Norwegian country side, the inhabitants of Sellenraa and the neighboring village of Almenning are hardy, impassive and mysterious, but not without a capacity for mercy and tenderness. Isak, the Margrave, the symbolic governor of "the wilds", wanders onto the desolate moorland and builds a grand estate: Sellenraa. This is the story of Isak and his neighbors, trying to eke out a life in a dignified and noble manner. The Growth of the Soil is the story of their journey and their intimate relationship with the land that gives them sustenance. In contrast, in the emerging industrial economy (mining for copper ore), Man and Nature bombard and compete. The lives of the peasant farmers and woodsman are instead, enriched by Nature: "turning the means to an end in itself and being proud of it!". The story is rich in symbolism, but lacks dramatic force, making for tedious reading. The subject matter is weighty and complex (social justice), with strong undertones of political liberalism; even a smattering of anti-Semitism (p. 429). In spite of these, it is worth reading.

Kurzbeschreibung Growth of the Soil is a classic of European literature, one of the seminal novels of the twentieth century. It is the story of Isak, a worker of the land, with its roots in man's deepest myths about the struggle to cultivate the land and make it fertile. The novel moves at the pace of the passing seasons, and with the growth of the crops, on which the characters' lives depend. Hamsun's themes of individual freedom, and the fundamental human need to reconcile man with the natural world, speak even more resonantly now than when the novel was first published.