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Sommario/riassunto An accomplished historian delves into his own history: "An often witty

and always fascinating-even entertaining-writer."- The WashingtonPost In Confessions of an Original Sinner, an adroit blend of autobiography and personal philosophy, historian John Lukacs paused to set down the

history of his own thoughts and beliefs. Now, in Last Rites, he continues and expands his reflections, this time integrating his

conception of history and human knowledge with private memories of his wives and loves, and enhancing the book with footnotes from his idiosyncratic diaries. The resulting volume is fascinating and delightfulan auto-history by a passionate, authentic, brilliant, and witty man.

Lukacs begins with a concise rendering of a historical understanding of our world (essential reading for any historian), then follows with

trenchant observations on his life in the United States, commentary on his native Hungary and the new meanings it took for him after 1989, and deeply personal portraits of his three wives, about whom he has not written before. He also includes a chapter on his formative memories of May and June 1940 and of Winston Churchill, a subject in some of Lukacs's later studies. Last Rites is a richly layered summation combined with a set of extraordinary observations-an original book only John Lukacs could have written