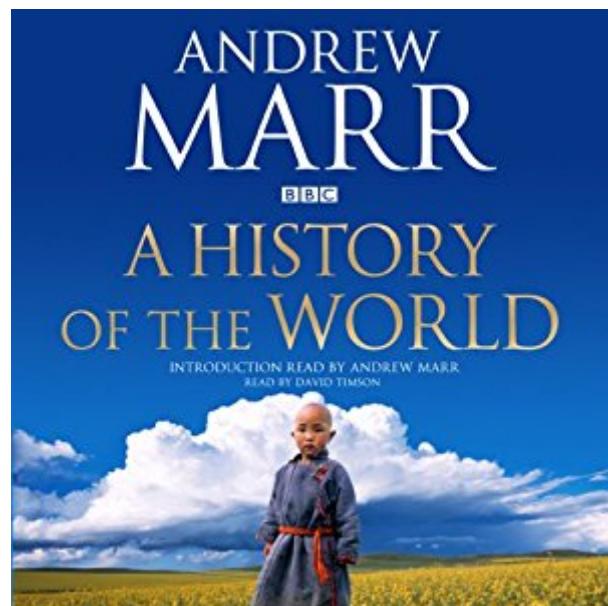


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A History Of The World



Synopsis

From the earliest civilizations to the 21st century: a global journey through human history, published alongside a landmark BBC One television series. Our understanding of world history is changing, as new discoveries are made on all the continents and old prejudices are being challenged. In this truly global journey, Andrew Marr revisits some of the traditional epic stories, from classical Greece and Rome to the rise of Napoleon, but surrounds them with less familiar material, from Peru to the Ukraine, China to the Caribbean. He looks at cultures that have failed and vanished, as well as the origins of today's superpowers, and finds surprising echoes and parallels across vast distances and epochs. This is a book about the great change-makers of history and their times, people such as Cleopatra, Genghis Khan, Galileo, and Mao, but it is also a book about us. For 'The better we understand how rulers lose touch with reality, or why revolutions produce dictators more often than they produce happiness, or why some parts of the world are richer than others, the easier it is to understand our own times.' Fresh, exciting and vividly listenable, this is popular history at its very best.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was trying to find a medium-length world history book that really covered the world's history. This isn't easy, as most tend to focus primarily on European history. This book had relatively few reviews on , so I decided to keep looking rather than buy this when I first saw it. I ended up looking on the UK website, thinking that I may find a book there that wasn't available in the US. On the UK website, this book had many reviews, and they were very high. Based on this, I downloaded to my

Kindle from the US website. The book is engaging. It doesn't cover any period as much as I'd like it to, but this is expected of a medium-length book that covers 10,000 years of history. It does however provide enough history for each period to help the reader determine what s/he would like to read about in greater detail, and then buy the relevant book for that period.

This may be the best world history book that I have read although I have not always enjoyed everything that Mr. Marr has produced. It explains a lot to me that have just been murky questions in my mind. Yes, I know that some of this information may not be the total fact of the matter(is any history book?) but it is his studied conception and certainly better than many. I enjoyed the fact that it was not just battle after battle and war after war. I have looked for history information that gives us knowledge of the many developments that have happened...not just war. Sure, no book is going to do that 100%. but at least this book tried to balance that in to its content. Remembering my school days, I now wish that a book like this had been available....because what was available was boring and just a small percentage of the real history. Mr. Marr does give opinions on peoples personalities and abilities...but if you don't agree with him, you may look up further information to form your own opinion.If anyone can come up with another book, another world history that is as interesting and as balanced as this book....I would like to see your suggestions....Keep in mind that I don't want to go through every detail. A book of this size cannot have every detail.

This is my first non-academic world history read and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Marr weaves together different countries, cultures and their leaders smoothly page after page, often with a unifying theme in mind. Sometimes one can catch a bit of fluffy rhetoric but this does not detract from the experience even if the reader is only trying to gain new knowledge. The book is easy to read yet filled with detail. Marr definitely leans towards writing about new cultures and peoples or towards existing history with new historical information. I felt the book to be a bit short even though it's over 500 pages; there was certainly a huge skipping of historical events but Marr himself addresses this in the beginning of the book as inevitable of anyone trying to tackle a subject so daunting as world history. But Marr (or his editor) got it right when he named the book simply "A" history of the world (not "The") because it is merely one of many world history books that should be read for anyone serious enough about understanding the subject.

Long and quite detailed. Some civilizations, such as Aztecs, have less information. What I like best is that the author shows that all of history, as of human participants, is a mix of good & bad people,

good and bad decisions, lucky and unlucky outcomes. Mr Marr does not judge, and he does not establish a Narrative (discriminatory selection of facts to form an emotional bond). I believe the lack of a narrative, the tool of all politics, is what makes this book stand out in its field.

This is a really good history book. I first bought the BBC DVD series the book supports, but decided I needed more detail so I got the book. I read the book chapters before watching the episodes. This was a good way for me to really learn and remember. Throughout the book, Marr has a clear tone and avoids heavy analysis. However, in the final chapter I felt that there was a bit of political bias when explaining recent history. It may be unavoidable, and did not really detract from the book (it just was obvious since it was very different from the rest of the book). I am amazed at how much info can be crammed into a single book. I wanted to read this book in order to get an "overall picture" before I move on to more specific events and periods, and it has really served that purpose. Highly recommended.

I prefer the documentary, but it is nice to have the book because it is basically the script of his documentary. It is not the most academic book and can over generalize theories of history, but it is a modern interpretation of our world's history from a western perspective. We are moving forward and this book is a step in the right direction. It helps to simplify the history so that it is easier to teach or understand.

I enjoyed this book thoroughly and will read it again and use it as a reference. I intend to plot the chronology of the social and political evolution of civilisations - I was particularly intrigued to learn how closely widely separate civilisations reached similar milestones at similar times and how some lost their way, distracted by religious fanaticism.

Interesting and well-written but contains some historic inaccuracies, particularly in the section on the twentieth century. A bit too liberal in its narrative.

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