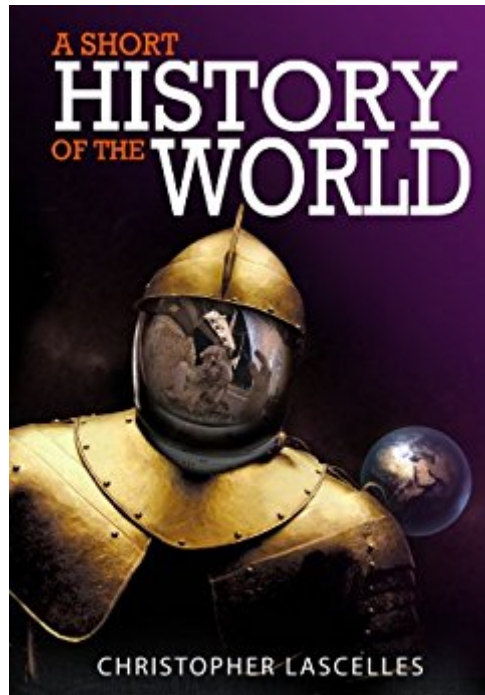




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A Short History Of The World



Synopsis

THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLER "A clearly written, remarkably comprehensive guide to the greatest story on Earth - man's journey from the earliest times to the modern day. Highly recommended" ~ Dan Jones, author of *The Plantagenets: The Kings Who Made England* "Just what we all wanted but were too scared to ask for: everything that ever happened in one digestible, readable book" ~ Matt Ridley "Christopher Lascelles's gem of compression...is like a fresh coat of paint in a badly lit room. You know all this stuff already, more or less, but Lascelles covers all four walls without haste or waste, without dumbing down, and with a high degree of objectivity, reliability, and clarity" ~ Audiofile Magazine "A 'Now I understand where that fits in' moment on every page" ~ Alice Boyle

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION There is an increasing realisation that our knowledge of world history and how it all fits together is far from perfect. *A Short History of the World* aims to fill the big gaps in our historical knowledge with a book that is easy to read and assumes little prior knowledge of past events. The book does not aim to come up with groundbreaking new theories on why things occurred, but rather gives a broad overview of the generally accepted version of events so that non-historians will feel less ignorant when discussing the past. While the book covers world history from the Big Bang to the present day, it principally covers key people, events and empires since the dawn of the first civilisations in around 3500 BC. To help readers put events, places and empires into context, the book includes 36 specially commissioned maps to accompany the text. The result is a book that is reassuringly epic in scope but refreshingly short in length. An excellent place to start to bring your historical knowledge up to scratch. Once you have read this, you will never feel exposed again!

Book Information

File Size: 4631 KB

Print Length: 264 pages

Publisher: Crux Publishing Ltd (January 18, 2014)

Publication Date: January 18, 2014

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006YBXM22

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #101,929 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

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in Kindle Store > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Study & Teaching #570

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Customer Reviews

This book is exactly what it says it is...A Short History... I thought it was well done so if you want an easy to read and digest history then give this one a shot.

This book is a short overview of the history of mankind. I've read other books with the same theme, this book is a very good example of that genre. The author gives a time line of when the genus homo began, when homo sapien developed, the exit from Africa, the migration patterns that settled the world and the beginning of man living in cities as the agricultural revolution allowed civilization to begin. He covers ancient civilizations starting with the Sumerians and Egyptians, but also covers India and China. He hits the highlights of the ancient world, the Assyrians, Hittites, Hebrews, Babylonians etc. The Persian empire is covered and the interaction between it and Ancient Greece with the affect on western civilization that the Greek victories in the 5th century BC had. He covers the development of Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam and the resulting affect these religions had on world history. He continues with a good overview of world development after the fall of Rome into the modern system we live under now. All in all this would be a great first book for someone to get a good overview of world history so that they would be stimulated to investigate whatever strikes their fancy in detail. It is a fast read, you could probably do it one sitting.

Just like it says, this book is a summary of human history in just 165 pages. Unfortunately, 165 pages just isn't enough. I wanted more depth on nearly every page! Other than that, it's 165 good pages indeed. The writing is clear and simple; the organization is first rate; and I didn't spot any places where the history I already knew conflicted seriously with the book. But as soon as I finished, I wanted to read a similar book -- only 300 or 400 pages long -- and I felt like I should have just started with another book instead of this one.

The book is excellent as a refresher in world history. The author gives a relatively brief overview of

the key developments and events in the history of mankind. The book covers the major events and people, including the rise of the great religions and the seemingly endless European wars. The maps that are included are very helpful and are viewable on a newer Kindle's display. Although the author does not purport to add any new insight into the history of the world, he's done a very nice job of condensing accepted facts and figures into a coherent picture of how everything fit together. I found this statement about Napoleon Bonaparte to be especially interesting: "Far from establishing a united Europe under French command, he accelerated the growth of nationalism which would eventually lead to the First World War." The book is highly recommended for anyone who wants a brief, very readable refresher course in world history.

I wanted a basic outline of world history, but I didn't want to feel like I was studying. I can't believe I found such a short, easy-to-read book. I read a lot of historical fiction and so I often learn about certain empires or time periods in isolation. This helps put everything in perspective, show how events intertwine and gives insight on the reasons for wars and the rise and decline of dynasties. I can't recommend it enough. It's the only book I've read in my adult life where I thought "I want to read this again and also tell everyone I know about how awesome it is". Buy it!

Whether you lived in a country that didn't teach you the whole of world history or you just never paid much attention to history, this book will enlighten you on the world's chaos over the centuries. While I'd take the first chapter with a grain of salt as someone who doesn't believe in evolution, the rest of the book is excellent. Ever since the first murder on earth thousands of years ago, people have been at war with each other. Civilization after civilization has risen and fallen. With a history like the one described in this book it is apparent that the world is not finished yet. Before you get too cozy it might be time to read about the realities of existence on here our beloved planet. While I believe most people who are not in power want peace that is far from the reality we experience. This book is very well written and the author is very insightful. He sees what went wrong in the past and in some ways warns us of the future. Will technology eventually control us? That is a thought he leaves us with at the end. So read this book to realize how much help the world needs and then work to be the change you want to see, as someone famous once said. ~The Rebecca Review

A really fascinating read. I love history books, and as I look back on my school days I realize what a piecemeal education in history I was given. Just dates, battles and kings, one country at a time. Mr. Lascelles has the right idea - tie it all together so that the advance of civilization makes sense. You

can only do that globally. I'm most interested in the way humankind has fumbled around trying to work out how government should work and how to "do" law. This book comes closer than any other in explaining that, for all the different areas of the earth. A massive undertaking. Good job!

To paraphrase the author in the introduction, it is one thing to take history classes in school, where you get bits and pieces of world events, and another thing to understand how the history of earth came to be and how each of the pieces fit together to form what we now have. I liked that the book started with the Big Bang, and progressed to life in the present time, including everything in between. For the sake of brevity everything is condensed, but supplies enough information to give the reader an understanding of what took place and how it affected the events that followed. The book includes several maps that fit the timeline of what is happening and help the reader's understanding. I enjoyed reading this book and highly recommend it.

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