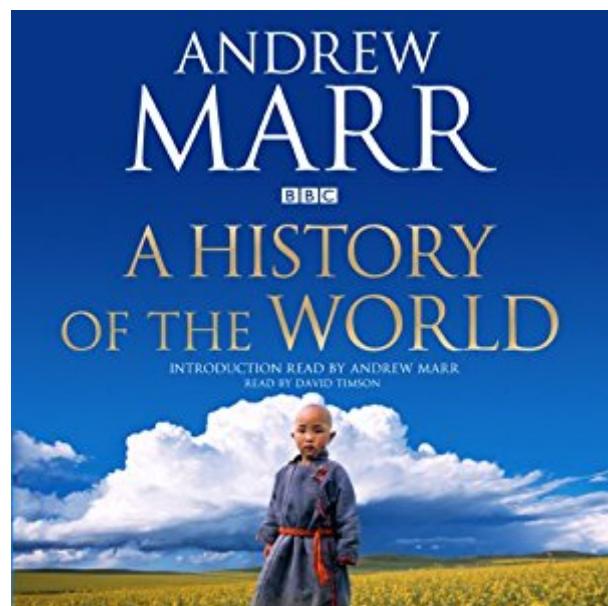


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# A History Of The World



## 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

At last an accessible history of the world. Once I started to read this book I could not put it down. There are some less complimentary reviews but I feel they are a little harsh. Andrew Marr was able to put into context a whole raft of cultures and how they did or did not interact. I cannot count the number of times I thought to myself "ah, that is why this happened". It was as if lots of little lights came on and joined up a map of history. The clarity of writing and the little side comments made this

a very enjoyable and informative read. If history had been taught in a similar way when I was at school, I would have been a very different student.

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 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.

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.

I initially saw this in the library, picked it up to dip a little here and there, but I was hooked from page one. I then bought the kindle version, and never in all its 800+ pages did i get bored or bogged down in irrelevant detail. Detail can be good, but this is more a book about the themes of history, broad causes and long term effects, and how we arrived at the world we live in. This is not a book of record, although it often is, and as mentioned in other reviews here, if I had been taught comparative themes at school that provided context rather than an endless series of who did what when, then I would have understood the world a great deal more. This is up there with Guns Germs and Steel by Jared Diamond for me as an important book for anyone to read.

The book takes you on a tour through time. You can feel the world coming to life - starting with the first sparks of intelligence and then walking along the humans through the beginning of agriculture as a turning point, through the first civilizations and transforming into the world as we know it. You see the roots of present day thoughts, attitudes and perspectives, how they started and how they came to be seen as we see them today. This is a must read for anyone who looks beyond the "where" and "what" and seeks the answers to "why" and how".

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