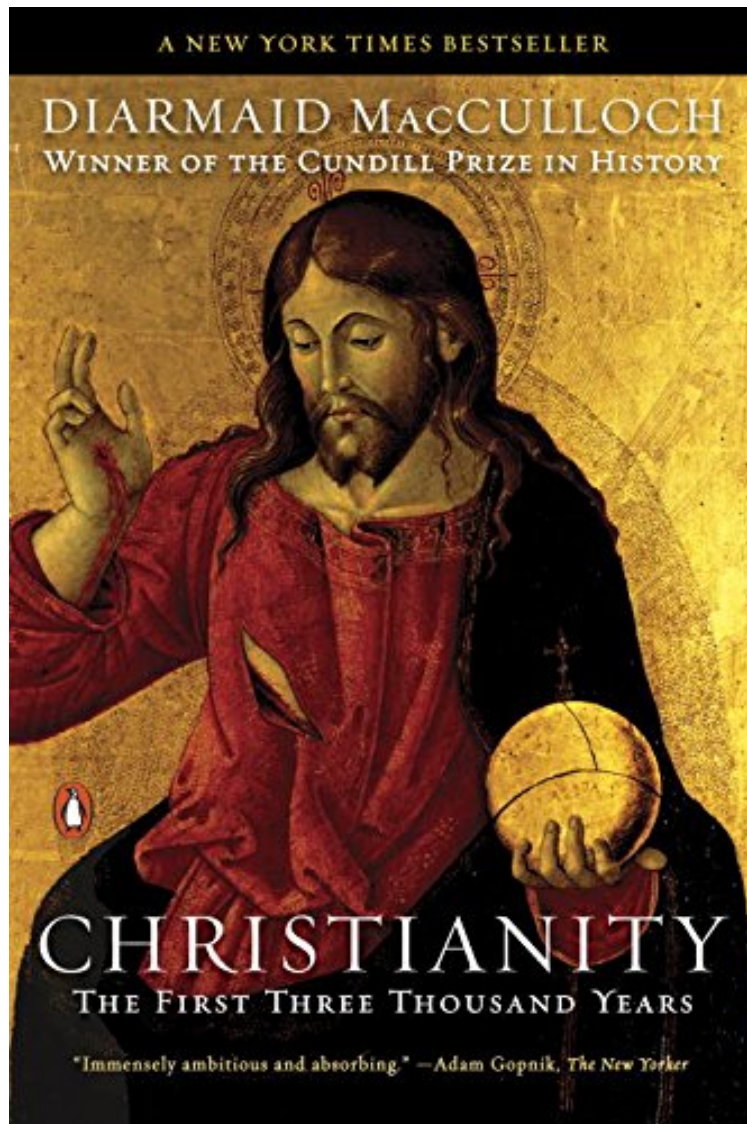


[Free pdf] Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years

Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years

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Diarmaid MacCulloch : Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not successful as an introductory survey of church history.By Bob in BrooklynThis is the central reading for a class/group (Education for Ministry), and while I love EfM, I believe this book is not strong in teaching a narrative history. It has many other strengths.The author is surely brilliant, but there is little sustained chronological or topical structure beyond the chapter headings. Others may love the book for the

author's witty observations of the accidents of history that produced the Western church. I have turned elsewhere for a useful introductory historical and theological survey of the growth of Christianity. But let me be clear: many will enjoy the book's spirituality, the author's writing style, and his informative observations along the way. And the book succeeds in sparking discussion during EfM! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Must Read for Every Christian

By E. E. Rhoads
The introduction to this book is its own compelling story in which the author clearly states his background and bias. He then proceeds to truly unravel 3000 years of history in a way that makes perfect sense. After leading an adult seminar on church history for 15 years, I was delighted to find so many interesting facts and connections of which I was not aware. After only 4 chapters I am absolutely thrilled with the author. The paperback book is gigantic and a bit scary until you begin reading it. It is completely "readable", filled with interesting and frequently humorous factoids. This also a global history; not so much about the journey from Calvary to Rome to Europe and States, but about the world-wide spread of the church, through Russia, China, Africa, India and more. I can't say enough about this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully written and comprehensive

By Robert S. House
This book can be comfortably read by lay people who are committed to putting in the time and effort for discovering an unvarnished history of Christianity and its roots in and impact upon Western Civilization. From the Ancient Greeks and their philosophy and Judaism and the Hebrew Bible through the life and death of Christ, the Roman Empire, the Churches founded by Peter and by Paul, the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, the founding of orders and societies, influences on politics, architecture, art, economics, and education, the Crusades and Inquisition, the growth and dominance of Islam, the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, Vatican II and up to and including Nazism, Communism, Apartheid, Liberation Theology and today's cultural divides, a fascinating story of both splendor and disgrace, both the best and worst of humanity unfolds.

The New York Times bestseller and definitive history of Christianity for our time from the award-winning author of *The Reformation and Silence*

A product of electrifying scholarship conveyed with commanding skill, Diarmaid MacCulloch's *Christianity* goes back to the origins of the Hebrew Bible and encompasses the globe. It captures the major turning points in Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox history and fills in often neglected accounts of conversion and confrontation in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. MacCulloch introduces us to monks and crusaders, heretics and reformers, popes and abolitionists, and discover Christianity's essential role in shaping human history and the intimate lives of men and women. And he uncovers the roots of the faith that galvanized America, charting the surprising beliefs of the founding fathers, the rise of the Evangelical movement and of Pentecostalism, and the recent crises within the Catholic Church. Bursting with original insights and a great pleasure to read, this monumental religious history will not soon be surpassed.

From Publishers Weekly
Where does Christianity begin? In Athens, Jerusalem, or Rome? How did the early creeds of the church develop and differentiate? What was the impact of the Reformation and the Catholic Counterreformation? How have vital Christian communities emerged in Asia, Africa, and India since the 18th century? Award-winning historian MacCulloch (*The Reformation*) attempts to answer these questions and many more in this elegantly written, magisterial history of Christianity. MacCulloch diligently traces the origins and development of Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Christianities, and he provides a more in-depth look at the development of Christianity in Asia and Africa than standard histories of Christianity. He offers sketches of Christian thinkers from Augustine and Luther to Desmond Tutu and Patriarch Bartholomew I. Three appendixes contain a list of popes, Orthodox patriarchs, and a collection of Christian texts. Assuming no previous knowledge on the part of readers about Christian traditions, MacCulloch traces in breathtaking detail the often contentious arguments within Christianity for the past 3,000 years. His monumental achievement will not soon be surpassed. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist
Starred MacCulloch signals the parameters of his prodigious scholarship when he brackets the Resurrection as a riddle no historian can resolve, then marvels at how belief in the Risen Lord has transformed ordinary men and women into martyrs and inquisitors. Despite his refusal to affirm the faith's founding miracle, MacCulloch demonstrates rare talent for probing the human dynamics of Christianity's long and complex evolution. Even when examining well-known episodes such as the Church Fathers fight against Gnosticism or the stunning conversion of Constantinople, this capacious narrative opens unexpected perspectives. Readers encounter, for instance, surprising connections between Christian doctrine, on the one hand, and ancient Greek philosophy interlaced with Roman politics on the other. As the chronicle fractures into Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant strands, MacCulloch exposes unfamiliar but unmistakably human personalities who have shaped the worship of the divine. Readers meet, for instance, Gudit, a savagely anti-monastic Ethiopian queen, and Filofei, an irrepressibly ambitious Russian monk. Much closer to our time, we confront Christian enthusiasms that militarists harnessed in World War I, Christian hatreds that Nazis exploited in World War II. Concluding with the perplexities of evangelists facing an implacably secular world, MacCulloch leaves readers pondering a problematic religious future. A work of exceptional breadth and subtlety. --Bryce Christensen
Praise for *Christianity*
Immensely ambitious and absorbing. Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*
A landmark contribution . . . It is difficult to imagine a more comprehensive

and surprisingly accessible volume than MacCulloch's. Jon Meacham, *The New York Times Book Review* A prodigious, thrilling, masterclass of a history book. MacCulloch is to be congratulated for his accessible handling of so much complex, difficult material. John Cornwell, *Financial Times* A tour de force: it has enormous range, is gracefully and wittily written, and from page one holds the attention. Everyone who reads it will learn things they didn't know. Eamon Duffy, author of *Saints and Sinners* MacCulloch brings an insider's wit to tracing the fate of official Christianity in an age of doubt, and to addressing modern surges of zeal, from Mormons to Pentecostals. *The Economist* A triumphantly executed achievement. This book is a landmark in its field, astonishing in its range, compulsively readable, full of insight even for the most jaded professional and of illumination for the interested general reader. It will have few, if any, rivals in the English language. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury A well-informed and blessed the manwitty narrative guaranteed to please and at the same time displease every single reader, if hardly in identical measure. . . . The author's prose style is fluent, well-judged, and wholly free of cant. . . . You will shut this large book with gratitude for a long and stimulating journey. *The Washington Times* A tour de force . . . The great strength of the book is that it covers, in sufficient but not oppressive detail, huge areas of Christian history which are dealt with cursorily in traditional accounts of the subject and are unfamiliar to most English-speaking readers. . . . MacCulloch's analysis of why Christianity has taken root in Korea but made such a hash in India is perceptive and his account of the nineteenth-century missions in Africa and the Pacific is first-rate and full of insight. . . . The most brilliant point of this remarkable book is its identification of the U.S. as the prime example of the kind of nation the reformers hoped to create. Paul Johnson, *The Spectator*