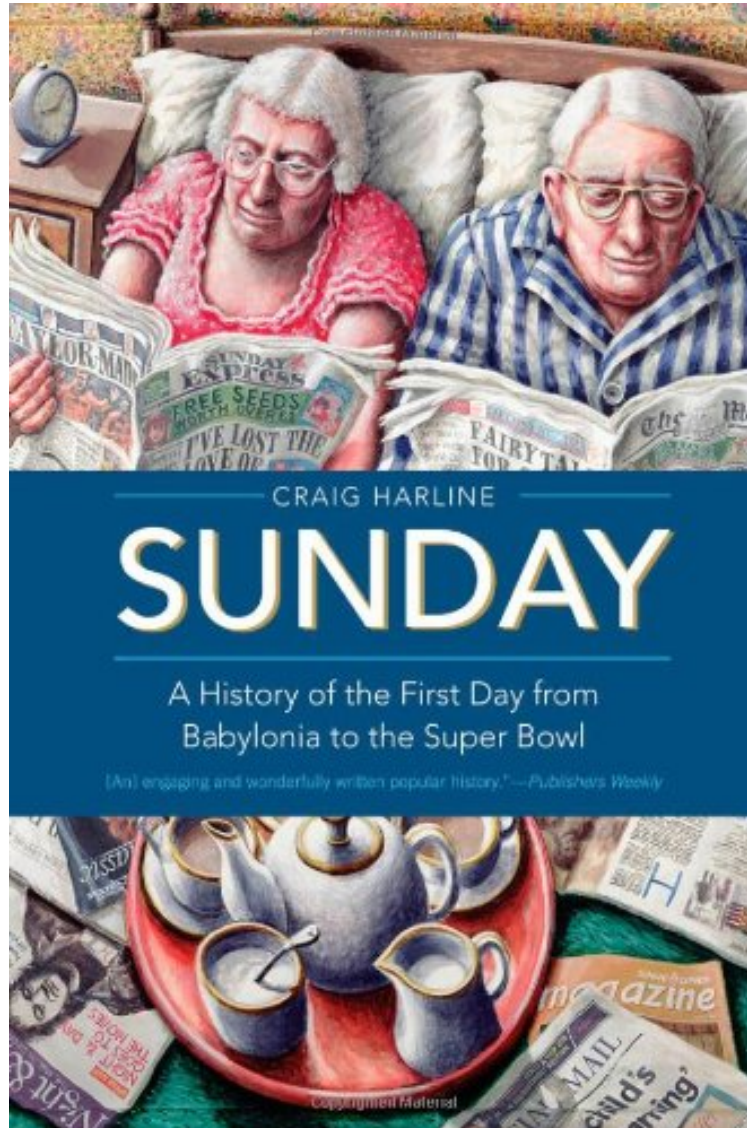


(Read free) Sunday: A History of the First Day from Babylonia to the Super Bowl

Sunday: A History of the First Day from Babylonia to the Super Bowl

Craig Harline

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Craig Harline : Sunday: A History of the First Day from Babylonia to the Super Bowl before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sunday: A History of the First Day from Babylonia to the Super Bowl:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. very insightful By Steven Wyer This supports the notion that much of what we define as worship and a day of rest has little to do with either. In the broadest sense we must all define for

ourselves what setting a day aside should encompass. For me I find that a pause, thoughtful reflection, spiritual focus and no work provides the balance and "reset" I need. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Harline is an excellent historian and this book is another example of his ...By Richard Harline is an excellent historian and this book is another example of his thoughtful interpretation of the data available to historians. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and fun to read By Nicolas Brikke Teaches more than just about Sunday, let's you put things in perspective. explains how christianity originated and got organised, which was revealing and interesting.

The mere mention of "Sunday" will immediately conjure up a rich mix of memories, associations, and ideas for most anyone of any age. Whatever we think of—be it attending church, reading a bulky newspaper, eating brunch, or watching football—Sunday occupies a unique place in Western civilization. But how did we come to have a day with such a singular set of traditions? Here, historian Craig Harline examines Sunday from its ancient beginnings to contemporary America in a fascinating blend of stories and analysis. For the earliest Christians, the first day of the week was a time to celebrate the liturgy, observe the Resurrection, and work. But over time, Sunday in the Western world took on still other meanings and rituals, especially in the addition of both rest and recreation to the day's activities. Harline illuminates these changes in enlightening profiles of Sunday in medieval Catholic England, Sunday in the Reformation, and Sunday in nineteenth-century France—home of the most envied and sometimes despised Sunday of the modern world. He continues with moving portraits of soldiers and civilians trying to observe Sunday during World War I, examines the quiet Sunday of England in the 1930s, and concludes with the convergence of various European traditions in the American Sunday, which also adds some distinctly original habits of its own, such as in the realms of commerce and professional sports. With engaging prose and scholarly integrity, Sunday is an entertaining and long-overdue look at a significant hallmark of Western culture.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Harline, an acclaimed historian and author of *A Bishop's Tale*, adopts a brilliant day-in-the-life strategy to explore the history of the Christian Sabbath in various cultures and times. Rather than attempting a sweeping and methodically exhaustive approach, Harline investigates the topic episodically, portraying, for example, a medieval English Sunday in one chapter, a decadent fin-de-siècle Parisian Sunday in another, and a 1950s American Sunday in the last and longest chapter. Along the way we also visit the earliest Roman Christians; a Dutch Reformed family in the 17th century; some battle-weary soldiers during World War I; and England again during the interwar years. Harline is a marvelous storyteller, combing the diaries, popular periodicals and letters of the various periods to bring the people and their times to life. There are some surprising revelations; until the fifth century, Sunday was a day of worship but also one of work, as early Christian leaders were anxious to distinguish it from the Jewish Sabbath. And Sunday has sometimes given rise to unlikely leisure pastimes: in Holland 400 years ago, it was the preferred day for courting; and in America today, it seems sacrosanct for professional sports. Harline's engaging and wonderfully written popular history deserves a wide readership. (Mar. 27) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Sunday means different things to different people and different cultures. Some look forward to it, others dread it. In this delicious study of Sunday as a concept, Harline contrasts the various ways that Western cultures have looked on the seventh (or first) day of the week, emphasizing Sunday observances, not Sunday rules, especially in western Europe and the U.S. First, however, he examines the emergence of Sunday in the ancient Mediterranean before moving on to medieval and Catholic Europe. He examines a late-nineteenth-century French Sunday, when Parisians promenaded the broad avenues intending to be seen; a Belgian Sunday before the Great War; an English interwar Sunday, when churchgoing was important, but equally many chose to spend the time at home, while others went to the local pub; and the American Sunday of the 1950s, a time for watching sports, especially football and baseball, reading the Sunday paper, and viewing programs on that increasingly popular technological marvel, television. Fine popular social history for the general reader. June Sawyers Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "Surprised me, held my attention, taught me things I didn't know and made me think. . . . The story is fascinating. . . . We touch down at intriguing moments in history and walk around to feel what Sunday was like. . . . I found myself entirely caught up in each period. The gritty realism of the account is compelling." James Howell, *Christian Century*