

The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity (Oxford Illustrated Histories)

From Oxford University Press

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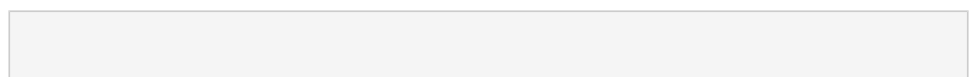
From Oxford University Press

Spanning two thousand years of stirring religious, cultural and political events, this lavishly illustrated volume--the latest addition to the acclaimed Oxford Illustrated History series--provides the most authoritative and accessible history of Christianity ever published for the general reader.

The impact of Christianity on world civilization is almost incalculable, and in exploring this rich heritage, nineteen leading scholars range from the earliest origins to the present day to examine virtually every aspect of the faith. They discuss the apostle Peter and Roman Emperor Constantine, describe the role of Charlemagne in the expansion of the religion, and assess medieval scholasticism and the influence of Thomas Aquinas. The profound changes that occurred during both the Reformation and the Enlightenment are fully treated in chapters that offer revealing portraits of such key figures as Erasmus, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, and Rousseau. Fully one third of the book covers Christianity since 1800--with special studies of the faith as practiced in Britain and Europe, North and South America, Africa, India, and the Far East--offering a compelling continuous narrative filled with insight into the enormously diverse Christian world. In the final chapters, the authors consider questions of contemporary Christian theology, conscience and belief, and explore new concepts of Christian community.

Over 350 beautiful illustrations--including 32 full color plates--grace the text, ranging from mosaics, paintings and sculptures, to architecture and modern art. There are also ten maps, a chronology of important events, and an annotated guide to further reading.

Throughout, the book reflects the changing world in which Christians have found themselves, and the many ways in which, individually and through the institutions of the church, they in turn have influenced history. Comprehensive, vividly narrated, and exquisitely produced, this magnificent book captures the richness and vitality of Christian thought and culture throughout the ages. It is hard to imagine a more meaningful holiday gift.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Extending from the earliest Christian communities, marked by a strong sense of being "called out" from the surrounding society, to the 20th century, a "reversion to an age of persecution of Christianity," this superb, authoritative chronicle recreates the sense of the sacred as it was experienced by Christians in particular times and settings. Led by McManners, professor of ecclesiastical history at Oxford, a team of 19 historians explores the decisive role of Christianity in shaping the Germanic West, the intricate tapestry of Eastern Christendom, the historic failure of Christians to accommodate Jews and Muslims in their midst. Chapters deal with the Reformation and the new lay spirituality of the Enlightenment, missionary expansionism (1500-1800) and modern developments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the U.S. and Europe. Hundreds of illustrations range from paintings by El Greco, Botticelli and Edward Hicks to an Ethiopian miniature, a drawing from a ninth-century psalter and photographs of key figures. 35,000 first printing; \$50,000 ad/promo; History Book Club and Reader's Subscription main selections.

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From School Library Journal

YA-- A collection of 19 essays written by noted individuals and arranged in chronological order from first-century Christianity to projections about the future of the religion. Approximately 350 illustrations complement the selections and represent the differing atmospheres of the changing concepts of this religion throughout history. The sources for further research offer a comprehensive list of additional materials. The thorough index includes ideas and movements as well as proper names, guiding readers to both text and illustrations. While not easy reading, this is an excellent research source; however, some background in the subject is necessary for full comprehension.

- *Lizabeth Connelly, R. E. Lee High School, Springfield, VA*

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From Library Journal

In 19 chapters by as many scholars, this latest volume in the "Oxford Illustrated History" series traces the development of Christianity from its turbulent beginning to the present ferment in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. The last four chapters assess the current state of Christianity and its direction as it faces the challenges of the 21st century. A major emphasis of all the writers is the interaction between church and society. They do not present an isolated view of Christianity's development but show how it has grown in relation and in reaction to changes in its world and how it has helped shape that world. The wealth of illustrations--averaging one every other page--and the readable (though by no means elementary) style should give this volume wide appeal. Highly recommended for public and academic collections.

- *Craig W. Beard, Harding Univ. Lib., Searcy, Ark.*

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Users Review

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