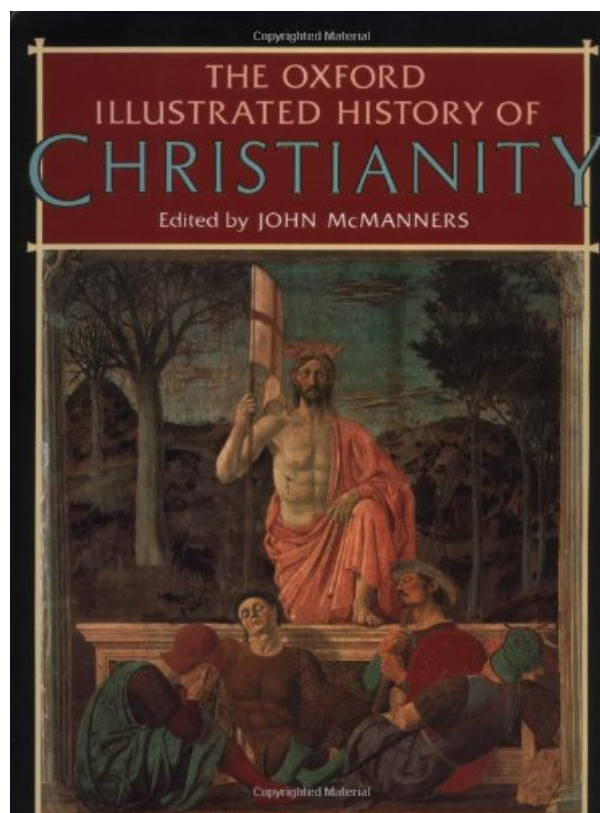
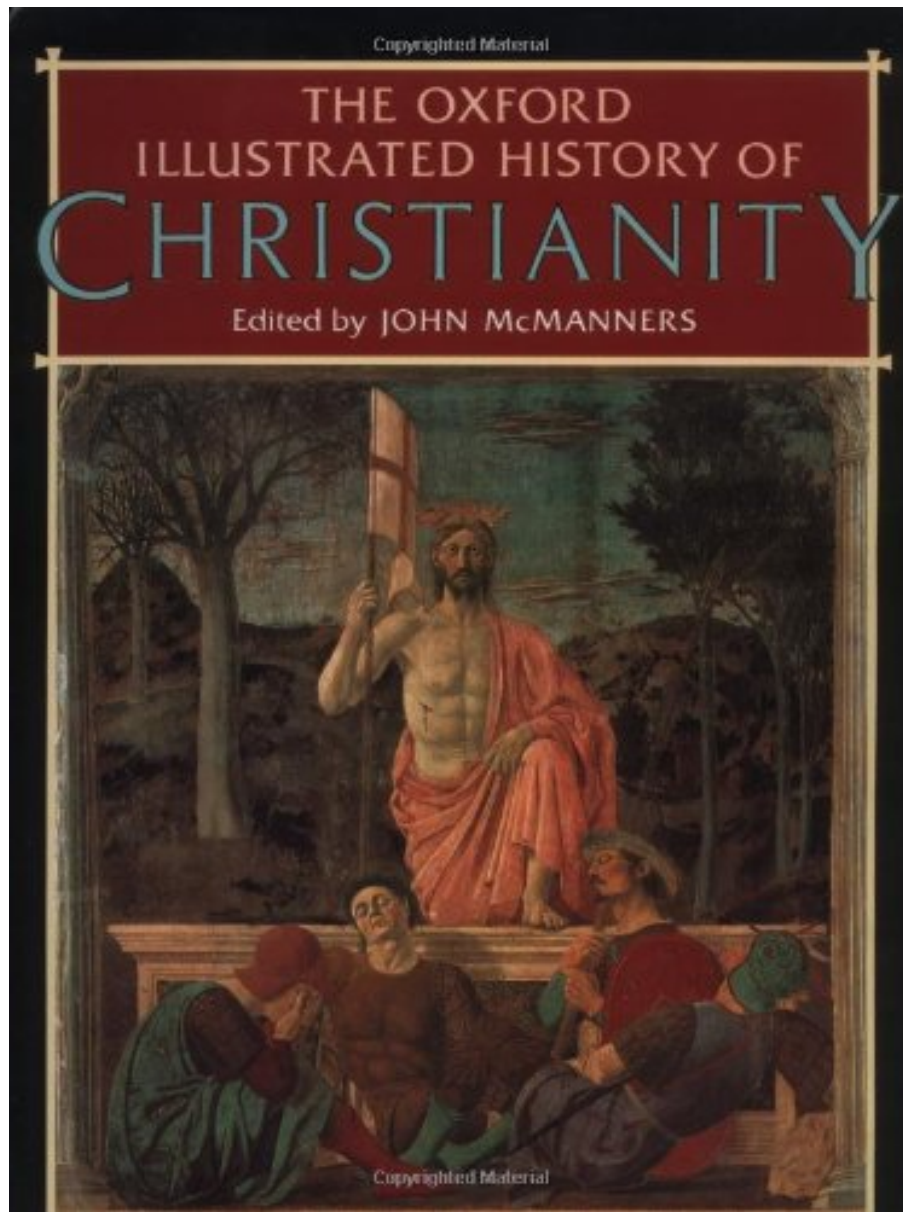


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Over 350 beautiful illustrations--including 32 full color plates--grace the text, ranging from mosaics, paintings and sculptures, to architecture and modern art. There are also ten maps, a chronology of important events, and an annotated guide to further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

- Sales Rank: #1120448 in Books
- Published on: 1990-11-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x 1.80" w x 7.94" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 768 pages

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16 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

Very Good Overview of the Growth and Spread of Christianity

By Wayne A. Smith

The Oxford folks have produced a very good overview of the Christian world from the death of Christ to the present time.

This book gives a good accounting of the major doctrinal and organizational challenges facing Christendom over the last two centuries as well as detailing its growth from a band of Jewish reformers to the world wide force it is today.

I would have liked a little more on the early rise and struggle of the church to find its place both doctrinally and in the Roman world, but this is a very solid book for someone wanting to explore the breadth of Christianity's two millennia.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity

By J. Lindner

Religion, particularly Christianity, is one hair Oxford loves to split in as many ways as they can find. This overview of Christian history is well written and thorough. There may be other books of greater importance

in specific areas of study, but this book is a good beginning. Church libraries may consider this book just because it covers a lot of ground in a single volume.

It covers the basics, the persecutions, the rise of Roman acceptance of Christianity, the middle ages, and the Reformation. It carries the story to the present offering the reader a good understanding of the subject matter. It has illustrations throughout, but most are black and white. In an era when color printing is not really cost prohibitive any longer, this is kind of a shame. But the text is top-notch and the reader will learn much from this volume.

54 of 72 people found the following review helpful.

A good overall history, but very Anglocentric.

By A Customer

I gave this book three stars because it has some very good qualities, and some qualities that detract from it. First, it offers a history of Christianity that neither focuses on the positive aspects nor on the negative aspects of the religion. Instead, it attempts to offer an objective retelling of the story of Christianity's spread. As far as this goes, I recommend this book.

There are two problems with this book, however. First, it is certainly very biased toward the British. Written by many English scholars, this is not terribly surprising considering their propensity for a superiority complex. But, if one can ignore this bias, and even laugh at it in some places, it does not take away from the learning experience of reading this book. What does harm this experience are the assumptions that the authors make about the knowledge of their audience. I have a fairly good background in Christian history, and I read this to fill in some of the gaps. What I found were a lot of teasers to stories I did not know. The authors would mention some fairly obscure person or event without elaboration, expecting the reader to understand what he/she was talking about. This became quite annoying after awhile.

In conclusion, this book is a good read for anyone who wants to learn more about Christian history, but don't expect it to be comprehensive.

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