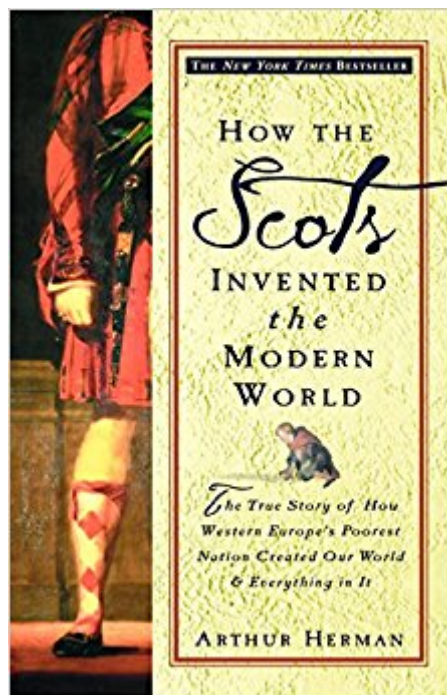




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How The Scots Invented The Modern World: The True Story Of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World And Everything In It



Synopsis

An exciting account of the origins of the modern world Who formed the first literate society? Who invented our modern ideas of democracy and free market capitalism? The Scots. As historian and author Arthur Herman reveals, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Scotland made crucial contributions to science, philosophy, literature, education, medicine, commerce, and politics—contributions that have formed and nurtured the modern West ever since. Herman has charted a fascinating journey across the centuries of Scottish history. Here is the untold story of how John Knox and the Church of Scotland laid the foundation for our modern idea of democracy; how the Scottish Enlightenment helped to inspire both the American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution; and how thousands of Scottish immigrants left their homes to create the American frontier, the Australian outback, and the British Empire in India and Hong Kong. How the Scots Invented the Modern World reveals how Scottish genius for creating the basic ideas and institutions of modern life stamped the lives of a series of remarkable historical figures, from James Watt and Adam Smith to Andrew Carnegie and Arthur Conan Doyle, and how Scottish heroes continue to inspire our contemporary culture, from William “Braveheart” Wallace to James Bond. And no one who takes this incredible historical trek will ever view the Scots—or the modern West—in the same way again.

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Customer Reviews

I grew up in Scotland, so the title had a certain irresistible appeal(!), but this book provided context that was missing entirely in my history classes in school. It's certainly no puff-piece for Scotland, because the author minces no words describing the darker side of 17th and 18th Century Scottish culture, but it is a scholarly and well-rounded view of the birthplace of the Enlightenment and its profound effect on Western thought, politics and education. The USA is my adopted country, as it has been for so many Scots, and although I knew much of the Scottish influence on the founding of this country, I had no idea it ran so deep or wide. I wouldn't dream of spoiling the surprises for anyone who has not read this yet, other than to say that no-one who is a student of American history can afford not to read this book. The depth of research and the unvarnished, warts-and-all approach Mr. Herman takes to his subject matter make it a must read.

Scotland. I found this book to be much more than I expected. The spread of knowledge through the Scottish population was an amazing achievement that influenced our country as much as England. The great universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh gave rise to so much of our common culture, surpassing Oxford and Cambridge for over 200 years. A great eye-opener of a story! Thanks

a very interesting and well written cultural history of the Scots influence on the world.

Very interesting history of how the Scots contributed to our ideas of the relation of individuals to society.

Way to long winded. Some of the historical stuff was endless and some of it seemed to be irrelevant.

A well-written, engaging, relevant, and enlightening review of very important history of civil progress. I highly recommend this work to all who would strive to more completely understand our historical heritage in order to guide a logical and rational journey into the future.

Great

Makes me proud to be Scot..

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