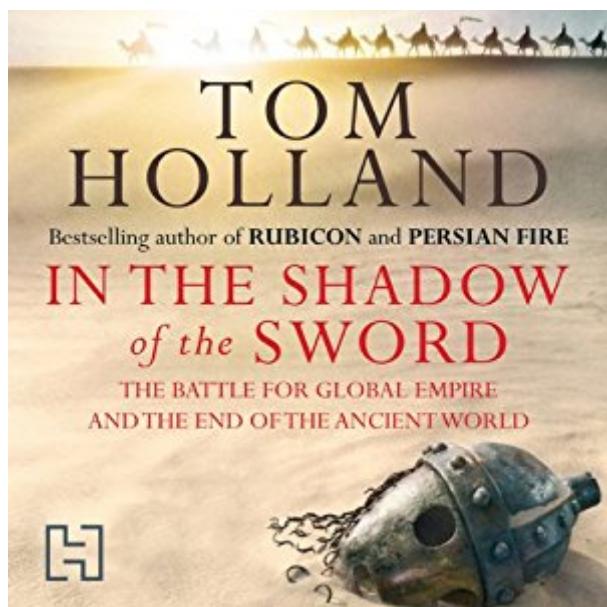


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In The Shadow Of The Sword: The Battle For Global Empire And The End Of The Ancient World



Synopsis

In the 6th century AD, the Near East was divided between two venerable empires: the Persian and the Roman. A hundred years on and one had vanished forever, while the other seemed almost finished. Ruling in their place were the Arabs: an upheaval so profound that it spelt, in effect, the end of the ancient world. In *The Shadow of the Sword*, Tom Holland explores how this came about. Spanning from Constantinople to the Arabian desert, and starring some of the most remarkable rulers who ever lived, he tells a story vivid with drama, horror, and startling achievement.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A penetrating history that reads like a detective novel. I have been doing a study of Islam for my own interest, do to all the things that we see in our lives that are evidently the result of people claiming to be dedicated Islamic followers. This book was recommended to me by a friend that has been studying this subject for the 30 years he has lived and worked in the Middle East. He was right, it is a page turner. The author keeps our interest from page one to the end of the book by building a case for his conclusion based on the available historical facts. I have studied a lot of history but not so much about the late antiquity, and now I wish I had had the opportunity to read this book 20 years ago. It combines textual criticism, historical analysis, geographical analysis, archaeology, and enough theology to walk the reader through the analysis of the time frame. I will not spill the beans on his tentative conclusion, but his conclusion does not matter so much as all the analysis that gets us there. This is not a book about Islam, it is a book about the time period and

historical context in which Islam showed up on earth, and why.

I have read every book of this talented historian and I generally like his view and style, so I will get and read anything extra he can write, but perhaps sometimes he goes a word too far. A little bit of a more direct approach without so many circumvolutions would be great. Sometimes it is necessary a measure of wit in order to control wit.

This is a book that changed my life five years ago when it was given to me by an historian friend. It helped me to understand why we are as vicious, warlike and violent as we are today. I recently had to buy another copy on Kindle since I could not get the hard copy one back from one of the many friends I had lent it to, nor could he get it back from any of the people he had lent it to. An essential read for anyone who is a citizen of this puzzling world..

fascinating history. A good read. 400 pages. takes about 16 hours to read. the last quarter of there book is about Islam the first three quarters of the book is about Roman and Persian empires to provide a background. It was enjoyable to read.

Recommended for the content.

An excellent discussion of a fascinating period of history. A good balance of serious scholarship and interesting anecdotal material. The writing style keeps the book moving, and keeps the reader's interest. I look forward to reading more Tom Holland books.

Lots of interesting and provocative information, but it needed a firmer editorial hand. All of the interwoven stories are so intertwined and told in such a time-traveling fashion that it's hard to keep all the players and timelines straight.

The background is astounding, a detailed account of how Islam took root in the Middle-East and the processes that allowed it to spread. This work gets to the root causes that allow for a true understanding.

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