

**Chapter 1 : Observer review: A History of Britain by Simon Schama | Books | The Guardian**

*History of Britain (disambiguation)* This article about a non-fiction book on history of the United Kingdom or its predecessor states is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.

Dedication[ edit ] Geoffrey starts the book with a statement of his purpose in writing the history: Yet the deeds of these men were such that they deserve to be praised for all time. He also cites Gildas and Bede as sources. Then follows a dedication to Robert, earl of Gloucester and Waleran, count of Meulan , whom he enjoins to use their knowledge and wisdom to improve his tale. His great-grandson Brutus is banished, and, after a period of wandering, is directed by the goddess Diana to settle on an island in the western ocean. Brutus lands at Totnes and names the island, then called Albion , "Britain" after himself. Brutus defeats the giants who are the only inhabitants of the island, and establishes his capital, Troia Nova, on the banks of the Thames; after his time it is renamed London. The story then progresses rapidly through the reigns of the descendants of Lochrinus, including Bladud , who uses magic and even tries to fly, but dies in the process. He has no sons, so upon reaching old age he decides to divide his kingdom among his three daughters, Goneril, Regan and Cordelia. To decide who should get the largest share, he asks his daughters how much they love him. Goneril and Regan give extravagant answers, but Cordelia answers simply and sincerely; angered, he gives Cordelia no land. Goneril and Regan are to share half the island with their husbands, the Dukes of Albany and Cornwall. Cordelia marries Aganippus, King of the Franks, and departs for Gaul. Soon Goneril and Regan and their husbands rebel and take the whole kingdom. After Leir has had all his attendants taken from him, he begins to regret his actions towards Cordelia and travels to Gaul. Cordelia receives him compassionately and restores his royal robes and retinue. Aganippus raises a Gaulish army for Leir, who returns to Britain, defeats his sons-in-law and regains the kingdom. They imprison Cordelia; grief-stricken, she kills herself. Marganus and Cunedagius divide the kingdom between themselves, but soon quarrel and go to war with each other. Cunedagius eventually kills Marganus in Wales and retains the whole kingdom, ruling for thirty-three years. He is succeeded by his son Rivallo. They quarrel and both are eventually killed, sparking a civil war. This leads to Britain being ruled by five kings, who keep attacking each other. Dunvallo Molmutius , the son of Cloten, the King of Cornwall, becomes pre-eminent. He eventually defeats the other kings and establishes his rule over the whole island. He is said to have "established the so-called Molmutine Laws which are still famous today among the English". Victorious, Brennius remains in Italy, while Belinus returns to rule Britain. Numerous brief accounts of successive kings follow. These include Lud , who renames Trinovantum " Kaerlud " after himself; this later becomes corrupted to Lon don. Book Four[ edit ] After his conquest of Gaul, Julius Caesar looks over the sea and resolves to order Britain to swear obedience and pay tribute to Rome. His commands are answered by a letter of refusal from Cassivellaunus. Two years later he makes another attempt, but is again pushed back. Caesar invades once more and besieges Cassivellaunus on a hill. After several days Cassivellaunus offers to make peace with Caesar, and Androgeus, filled with remorse, goes to Caesar to plead with him for mercy. Cassivellaunus pays tribute and makes peace with Caesar, who then returns to Gaul. Cassivellaunus dies and is succeeded by his nephew Tenvantius, as Androgeus has gone to Rome. Guiderius refuses to pay tribute to emperor Claudius , who then invades Britain. When Octavius passes the crown to his son-in-law Maximianus, his nephew Conan Meriadoc is given rule of Brittany to compensate him for not succeeding. After a long period of Roman rule, the Romans decide they no longer wish to defend the island and depart. The Britons are immediately besieged by attacks from Picts, Scots and Danes, especially as their numbers have been depleted due to Conan colonizing Brittany and Maximianus using British troops for his campaigns. However Aldroenus instead sends his brother Constantine to rule the Britons. Vortigern invites the Saxons under Hengist and Horsa to fight for him as mercenaries, but they rise against him. He loses control of much of his land and encounters Merlin. The Prophecies of Merlin[ edit ] At this point Geoffrey abruptly pauses his narrative by inserting a series of prophecies attributed to Merlin. Some of the prophecies act as an epitome of upcoming chapters of the Historia, while others are veiled allusions to historical people and events of the Norman world in the 11th centuries. The remainder are obscure. Book Eight[ edit ] After Aurelius

Ambrosius defeats and kills Vortigern, becoming king, Britain remains in a state of war under him and his brother Uther. They are both assisted by the wizard Merlin. At one point during the continuous string of battles, Ambrosius takes ill and Uther must lead the army for him. This allows an enemy assassin to pose as a physician and poison Ambrosius. So after defeating his latest enemies, Uther adds "Pendragon" to his name and is crowned king. But another enemy strikes, forcing Uther to make war again. This time he is temporarily defeated, gaining final victory only with the help of Duke Gorlois of Cornwall. This leads to war between Uther Pendragon and Gorlois of Cornwall, during which Uther clandestinely lies with Igherna through the magic of Merlin. Arthur is conceived that night. Then Gorlois is killed and Uther marries Igherna. But he must war against the Saxons again. Although Uther ultimately triumphs, he dies after drinking water from a spring the Saxons had poisoned. In the meantime, Arthur conquers most of northern Europe and ushers in a period of peace and prosperity that lasts until the Romans, led by Lucius Hiberius, demands that Britain once again pay tribute to Rome. Arthur defeats Lucius in Gaul, intending to become Emperor, but in his absence, his nephew Mordred seduces and marries Guinevere and seizes the throne. Books Eleven and Twelve[ edit ] Arthur returns and kills Mordred at the Battle of Camlann, but, mortally wounded, he is carried off to the isle of Avalon, and hands the kingdom to his cousin Constantine, son of Cadwallader and Duke of Cornwall. Cadwallader is forced to flee Britain and requests the aid of King Alan of the Americans. Cadwallader does so, dying there, though leaves his son and nephew to rule the remaining Britons. The history of Geoffrey forms the basis for much British lore and literature as well as being a rich source of material for Welsh bards. It became tremendously popular during the High Middle Ages, revolutionising views of British history before and during the Anglo-Saxon period despite the criticism of such writers as William of Newburgh and Gerald of Wales. In the second quarter of the 13th century, a version in Latin verse, the *Gesta Regum Britanniae*, was produced by William of Rennes. Material from Geoffrey was incorporated into a large variety of Anglo-Norman and Middle English prose compilations of historical material from the 13th century onward. Geoffrey was translated into a number of different Welsh prose versions by the end of the 13th century, [9] collectively known as *Brut y Brenhinedd*. One variant of the *Brut y Brenhinedd*, the so-called *Brut Tysilio*, was proposed in by the archaeologist William Flinders Petrie to be the ancient British book that Geoffrey translated, [10] although the *Brut* itself claims to have been translated from Latin by Walter of Oxford, based on his own earlier translation from Welsh to Latin. It is also the first record we have of the great figure King Lear, and the beginning of the mythical King Arthur figure. Modern historians have regarded the *Historia* as a work of fiction with some factual information contained within. John Morris in *The Age of Arthur* calls it a "deliberate spoof", although this is based on misidentifying Walter, archdeacon of Oxford, as Walter Map, a satirical writer who lived a century later. Manuscript tradition and textual history[ edit ] Two hundred and fifteen medieval manuscripts of the *Historia* survive, dozens of them copied before the end of the 12th century. Even among the earliest manuscripts a large number of textual variants, such as the so-called "First Variant", can be discerned. These are reflected in the three possible prefaces to the work and in the presence or absence of certain episodes and phrases. Certain variants may be due to "authorial" additions to different early copies, but most probably reflect early attempts to alter, add to or edit the text. A critical edition of the work published in, however, demonstrated that the most accurate manuscripts refer to the work as *De gestis Britonum*, and that this was the title Geoffrey himself used to refer to the work.

### Chapter 2 : The Oxford History of Britain - Google Books

*The epic history of Britain from the landmark book and monumental, part television series airing on the History channel Simon Schama, one the most celebrated historians of our day, brings the history of Britain to dramatic life in this landmark work.*

That said, it must be remembered this is written by a journalist, rather than an historian and I think that shows. So, what does that mean? I think people might well disagree with me that this was conservative – I mean, there are places where he clearly supports the path taken by the Labour Party over the In many ways this is quite a conservative history of modern Britain. There are also parts where he is literally quite conservative – particularly in his rather standard attack on the move to more progressive education practices from the s onward. This meant that entire groups of people whose families had never before been educated were now being educated. He mentions that the upper classes were still being educated in pretty much the same way as they always had been – but that is precisely my point. The fact is that what is so often advocated as traditional values or common sense approaches to education could not be either in the case of the students affected in this entirely new world. Tradition is hardly relevant in a completely new situation. The vast majority of this book is a telling of the story of the governing of Britain. And this is fine – this is one of the things I was hoping to get out of the book – but it really does position the book fairly squarely in a particular genre of history telling. The idea that history is really the story of the great and powerful. Now, some may argue that he talks of the influence of music and fashion and the arts particularly drama and humour and that these add detail to the overall picture being presented. There is a nice bit which I think shows what this book could have been. Following the war there was a severe shortage of housing. So, people were forced to live with their parents and in-laws – and so Marr speculates this might help to explain the popularity of the mother-in-law joke well into the s. That is the sort of thing that makes an interesting history – life situations that directly impact on the kinds of lives that can be lived in a society and therefore that help to explain the national character. However, there was far too little of this. Too much time was spent looking at the decline of the Empire, obviously important, but perhaps not really something that gives as much insight into the British character as is often believed. This history is also conservative in quite another way. I got the impression the whole way though that how things turned out was being presented by the author as the only way things could have turned out. The Thatcher revolution was not overturned by the Labour Party once it came to power in any meaningful sense, and so the Thatcher revolution must have been both necessary and inevitable. Such post-hoc explanations make for good stories – all that journalists are finally interested in, as they tell you themselves – but I feel they make for quite poor histories. Like I said, I was looking for a book that gave me a helicopter view of the history of modern Britain. And that is what I got with this one. It is a quick read, for what it sets out to do. But there is no question it could have been so much more.

**Chapter 3 : A History of Britain (book) - Wikipedia**

*If seeking a vigorous first exposure to the history of Britain or a lubrication of lessons once learned and long rusted, Simon Schama's "A History of Britain Volume 1" is the book you'll want by your side.*

Made up of modern works, it covers English and British history from the medieval period to the early modern and modern period. The list offers suggestions of the best books to read, but - being limited to one hundred books - is not entirely comprehensive. Rather than focus on hierarchical structures the author instead looks at horizontal bonds of collective association. The man, if he existed at all, lived even earlier. Frank Barlow illuminates every aspect of the Anglo-Norman world, but the central appeal of the book continues to be its firm narrative structure. Here is a fascinating story compellingly told. Bond Men Made Free: It tells the story of how Robert Bruce outwitted Edward I, defeated his Professor Moore argues that the period witnessed the first true revolution in European society, characterized by a transformation in the economy, in family structures, and in the sources of power and It is neither a constitutional nor a political history, but a historical definition and explanation of the main features which characterised the three kinds of government which can be discerned During these years the economic face of Europe and its position in the world were transformed. Civilization, as we understand it today, was born. Although the period witnessed Strayer The modern state, however we conceive of it today, is based on a pattern that emerged in Europe in the period from to Written from the experience of a lifetime of teaching and research in the field, this short, clear book is Tracy The Political Economy of Merchant Empires - follows the growth of European trade and state power as Europe rose to a position of dominance. Without overemphasising the importance of long-distance trade to domestic economies, this history follows a trend in history from the Venetian merchant empires Ellis ; Christopher Maginn The history of the British Isles is the story of four peoples linked together by a process of state building that was as much about far-sighted planning and vision as coincidence, accident and failure. It is a history of revolts and reversal, familial bonds and enmity, the study Wrightson writes evocatively about the basic institutions and relationships of economic life, tracing the process of change, and examining how these changes affected men, A History is the best text on one of the key events of European history. Morton A complete social and political history of England. Originally published in Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. Obscure Press are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the Numerous traditional assumptions are qualified, confirmed, or overturned, and the authors marshal a mass of statistical material into a series of clear, lucid arguments about The Foundations of Modern Political Thought: The work is intended to be both an introduction to the period for students, and a presentation and justification of This splendid work carries us from Knox to Neilson, from the hot gospel of Calvin to the hot-blast of the smelting process -- and, incidentally, seeks to explain The World Turned Upside Down: The Sinews of Power: The book explores the size and structure of families in pre-industrial England, the Hopkins A milestone in the understanding of British history and imperialism, this ground-breaking book radically reinterprets the course of modern economic development and the causes of overseas expansion during the past three centuries. Israel Democracy, free thought and expression, religious tolerance, individual liberty, political self-determination of peoples, sexual and racial equality--these values have firmly entered the mainstream in the decades since they were enshrined in the U. Declaration of Human Rights. But if these ideals no longer And what explains the huge rise in incomes during the Industrial Revolution - and why did Britain lead the way? The First Industrial Nation: A chapter-by-chapter analysis explores topics such as economic growth, agriculture, trade finance, labour and transport. First published in , The First Industrial Nation is widely recognised In this classic text of social history, Harold Perkin explores the emergence of a new form Neeson Did enclosure of the commons raise or lower living standards for the poor in England? This ground-breaking history enters that old debate, painting a rich picture of rural culture before enclosure and what was lost afterwards. Said to be the best book on the subject by EP Thompson. Slavery and the British Empire: The book combines economic, social, political, cultural, and demographic history, with a particular focus on the Atlantic world and The Overthrow

of Colonial Slavery: Some two and a half million black slaves, imprisoned in plantation colonies, toiled to produce the sugar, coffee, cotton, ginger and indigo craved by Europeans. The ideas for model schools by Devine argues that the Thompson revealed how working class people were not merely victims of history, moved by powerful forces outside of themselves, but were also active in creating their own culture and future, during the degradation of the industrial revolution. This coal not only powered steam engines in factories, ships, and railway locomotives but also warmed homes and cooked food. As both metaphor and ideal, it influenced psychology, religion, moral philosophy; it affected the writing of history as well as the criticism of literature. Here is a wide-ranging and ably

Chapter 4 : A History of Roman Britain - Peter Salway - Google Books

*This book was about the history of Britain. Britain was a small country but it had a long history. Britain's story was from the days of the Roman Empire 2, years ago.*

And the outcome that this volume seeks to shape is the modern meaning of Britishness. There is a pre-history to works like this. The single-volume history emerged later in the 19th century, and was perfected by GM Trevelyan in his History of England, which shifted , copies in 20 years. What all these works had in common was a conviction that the history of Britain meant the history of England, and that it was a glorious, Whiggish tale of parliamentary governance, the common law, the Church of England, and an avoidance of revolution. As such it fits well with the current vogue for Atlanticist studies and the re-positioning of Britain in its archipelago setting. Having condemned historians for "popular entertainment or moral uplift", he is even harder on "historical writing that conceals its working and so presents a bland, uncontested story implicitly claiming an authority that it does not have". This volume, by contrast, is about questions not answers and, in line with such post-modern hesitancy, each chapter ends with counter-factuals pointing out where history might have pursued different paths. Historical biography is clearly regarded as vulgar. The first theme to emerge is the wealth of Britain. And this wealth shaped the physical fabric, as James Campbell describes the lost world of the Roman villas that once littered lowland Britain. He also makes a case for the economic benefits of Viking invasions: For the most part, however, prosperity was built on political stability. Compared to Europe, civil strife was limited and what the Domesday Book revealed was just how well governed early medieval England was. Seven hundred years on, the authors make a similar case for the Industrial Revolution: The enemy of political stability was religious instability. And religion is fundamental to this volume, perhaps reflecting the intellectual inclinations of its high Tory editor, Jonathan Clark, but also our post-secular times. Meanwhile Clark, in his chapter, is keen to confront the notion that British identity was forged during the 18th century under the influences of Protestantism, war and Empire. This, he argues, was a 19th-century assumption. During the 19th century, even as Welsh, Irish and Scottish romanticism flourished, there was no clear sense of English nationhood. But there did exist an organic, indigenous, non-elite sense of deep British patriotism. At the same time, he rightly baulks at the notion of a 30s Britain composed solely of dole queues, means tests and hunger marches. However, for my taste he seems overly enamoured of the Correlli Barnett thesis of post-war decline, and treats us to an irascible assault on 20th-century Establishment thinking as a betrayal of British identity. There is, on the whole, a certain Grumpy Old Men and Women undertone to this volume. Despite explaining the latest historiography, there is a distinct aversion towards pursuing some of the new academic thinking on questions of space, gender or empire. What we do have, though, is a well-crafted, footnote-free and thorough history of the British Isles containing some brilliant set-pieces and narrative overviews. It is a volume that speaks well to our own sense of Britain today as a globalised, trading island retreating back to the edges of power. While not a definitive history, it is a damned good one.

**Chapter 5 : A History of Britain by Fiona Beddall**

*This book proved to be a surprisingly readable history of post Britain. While the book itself focused more strongly upon politics than social history, there were still rather good sections devoted to what set, say, the population of Britain in the 50s apart from the population in Britain today.*

As in the Aeneid, there is an important contrast between the first six and the final six books. The first part narrates events that took place over approximately ten centuries, while the latter six books, concerned primarily with the age of King Arthur, are limited to less than two centuries. To a striking degree, the history is Welsh-centered, with most of the action occurring in Wales and the English counties that border it. It is reasonable to infer that in his writing Geoffrey was influenced by an intent to endow his native Wales and western Britain with a glorious past. The original Trojans, Celts, and other tribes living in the land before the Roman conquest in the first century, as well as some Roman settlers, are all collectively labeled Britons. The archdeacon, though, may have been known to Geoffrey, since he lived at Oxford during years when both were alive. The primary sources appear to have been the histories of Bede and Nennius, the Aeneid, and traditional Welsh stories and myths. In the early books, Geoffrey makes cross-references to events from the Bible and from Greek and Roman history in an effort to establish parallel chronologies. However, in spite of references to actual rulers from the past such as the Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Claudius, what Geoffrey produced is a highly readable mythic history, whose protagonists are essentially fictional characters. The Roman and Saxon invasions were historical events, but in his account Geoffrey mingles fact with extraordinary fiction. Like many other medieval historians, he begins his narrative with the Trojan War, since he believed that the country was founded by a descendant of the Trojan princes who dispersed after the fall of Troy. Brutus, the mythic founder of Britain, is a great-grandson of the Trojan prince Aeneas, the legendary founder of Rome. Setting out from Rome in his odyssey, Brutus traveled to Greece, where he joined other Trojan exiles. In armed struggle against the Greeks, they conquered a third of the country, but, in the interests of avoiding further strife, they decided to embark for Britain after a prophecy of Diana directed them to do so. By sea, they made their way to the island, defeated the giants who dominated the land, and founded a kingdom. They then proceeded to establish cities, including the capital Trinovant, later London. A long series of kings who descended from Brutus are briefly mentioned, including Bladud, founder of Bath. More attention is devoted to the story of King Leir, who parcels out his kingdom among his daughters. For Leir, the folly of disinheriting his youngest daughter ended with good fortune. After he was exiled to France, she aided him in removing her two sisters from power and reclaiming his throne. Following another long list of kings, the story of King Belinus, still a pre-Roman monarch, is narrated. Belinus united with his brother Brennius, and the two conquered first Gaul and later Rome. In the first century b. Later, the Emperor Claudius returned and established Roman rule over England. Roman rule was highly disordered because of rebellions and incursions by The entire section is 1, words. [Unlock This Study Guide Now Start your hour free trial to unlock this 9-page History of the Kings of Britain study guide and get instant access to the following:](#)

### Chapter 6 : History of the Kings of Britain Summary - [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*A History of Britain Simon Schama BBC Publications £25, pp Buy it at BOL. Macaulay once wrote that it was his ambition to 'produce something which shall for a few days supersede the last.'*

Jan 12, Saeed Almazrouei rated it really liked it This book was about the history of Britain. Britain was a small country but it had a long history. It describes the different groups of people who had lived there. It shows how the four countries England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland came together as one state. These three queens had different control like Boudica was a dangerous enemy to the Romans. Also you will find out about the ordinary men and women of British history. Some of them left Britain and built new lives across the seas and others stayed in Britain. And the author wrote the complicate history and relationships clearly in very simple sentences and very fundamental words. There is no difficulty for a student in middle school to read it. And frankly, it should be read in my school time, not only for gaining the idea of the british history, but also for learning how to explain a complicate thing or story with elementary, but well organised language, and how to write classy simple sentences in E This is a small book about the history of Britain. And frankly, it should be read in my school time, not only for gaining the idea of the british history, but also for learning how to explain a complicate thing or story with elementary, but well organised language, and how to write classy simple sentences in English. The history begins with the first invader, Harold of Norway. And the Norman was the last one. The shape of National Parliament was described in the last part of this chapter. The third chapter told theprocessing of the Religion in Britain. Henry VIII cannot be avoided in this topic. His hideous messy marriges left over a series of problems to Britain. The fifth chapter mentions the land revolution and industrial revolution, which were the power-base of the Empire of sun never goes down, which was detailed describe in the next but last chapter. The Victoria time was a gorgeous time for Britain, but the book fails to mention that that was a miserable memory for China, and might for other colonial countries. The last chapter is about how did the Empire of sun never goes down form and collapse, and the role Britain had played in the two World Wars. Anyway, this is a very readable and worth reading book. In my opinion , the book is not only about the history of Britain , but about the world because the events are linked together This small book is very useful and simple to read by native and non-native English speakers , it gives the whole history of Britain , information about kings and queens , parliament and government , and how people used to live years by years with the events that happen in very century such as The first and second World War , and the power of the great empire of Britain. In my opinion , the book is not only about the history of Britain , but about the world because the events are linked together. People could not believe christian. So I thought it was stressful time.

### Chapter 7 : A History of Modern Britain by Andrew Marr

*Its a brilliantly written book, an incredibly comprehensive look at the vast panopoly of British history both domestic and foreign. Bear in mind as you read that the author, Mr. AD Innes, is writing before the First World war, at a time when no-one really envisaged an end to the British Empire or a diminishing role for Britain on the world stage.*

### Chapter 8 : British History - Free Books at EBD

*The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain seeks to represent much of that variety. The volumes investigate the creation, material production, dissemination and reception of texts, effectively plotting the intellectual history of Britain.*

### Chapter 9 : History of the Kings of Britain - Wikisource, the free online library

*'One could not ask for a more meticulous or scholarly assessment of what Britain meant to the Romans, or Rome to Britons, than Peter Salway's Monumental Study' Frederick Raphael, Sunday Times From the invasions of Julius Caesar*

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*to the unexpected end of Roman rule in the early fifth century AD and the subsequent collapse of society in Britain, this book is the most authoritative and.*