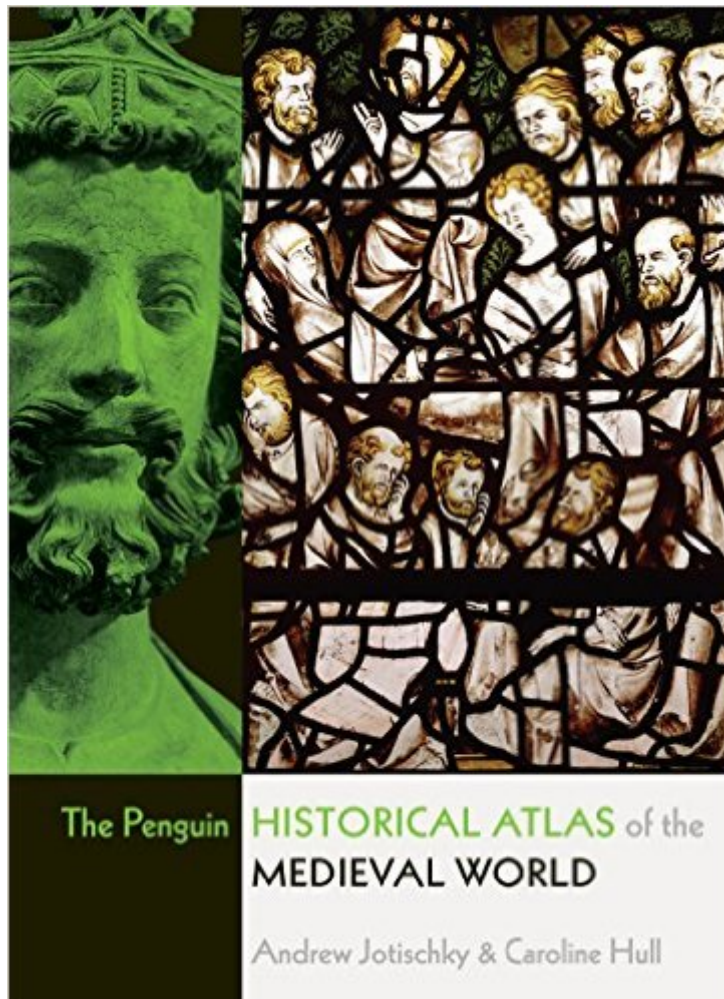


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# The Penguin Historical Atlas Of The Medieval World



## Synopsis

The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Medieval World traces the development of peoples, cultures, and faiths between the coming of the barbarian invasions in the fourth century and the first voyages to the New World in the sixteenth. This colorful atlas illustrates the sweeping changes from the fall of the Roman Empire to the birth of Islam, the rise of Christianity, and the role of Judaism across Europe. Packed with vivid maps and photographs, this atlas is a perfect guide to Europe and its neighbors in the Middle Ages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This Atlas is good for the study of the medieval world. But I consider this atlas need more maps. For example, the battle for Scotland to obtain the independence; also, the mongol empire in times of Genghis Khan and Kubblai Khan.

I bought this atlas not as a study aid, but for general reading. Indeed it makes for a good review of medieval history. The atlas is as complete as it can be, given that it is only 144 pages. It is mostly centered around medieval Europe, and more on Latin Europe - the west- that on the greek world. The arab world, and to a lesser degree the far east, are documented as well, mostly in function of their interaction with Europe. Of course the denomination "medieval" in itself applies mostly to the history of western Europe. A useful synoptic chronological table precedes the maps and compares the timelines of latin Europe, greek Europe, middle east and far east. Maps are well

done and organized in chapters preceded by insightful yet slim introductions. I found it very suitable to my needs: it provides an entertaining read and a good review of the period.

Studying the Medieval world can be exciting and rather daunting. The Middle Ages is a large span of European history. When reading about this very important time period, you need reliable and worthy resources such as *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Medieval World* by your side. This book by Andrew Jotischky and Caroline Hull is not a six hundred page account of the popes, emperors, and the plague. It is a vivid companion to those books. Let us take a tour of it.

**Bold Colors and Graphics** Children are not the only ones that enjoy colorful pictures in their books. Adults tend to gravitate toward these, too. I am not talking coffee table books here. This book includes pictures of artwork, archeological scenes, and colorful maps to help support every section. Instead of just describing the medieval economy, this book gives a very busy map of Europe that shows how the economy interflowed between states along with all the major cities and trading routes. I found it really useful as I was reading the six hundred page book with no graphics what so ever. I would be reading about the Reconquest of Spain and turn to page 109 of the book to see a colored Spanish map visually teaching me the various stages of the event.

**Timeline** Timelines are great aids especially when they are in depth. You will find in this book a detailed timeline that does more than cover medieval Europe. It reveals what was happening in the Muslim world and the whole world as a whole. It breaks out western and eastern Europe and lists religious and cultural events separately. In truth, it helps put a medieval event into perspective.

**Four Parts** The authors divided the Middle Ages into four parts: The Early Middle Ages, The Revival of Europe, Latin Europe and its Neighbors, and The Latter Middle Ages. Each of these sections is divided into seven to twenty-four subsections. The average subsection is only two pages long with succinct wording. A great addition to this book is the dynastic tables at the back end of the book. If you want to know the kings of France in order along with their reigning dates, this is where you will find it. It contains the dynasties of the popes, German kings as well as the Holy Roman Emperors, France, England, Byzantine Emperors, and the Latin Emperors of Constantinople. This is wonderful when researching or trying to piece together who was in power at what time.

**Recommended Books** All good academic books have a list of books at the end. It might be in the form of a bibliography and/or a list of recommended books to read. This resource is always good to use in looking for more information or to explore the subject further. This list contains about thirty-five books that you can use to learn more about the Middle Ages.

To sum it all up, this is a wonderful book and would be a great addition to your historical library. It could easily be used by students as young as high school age. I would

not recommend learning about the Middle Ages solely on this book. Use it as a companion to other books and you will not be disappointed with it.

The maps are beautiful, as are the many illustrations. But they are so tiny! The book is smaller than a sheet of letter-size paper. There are a couple maps that fill the page, but most are half- or quarter-page in size, or even smaller. If the book were twice the size I'd give it another star, as the maps really are handsome. However, some events are treated a bit superficially. The Hundred Years War is represented only by two small maps.

I am appalled that this otherwise detailed and comprehensive atlas has no mention of one of if not the most important turning point in Medieval European history: The Great Schism between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church... The consequences of this opposition (which crystalized in 1054, but whose roots go back centuries) which would divide Europe ever after, preventing, for example, a concerted and cooperative opposition to the Mohammedans (see the Crusade of 1204, the Sack of Constantinople), it would lead to centuries of conflicts between Poland and Russia, between Sweden and Russia, between Germany and Russia, England and Russia, France and Russia... the Fall of Constantinople due to Western indifference leads to the Renaissance in the West,... between Western Europe and Eastern, influencing the willingness of Western Europe to go against the Ottomans... And on and on... Yet on p. 11 (The Timeline) under Religion and Culture the Great Schism is ignored! Although the First Crusades are mapped, the 4th is not (which weakened Constantinople for the Turks benefit!) Kievan Rus is mapped, but not Moscovian! Finally, had the Great Schism not happened would the Protestant Reformation happened (it didn't happen in the Orthodox sphere!)? Medieval, Renaissance, and Modern European history cannot be understood in any depth by ignoring it. And this book does! Appalling!

The book itself is very good. I am very disappointed with quality of the books. I buy books and may not read a book for a while because they get into my pile of books. I was loving this book until I found that pages 73 to 120 were missing from the book. Very disappointing.

I am very pleased with the purchase of this book. I read a lot of historical fiction and am fascinated with the medieval world and love maps. I wish all historical fiction books contained maps but they don't so I got this book for reference. Turns out it is a pretty good read itself. This book is great for the overall picture of all that was going on at that time from British Isles to the Crusades.

When it arrived I thought it was a little small for an atlas. Now I am glad it fits in my backpack when I go to class or the library. Amazing amount of information in this book. The maps fill out my understanding of historical events. Helps a lot ! Arrived quickly in perfect condition !

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