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THIS SCEPTRED ISLE 55^{BC} 1901

FROM THE ROMAN INVASION TO
THE DEATH OF QUEEN VICTORIA



This Sceptred Isle: 55 BC - 1901: The Roman Invasion to the Death of Queen Victoria

Christopher Lee

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This Sceptred Isle: 55 BC - 1901: The Roman Invasion to the Death of Queen Victoria

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This Sceptred Isle: 55 BC - 1901: The Roman Invasion to the Death of Queen Victoria Christopher Lee Christopher Lee's seminal history series, which accompanied the award-winning BBC radio series, narrates the rich and gripping story of Britain, from the Roman Invasion in 55 BC to the dawn of the 21st century. It focuses on the significant events and personalities that shaped Britain for over nearly 2000 years, tracing its emergence from the Dark Ages which followed the Romans' departure, through the great flowering of culture in medieval times and the gradual evolution of the modern state, to the making of an empire and the huge changes brought about by the industrial revolution.

This Sceptred Isle: 55 BC - 1901: The Roman Invasion to the Death of Queen Victoria Details

Date : Published November 1st 1997 by BBC Books (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780563383840

Author : Christopher Lee

Format : Hardcover 616 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction



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From Reader Review This Sceptred Isle: 55 BC - 1901: The Roman Invasion to the Death of Queen Victoria for online ebook

Norm says

A whirlwind history of Britain. I listened to the audio book - and sometimes listened twice as this is a very condensed history.

Lauren Albert says

This is a whirlwind tour of British history. Starting as a radio series, the book zips through all of the important events. At least 1/3 of the book is made up of passages from Churchill's history of the English Speaking People. It's a good summary, if not original, and certainly fast reading.

Cory says

Although clearly written, and the audio edition is well-produced, there is no escaping the fact that this series is a quick survey of two millennia of history. As a result, it's a mile wide and an inch deep, and exemplifies the liability of being a maelstrom of difficult-to-digest dates, names, and places. If I were British (presumably the intended audience of this BBC production), then I would probably have the cultural background--basic historical and geographical knowledge--necessary to appreciate it. Alas, I'm not, and I don't, and I can't. I did very much enjoy those parts where small episodes are expanded, even if for a moment, into more of a drama (such as Beckett's demise).

Kathy Sebesta says

The bad part: Since there is a little information about a lot of events and people, you really need to know a little British history before you get into this. The good part: you don't need to start with much.

This is an incredibly detailed book on British history that starts with the Romans and ends with Queen V. It quotes extensively from Winston Churchill's *A History of the English-Speaking People*, which on some pages forms more than half the text. Initially this rubbed me wrong then I figured out that if Churchill had said it so well (and he did), why should I insist someone else paraphrase (plagiarize) it?

It's not a book you sit down and read - it's one you read a bit of, put it away for a while, then read some more. Then you don't donate it to the library sale, you hold on to it for future reference. Believe me, keeping track of so many Henrys and Georges and Marys is quite a chore and even an Anglophile like me sometimes gets them mixed up.

I would love to read the rest of the story - 1901 to present - when he writes it.

George Foord says

a good overview of english history, the book has more detail in the later parts of history than the beginning. The roman history of Britain is only about 10 pages. Some parts of the history in the book is outdated but overall a good read.

Mary says

If I were grading this as a history assignment I would put it at a C- at best. It is nothing but block quotes stitched together with a bit of the author's own words. A very little bit.

Malte says

For the first time a now have an idea about the british (english) history. The quote rich book is interesting, but as we progress in time the sources get easier to find and thus more quotes are used, which makes the last chapters a little longer than I would have preferred

Gary says

Pretty comprehensive. Personally I wasn't that keen on his style, but then it was a radio series and may well sound better than read.

It assumes little knowledge, but for that reason is at times repetitive. The sheer amount of primary source material, however, means that this is a work which will introduce one thoroughly to each historical period in British history.

Liked it.

Rebecca says

Too much! A good book, but if you are interested in history, as I am, take the time to look at individual events than trying to cover the whole of everything in one go. My mind just switchd off and I'd forgottent the start before I got to the end.

Toby says

A good transcript of the BBC radio series, though not in itself a match for hearing the story.

Bettie? says

autumn2011

pub 1996

english

history

non fiction

R4x

How many Ethels and derivatives thereof made up Saxon Britain. Answers on a postcard please.

Casey says

Originally a BBC radio broadcast from the mid-90's, I think now we would call it a podcast. Up to about the late 19th century it comes across as a heavily edited version of Churchill's "A History Of The English-Speaking Peoples" with extended commentary and inclusion of contemporary writings. But that is okay, since Churchill's ability to make every sentence sound like a grand opening to an epic novel is, I think, one of the treasures of written English. The commentary helps to overcome Winston's partiality and keeps the story together. The main political themes are repeated through time, so that the modern era is shown to directly tie to the past. All in all a great way to get a detailed, if more political than social, history of our friends across the Pond.

Liz says

This book is an excellent introduction to British history or to plug those gaps. I was reading it as required reading for my PGCE history which begins in September. I felt myself becoming annoyed with the basic level of information in some eras but I put this down to my good knowledge more than the writing style of the author. Other sections, principally those I was not as familiar with I felt were written much better. As a background information book or an annals version of British history this book is good.

Byron says

A very good compressed history of the UK. A good book to take when traveling there and viewing historic sites.

Janelle says

What a book! I really learned a lot without wanting to fall asleep thanks to the writing style. Highly

recommended for those interested in British history.
