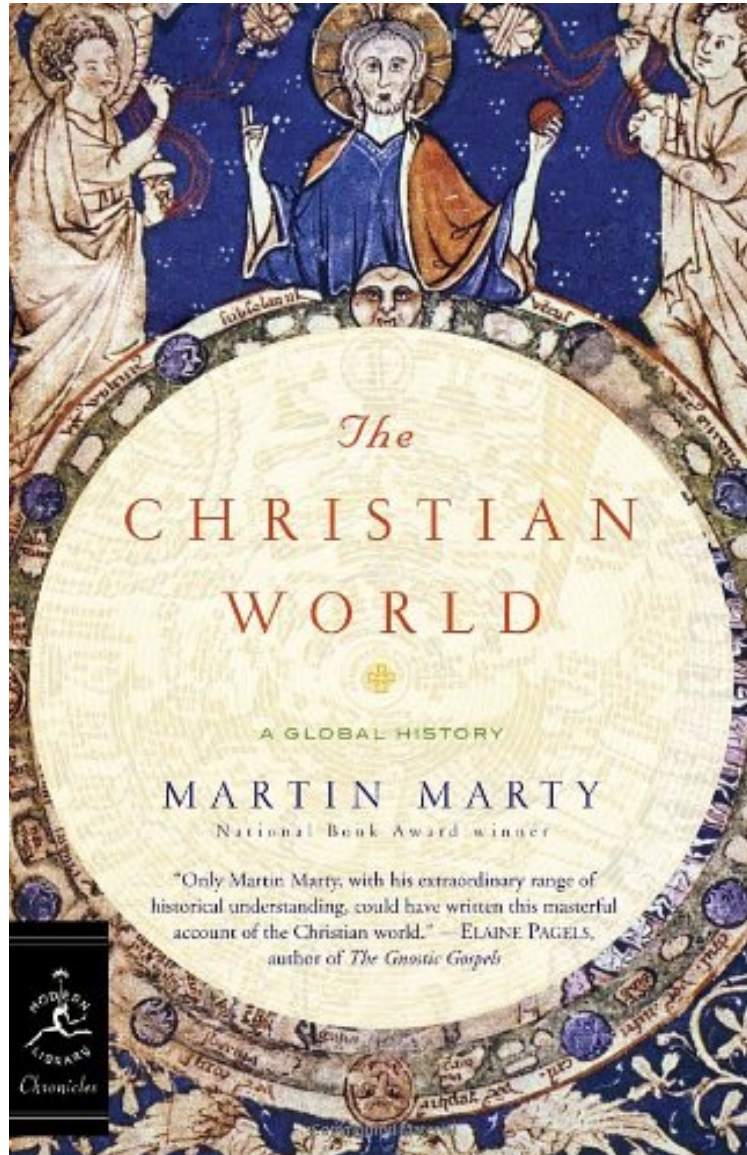


[Mobile book] The Christian World: A Global History (Modern Library Chronicles)

The Christian World: A Global History (Modern Library Chronicles)

Martin Marty

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Martin Marty : The Christian World: A Global History (Modern Library Chronicles) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Christian World: A Global History (Modern Library Chronicles):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Concise is the word By MJS Attempting a one-volume history of

anything that has existed for over 2000 years is no small task. Now try to keep it "brief". Once again Modern Library deserves praise just for tackling the task. Martin Marty's emphasis is on the spiritual side of the Christianity, with the institutions taking a back seat. His scope is larger, geographically, than Paul Johnson's admirable yet European-centric *The History of Christianity*. You won't find a tremendous amount of information about individual churches or creeds but you will meet an interesting array of characters like Origen who decides to go the extra mile in curbing his instincts by castrating himself. (Whether or not this was entirely a DIY endeavor or not isn't clear from the text.) With material like this the early part of the book glides along. Marty has an eye for a good vignette and a good quote, like the nun who responds to a monk who averts his gaze when he sees a group of nuns. "If you had been a perfect monk, you would not have looked so closely as to perceive that we are women." I do believe that's the early Church equivalent of "in your face, holy boy." Then things bog down a bit and Marty seems to lose a bit of his spark, churning out lines like "It was unholy Christian holy war". Now really. For one thing, what "holy war" isn't unholy? This is just the start of a catalog of atrocities committed by men and women allegedly to act in the name of a religion. This is hardly a newsflash. On the other hand, this occasional heavy-handedness seems to me to be the result of trying to tell all sides of the story in a limited space rather than axe grinding. All in all this is a solid effort, more history of Christianity as a faith rather than a historical force. It didn't leave me wanting to read more nor did I feel like I have the topic well-covered now but I did learn a few things and what more can one ask of a "concise" history? I'd give this three and a half stars if allowed it. Kindle note: maps but no pictures. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's pretty difficult to condense thousands of years in a book but ... By Luis Azaero It's pretty difficult to condense thousands of years in a book but I think Marty does an excellent job here. The approach by episodes makes this book singular and helps us to take a look into regions where Christianity once flourished. I think that missiological tweak makes this book worth reading. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Disappointing Textbook By A Rabbit's Tale I am well aware that Martin Marty is a highly celebrated scholar. This review is not of Marty but of this book. This particular volume represents a highly popularized style of writing history that hardly qualifies as a true history. It is vague, opinionated to the point of flippancy at times, and skips over chunks of significant events and persons. Marty's exposition of the Christian history by continent is in itself novel and refreshing, but this should not have led him to think he could dispense with chronology. Marty often mixes centuries within a paragraph which I found most confusing. He paints with a broad and impressionistic stroke that really does inform the reader of little but Marty's own opinions. For the most part, Marty has an engaging style, although he needed better editing as some of his sentences are quite awkward. This reads like a Penguin paperback and might be an interesting read, but history it is not!

In this cogent volume, historian Martin Marty gives readers of all faiths a brief yet sweeping account of Christianity and how it grew from a few believers two thousand years ago to become the world's largest religion. He depicts the life of Christ and his teachings and explains how the apostles set out to spread the Gospel. With a special emphasis on global Christianity, Marty shows how the religion emerged from its ancestral homeland in Africa, the Levant, and Asia Minor, was imported to Europe, and then expanded from there to the rest of the world. While giving a broad overview, Marty also focuses on specific issues, such as how Christianity attempts to reconcile with the teachings of Christ some of its stances on armed conflict, justice, and dominion. *The Christian World* is a remarkable testament to how Christ's message has touched human experience everywhere.