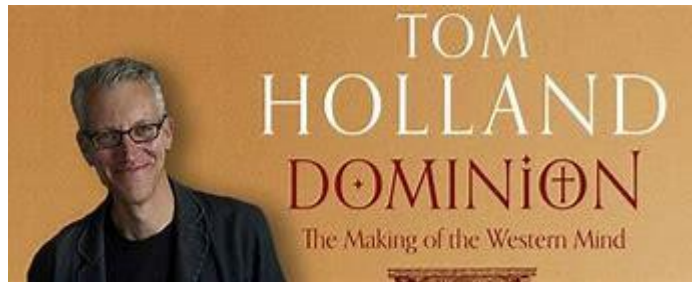


## WRITER'S TALK

Tom Holland

Thursday 5 November 2020

*Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind*



Christianity is the most enduring and influential legacy of the ancient world, and its emergence the single most transformative development in Western history. . Seen close-up, the division between a sceptic and a believer may seem unbridgeable. Widen the focus, though, and Christianity's enduring impact upon the West can be seen in the emergence of much that has traditionally been cast as its nemesis: in science, in secularism, and yes, even in atheism.

Ranging in time from the Persian invasion of Greece in 480 BC to the on-going migration crisis in Europe today, and from Nebuchadnezzar to the Beatles, *Dominion* explores just what it was that made Christianity so revolutionary and disruptive; how completely it came to saturate the mind-set of Latin Christendom; and why, in a West that has become increasingly doubtful of religion's claims, so many of its instincts remain irredeemably Christian.

According to the *Sunday Times*, which made *Dominion* the History Book of the Year, "If great books encourage you to look at the world in an entirely new way, then *Dominion* is a very great book indeed. Best known for his swashbuckling classical and medieval narratives, Holland here takes on not just the history of Christianity but the story of western culture itself, from Nero and Nelson Mandela to *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Handmaid's Tale*."

Tom Holland is an award-winning historian, biographer and broadcaster. His books include *Rubicon: The last Years of the Roman Republic*; *Persian Fire: The First World Empire and the Battle for the West* and *In the Shadow of the Sword: The Birth of Islam and the Rise of the Global Arab Empire*. He is the presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Making History* and has written and presented a number of TV documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4 on subjects ranging from ISIS to dinosaurs.

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