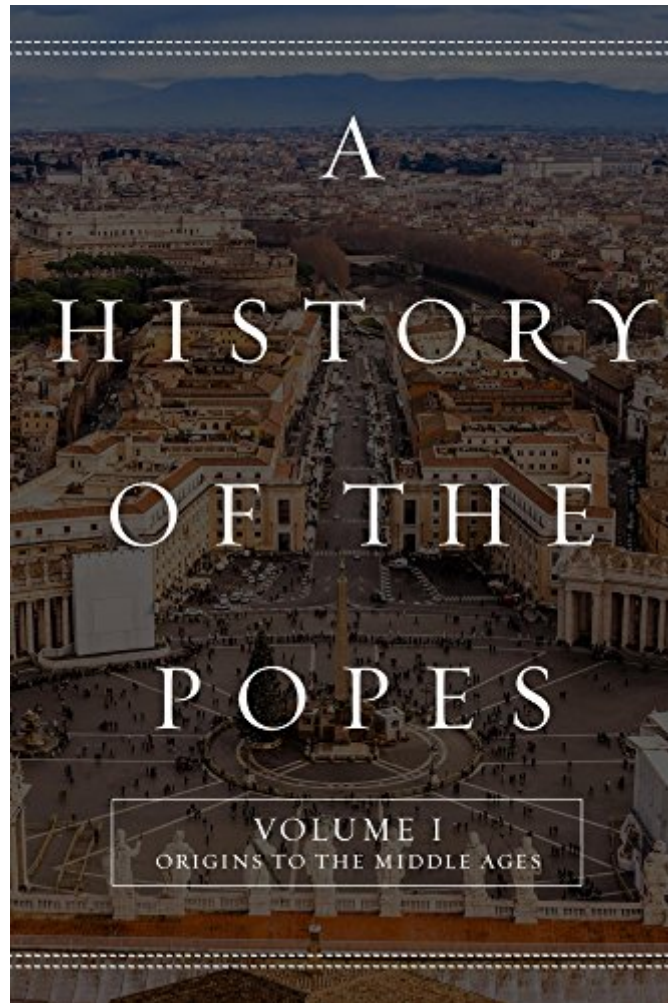


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A History Of The Popes: Volume I: Origins To The Middle Ages



Synopsis

The office of bishop of Rome, is one of the most powerful positions in the world. As an ancient institution stretching back for centuries, the papacy has a history that is marked by archaic and modern customs alike. The history of the men who have held this position is fraught with villainous and heroic actions that have left a profound impact on the development of civilization as we know it, both in the West and East. The popes led the early Church through persecution, acquired temporal power through the actions of Constantine, oversaw the universal Church in the early middle ages, were steeped in various scandals in the late middle ages, saw their secular power stripped in the modern period, and were instrumental in the rise and fall of various kingdoms and nations.

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book for anyone wanting clear and concise biographies of the men who have sat in the Seat of St Peter. In this first volume, the prolific Wyatt North starts at the beginning and carries through to the Middle Ages. As might be expected, the book starts with some facts in the case of St Peter, but must also include myth, legend and tradition. With later popes, as church

record keeping became more standardized (and bureaucratic), most of the mythic trappings fall away and we are given more verifiable information. Even so, some of the early popes get only a few lines because not much is known about them other than some basic biographical data, some mentions in ecclesiastic and imperial records, and their actions (or non-actions) to various church crises or heresies. As we leave the shadow of Rome behind and pass through the Ostrogoth, Byzantine and other flickers of history, we are treated to more detailed chronicles of the individual popes. North presents an unbiased report for each pope, detailing faith and strength where there was faith and strength, villainy and weakness when there was villainy and weakness. He shows us the saints and sinners, men of faith and men of folly. At the end of the book, North closes with an overview of the period of time covered and a comparison between the Church and the empires under which it existed, a study of the enduring vs the transient. Although this book will be of great interest to a Catholic seeking a quick reference to the popes, it's also a book recommended for anyone interested in history and the Early Church.

Wyatt North is one of the best finds on the Internet! The books are just wonderful and the prices are great! I love getting my notifications about new and often free books. I have told all of my friends to sign up and enjoy like I have. I have learned so much reading these very well researched and written books. There are so many great books that I would not have known about if Wyatt North had not emailed me about them. Thank you Wyatt North! You are the best!!!

Even for a span of 900 years, this is a herculean task. However, the author spent enough time on even the least of the "cast of characters" to give an idea of who they were and their deeds (or mis-deeds). On the more important ones, enough time was spent to get the reader's interest to pursue other sources. Given how rotten some of these people were, the book reinforces our view that the church has a divine origin since it overcame these difficulties through the efforts of truly saintly people. I'm looking forward to the next volumes.

I viewed this book as a work of encouragement. Looking at the history of the Church & how she has withstood the test of time, reinforces in me the knowledge that my Church is not standing on or dependent upon sinful men but on the promise of Jesus that the gates of hell will not prevail against her. Heretics have been working within her to bring her down since the beginning; just as they are trying today. The author is viewing Papal history from a birdseye view & what a view it is. Enjoy!

Interesting read. I wonder how many Catholics know what a crazy and jaded history the popes have had over the millennia. It's true that that we as Christians are fallen and we make mistakes. I believe this calls into question the idea that the popes are infallible after they take office. Jesus said himself "No one is good, but God." Don't get me wrong I'm not bashing the Catholic church. But we need to put our faith in God and not man, whomever he or she might be. This book is brief and thorough at the same time. I would encourage those of the Faith to read this book. You'll see many heroes and many zeroes of our history.

This book is a goldmine of history in a nutshell! There is so much information here and it is presented in a format conducive to reading as if the reader was involved in a novel. I am looking forward to the second volume.

This is a must read for any history buff, religious or otherwise. Fascinating, factual, educational, historical. An exceptional read on all levels: philosophical, religious, political, power, influence, social, leadership, management and business.

This is one of the best papal histories I've ever read - concise, precise, accurate, and yes, riddled with that Catholic haughtiness that proves they can't ever practice what their religion purports to preach. That cost it one star. Yet it is clear that North knows his popes and his history well. He ought to have left his bias behind. As you can expect, he jumps over the anathema (Pope Joan, real or myth?) yet he manages glowing portraits of early popes whom we know for a fact did not exist, such as the thirteen or fourteen successors of Peter - who also didn't exist. One more star, baby, that's the price for ruining an otherwise splendid effort. Papal histories are normally pathetic scrambles, confusing history or downright unintelligible. North writes in a crisp, smooth, economical way and once I reached the time of Constantine, I couldn't put it down even for a minute! Along with *THE POPES IN HISTORY* by Enrico Lancioni, Wyatt North has provided a clear manual of papal history. He even clearly explains the heresies. Since this is in three volumes, and this volume has a biography of Pope Francis near the end, which is incomplete, I assume the rest of the Francis bio is in the other volumes. I won't be bothering with those, since I am a particular student of the very early bishops of Rome. While North's Catholic prejudices and blind spots make me yawn, since I am used to them and once taught them, I really don't care to read further.

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