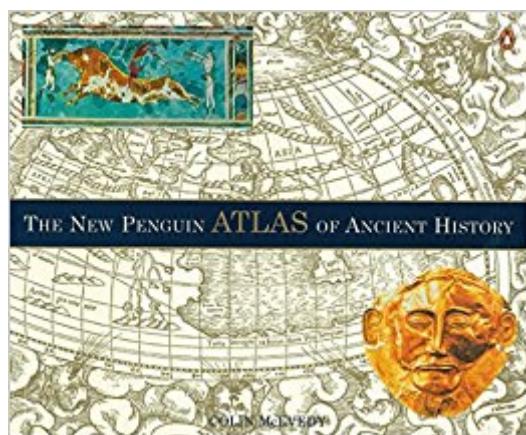


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# The New Penguin Atlas Of Ancient History: Revised Edition



## Synopsis

The Penguin Atlas of Ancient History illustrates in a chronological series of maps, the evolution and flux of races in Europe, the Mediterranean area and the Near East. From 50,000 B.C. to the fourth century A.D., it is one of the most successful of the bestselling historical atlas series.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Colin McEvedy is the author of The Penguin Atlas of Ancient History; The New Penguin Atlas of Medieval History; The Penguin Atlas of Recent History (Europe Since 1815) and The Penguin Atlas of North American History. He lives in London, W6

I just love the way everyone criticises this book and still gives it 5 stars. Yes, the maps do not even show the major rivers which were often the tribal frontiers; and yes many important early sites are not shown on the map at all - so you can not use the atlas to plan your vacation! I note that knowledgeable historians nit-pick the accuracy from time to time but, for myself, the ordinary punter, the book is simply stunning. Firstly the scope covers a mere 40,000 years of mainly European and Middle Eastern history. From the stone age to Byzantium. Secondly you get a swift and understandable summary of all those peoples you should know about but don't; the Medes, the Cimmarians, the Ostrogoths and hundreds of others. Thirdly, as well as the military and political history which helped create the world of today, for just a few quid you get a history of population development, a history of trade and the story of the development and spread of both language and literacy. Wow! On top of all this, the book is written in witty and self-deprecating style, explaining

carefully where the evidence may be contradictory or simply absent. The book is even updated to include some DNA evidence and doubtless there will be a lot more in future editions. So 5 stars plus it is.

I've actually owned all of McEvedy's Penguin atlases (Ancient, Medieval, Modern, Recent, US, African, and Population) for a long time and they are among my favorites. I bought the Ancient, Medieval, and Modern atlases as a graduation present for my grand-nephew who likes history. I like how each atlas is a series of maps for the same geographic area, showing how countries and cultures change over time. I also enjoy McEvedy's dry witty commentary. My only regret is that he has not done an Asian atlas.

If you like history, if you like maps, if you want to see what was going on all over the western world at the same time (i.e. who was contemporaneous with whom) you gotta get this book and its two companions, the medieval and modern volumes. They are just fascinating. These are thin books with lots of maps and limited text, so don't complain about lack of depth. These books give a bird's eye view of the world throughout the times covered. If you want depth buy a fat book. Also the author has a pretty wry sense of humor, if you like that.

Good quick reference, and makes interesting browsing. Probably good for getting middle- or high-school students interested in ancient history (though it does not cover the whole world - the focus is on western Eurasia and North Africa). It has been updated since the 1967 original, but looks like it's mostly the same, so I wonder whether some of the information is dated. The author's timeframe for the early expansion of the Indo-European languages (9000BCE) is nonsense by the reckoning of most scholars, so I find myself taking the rest with a grain of salt. However, it's great for big-picture and context, and you can always zoom in through other sources if you need confirmation. I often find myself wishing for finer granularity of time between maps, but I don't think I've ever seen another atlas as fine-grained as this one for the period. I've read this (and the earlier edition) repeatedly, and used it as a reference countless times.

As a dilettante student of history (I majored in useless poli-sci), I can't comment on the accuracy or objectivity of this Atlas, but from my layman's perspective, it was a fascinating and witty work of awesome encompassment. The author takes you from prehistoric times where modern humans first inhabited Europe, all the way through the course of the Roman Empire. Personally, I found the text

alone to be superb, so the visuals of the maps were just an added bonus. After this book I now intend on buying all of this author's other atlases.

Very small print right throughout the book, about 11 pt for the main text and perhaps 9 pt for the side bars so it's hard on the eyes. And i got caught again by the description, 'Atlas', not checking the books physical size before purchasing, it is only 7 x 9 inches. The maps are not in color. The sea's are blue but everything else illustrated on the maps, the varying ethnic groups for instance, is some arrangement of gray cross hatching. I suppose this wouldn't matter if you are using the book for academic purposes but as a general reader this is disappointing as on first impression the scholarship seems to be first class, the writing style engaging and the time period is covered in unusual detail. but unfortunately the format makes for an unlikely read and i would probably go blind if i attempted it. Why would anyone do this to such a potentially great book ???

If you are interested in Western civilization and history, this book will in its 228 pages show you via colorful maps the flow of peoples and empires over thousands of years. I love this book! My only negative is that I wish the book was in ebook format.

The amount of information it's amazing, just the size of the letters and book are too small.

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