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The Mysteries of History Unravelling the Truth from the Myths of Our Past

Graeme Donald

Keynote

The Mysteries of History is an entertaining romp through the centuries, uncovering the great mysteries surrounding some of the most inaccurate and misleading parts of our past.

Description

As Napoleon himself once said, 'History is a version of past events that people have decided to agree upon'.

Noted down in historical documents, copied and widely repeated, it doesn't take long for a version of the truth to become accepted as fact. But who invents these false accounts in the first place, and why do they gain traction so quickly?

Far from concerning the obscure and insignificant parts of our history, these fundamental inaccuracies and downright lies colour the depiction of many of those pivotal characters and events we learnt about at school. Cleopatra, Marco Polo, Captain Cook, Joan of Arc; most of us could probably reel off a fact or two about each. But as this intriguing book reveals, a closer examination of these core parts of our social and political history shows that often all was not as it seemed, and that the agendas of those responsible for recording these events had a huge impact on what was reported and what was covered up.

The Mysteries of History is an entertaining romp through the centuries, uncovering the great mysteries surrounding some of the most inaccurate and misleading parts of our past.

Sales Points

- A fascinating and entertaining examination of our documented history, revealing the fundamental inaccuracies and downright lies that form the basis of a lot of what we think we know about the past
- Including the truth behind the Black Legend of the Spanish Inquisition, who was really responsible for the Great Fire of Chicago, was there really mutiny on the *Bounty*, and did Marco Polo ever set foot in China?
- Illustrated with line drawings throughout
- **Comparative titles:**
 - *An Utterly Impartial History of Britain*, John O'Farrell (Black Swan, 2008)
 - *Glory and Bollocks: The Truth Behind Ten Defining Events in British History*, Colin Brown (Oneworld, 2013)

Author Biography

Graeme Donald is the author of a number of books about history, the meaning of words and popular misconceptions, including *When the Earth was Flat*, *The Accidental Scientist*, *The Long and the Short of It* and *Learn on the Loo*. His writing has also appeared in many newspapers.

Michael O'Mara.

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