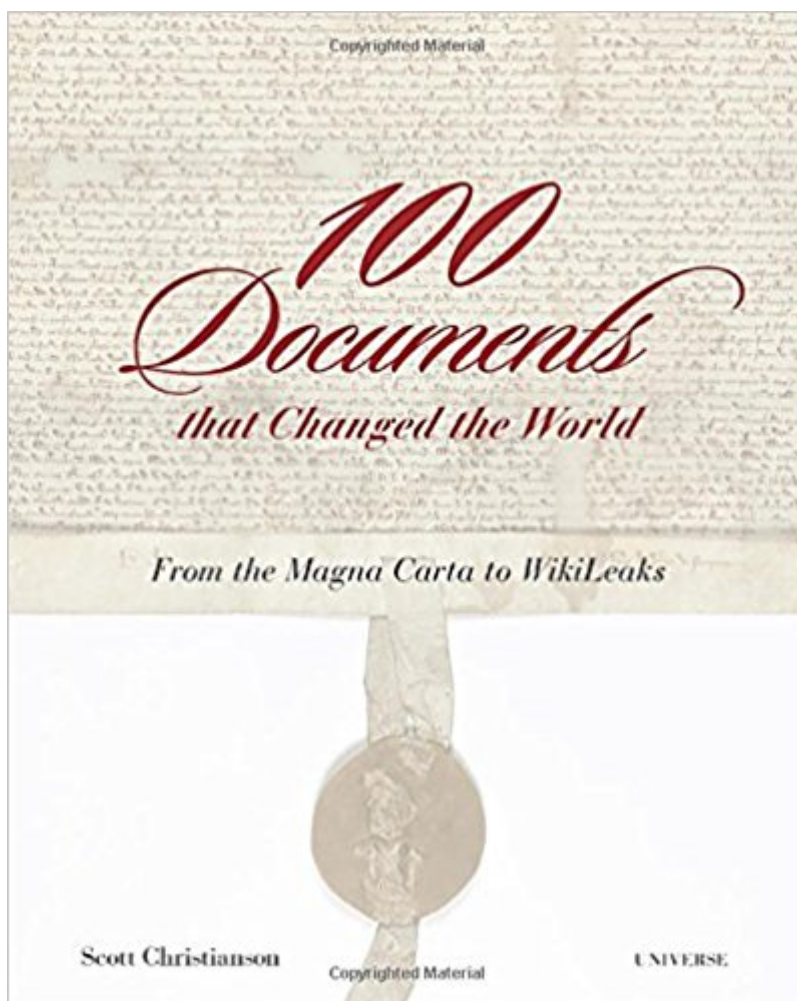


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100 Documents That Changed The World: From The Magna Carta To Wikileaks



Synopsis

A tour of the history of the world through the declarations, manifestos, and agreements from the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence to Wikileaks. » This fascinating collection gathers the most significant written documents that have influenced and shaped the way we think about the world and the course of history. From the Magna Carta (1215) to the Gettysburg Address (1863) to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech (1963), the documents showcased here chart dramatic high points of world history. In addition to official charters and famous treaties, there are also less well known yet nonetheless interesting items included, such as the Apollo flight plan, Apple's 1976 incorporation documents, and the check with which the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia. Equally interesting are Watson and Crick's scrawled notes leading to the discovery of DNA, Darwin's journal, and the annotated manuscripts for Freud's Interpretation of Dreams and Orwell's novel 1984. Beautifully illustrated in full color, this book not only informs but also entertains as it demonstrates how the power of the written word has shaped, changed, enhanced, and even revolutionized the world.

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Customer Reviews

"100 Documents That Changed the World" distinguishes itself by its breadth of selections from every realm of the historical record; political, religious, polemical, scientific, and pop culture, from East and West."-PUBLISHERS WEEKLY "This intriguing book is perfect for dipping into and out of at

random. Flip to any page and happen upon the Louisiana Purchase, Kama Sutra, the Journal of Magellan's Voyage, Freud's The Interpretation of Dreams or Apollo 11's Flight Plan. The global book spans civilizations, centuries, empires and geography and touches upon culture, politics, history, science, philosophy and religion, using precious documents as the jumping-off point."

-KANSAS CITY MAGAZINE"ONE hundred of the most significant documents in human history, dating from 2800 BC to 2011 AD, are presented in this beautifully illustrated and well-written book."

-THE IRISH EXAMINER"This marvelous history book brings a hundred momentous human achievements to light by highlighting the means of their documentation. Be transported back to the moments in which Martin Luther, Isaac Newton, Leonardo da Vinci, and the creators of the Gregorian Calendar and the Edict of Worms changed everything. Illustrations and photos enhance these historical essays, providing a museum-like experience."

-FOREWORD REVIEWS"Reading 100 Documents That Changed the World is an enjoyable experience. . . 100 Documents is presented in an interesting manner and invites the reader to learn more about these documents, which encompass many of the political, economical, social, religious, intellectual, cultural, psychological, scientific, military, and diplomatic events that have shaped mankind's destiny."

-FINGER LAKE TIMES

Scott Christianson is an award-winning author of many distinguished nonfiction books, including 100 Diagrams That Changed the World, The Last Gasp: The Rise and Fall of the American Gas Chamber, and Freeing Charles: The Struggle to Free a Slave on the Eve of the Civil War.

I previously read Christianson's 100 Diagrams, which is a very well done book. 100 Documents is as good or better. He does a masterful job of editing, curating, and summarizing each of the documents selected. It is no easy task to sum up many of history's most important documents on one page each. To do so requires detailed knowledge of the subject and the ability to wordsmith with precision, and the author achieved the right balance. As Mark Twain said, it is much more difficult to write a short letter than a long one and Christianson has mastered the art of capturing the essence of complex documents or books into an instructive and pithy summary. In terms of documents selected, he shows a good balance picking those as diverse as the Quran and the Edict of Worms. He balances East and West and ranges from one of the spectrum to the other including political and scientific, economics and diplomacy, and importantly, in a world where outsized emphasis is placed on recent history, he delves into the past and highlights documents that have become less well known in our world or google searching and Wikipedia.

As the author says, we live in the age of documents. Imagine a book that feels as if it's taking you on a journey from the beginning of history to today, based on important primary source documents, and you will have an idea of what this magnificent book is all about. It does this in a manner that is not only accessible, but thought provoking and it holds our interest from the first page. Each document comes with an explanation of what it represents and how it came to be, and there is an interesting story, told with passion, which adds up to a seamless series of brief accounts that develop themes and larger meanings. It's interesting how many of these documents continue to crop up in the news, decades or even centuries later, based on new discoveries. The illustrations, showing each artifact, are just as variegated and fascinating. This is a grand reading adventure, and I hope it gets read in schools, placed on library shelves, and ultimately, embraced by a great many discerning readers.

A great book for everyone. Has significant information for those who want to understand the what and why's of history. It's delivered in bit sized pieces to make it easy to pick up anytime.

I found many surprising facts and perspectives throughout the book. It was a wonderful tour of the evolution of societies.

Beautifully presented, thoughtfully chosen documents.

I bought this for my grandson but I looked through the book and am very happy with it.

Great book, well worth the read.

Great book, very interesting!

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