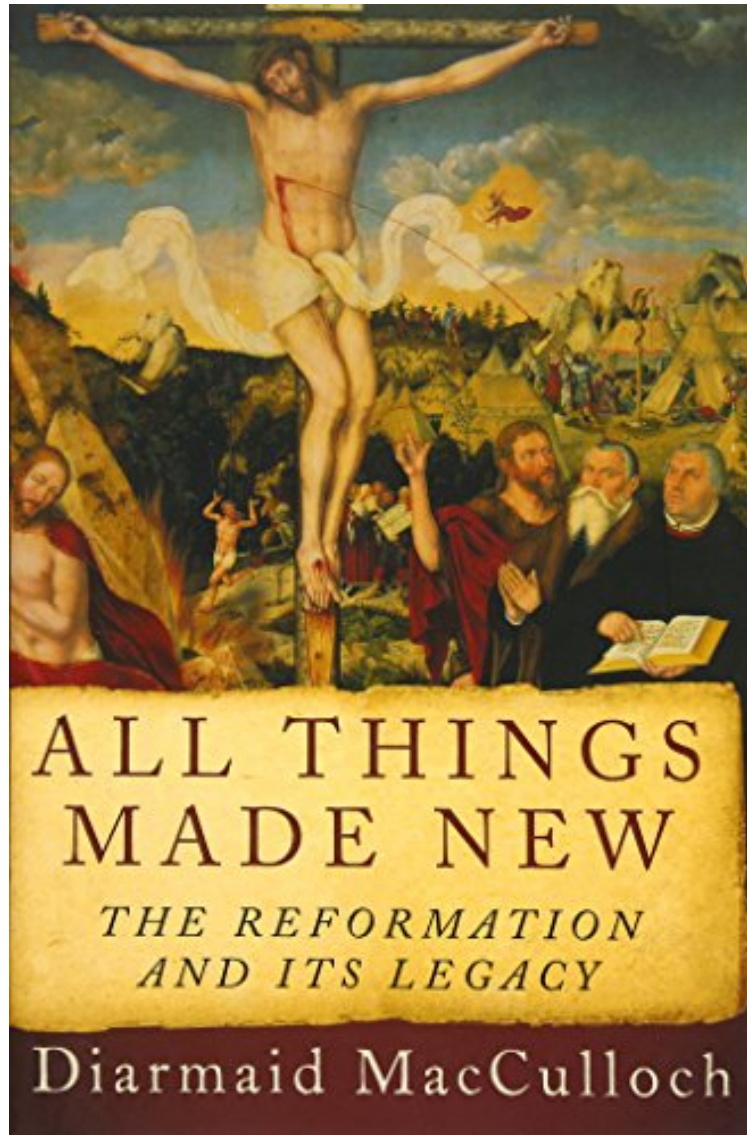


All Things Made New: The Reformation and Its Legacy

Diarmaid MacCulloch

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gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All Things Made New: The Reformation and Its
Legacy:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Interesting insights on the English ReformationBy GKC1951This
book is actually a collection of articles written by Prof. MacCulloch over the years, all dealing with the English

Reformation, which is his specialty. It contains many useful insights and, for those of us in the field of Reformation studies generally, a number of very helpful references. The thesis that emerges from many of the articles is that the Church of England was part of the wider community of Reformed (although not necessarily Calvinist) churches until after the Civil War, when what we today we call Anglicanism was, for lack of a better term, invented. In several essays, he points out the rewriting of English church history by the nineteenth-century Tractarians, who wanted to argue that Anglicanism was always a "middle way." Prof MacCulloch is himself a liberal Anglican, and he does not keep his views hidden. In part, this is helpful, because he has no personal attachment to either the Puritans or the Tractarians, and is therefore able to discuss the theological vagaries of the Church of England in the Reformation period without animus. On the other hand, his comments about contemporary religion--he wishes that Pope Francis might bring the Roman Catholic Church into conformity with modern ideas about sexuality--can be a bit annoying. Because they are largely irrelevant to the history he is discussing, the reader can ignore them with impunity. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By James F. Peilwell written with a good flow, most of the time 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A rewarding read By Scott If at times a little tedious, the book never failed to be rewarding with insight and wit. If you have enjoyed MacCulloch's writing you will enjoy these essays.

The most profound characteristic of Western Europe in the Middle Ages was its cultural and religious unity, a unity secured by a common alignment with the Pope in Rome, and a common language - Latin - for worship and scholarship. The Reformation shattered that unity, and the consequences are still with us today. In *All Things Made New*, Diarmaid MacCulloch, author of the New York Times bestseller *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*, examines not only the Reformation's impact across Europe, but also the Catholic Counter-Reformation and the special evolution of religion in England, revealing how one of the most turbulent, bloody, and transformational events in Western history has shaped modern society. The Reformation may have launched a social revolution, MacCulloch argues, but it was not caused by social and economic forces, or even by a secular idea like nationalism; it sprang from a big idea about death, salvation, and the afterlife. This idea - that salvation was entirely in God's hands and there was nothing humans could do to alter his decision - ended the Catholic Church's monopoly in Europe and altered the trajectory of the entire future of the West. By turns passionate, funny, meditative, and subversive, *All Things Made New* takes readers onto fascinating new ground, exploring the original conflicts of the Reformation and cutting through prejudices that continue to distort popular conceptions of a religious divide still with us after five centuries. This monumental work, from one of the most distinguished scholars of Christianity writing today, explores the ways in which historians have told the tale of the Reformation, why their interpretations have changed so dramatically over time, and ultimately, how the contested legacy of this revolution continues to impact the world today.

"Engaging... MacCulloch is an eminent professor of history at the University of Oxford, and not only brings a lifetime's learning to bear on his subject, but writes with vigour, empathy and wit. ... MacCulloch's book ... is not narrowly about religion, but broadly about identity and memory, about the importance of myths and why historians need to challenge them."--Malcolm Gaskill, *Financial Times* "This excellent exposé of the English Reformation sheds light on how the period forged the practices of Western Christianity, both Protestant and Roman Catholic."--*Library Journal* "Combining magisterial erudition with an accessible style, [MacCulloch] serves as a deft restorer of historical tableaux, stripping away the partisan varnishes that have altered our picture of these sixteenth and seventeenth-century movements... [his] essays on the Reformation and its legacy dazzle with flashes of fresh insight... [a] stunning feat of scholarship."--*Commonweal* "MacCulloch ably conveys a sense of the ideological excitement of the era, when the majority of Western Europeans were jolted by the challenges of Martin Luther in terms of how people had considered death, salvation, and the afterlife... The author's treatment of the Tudors is masterly... Experts and lay readers alike can pick and choose elements from MacCulloch's vast store of knowledge."--*Kirkus* "An intriguing set of essays...[with] fascinating tidbits about theology and church history in a format well suited to those who enjoy browsing a volume and tasting what they will."--*Publishers Weekly* "An energetic, eccentric, and enjoyable meander through loosely connected themes of the English Reformation... MacCulloch's writing is characterized throughout by a skillful blend of expressive, accessible, and witty prose. He gives life to times much different than our own. At its best, the text is nothing short of captivating."--*U.S. Catholic* "Like all enormous historical subjects, the Reformation is prone to myth-making among those who study it, and the only antidote is the sort of devil-in-the-details approach MacCulloch adopts... [He] is convincing about the place of ideas in the Reformation, one of the foundational blocks in Western thought."--*Maclean's* "A remarkably coherent and consistently stimulating collection. Because MacCulloch writes so well, what would be an indulgence for many becomes a powerfully thoughtful reflection on both the foundations of the Protestant tradition and the very purpose of academic scholarship... This is a hugely readable book, sustained throughout by Diarmaid MacCulloch's marvelous instinct for the quirky and the original... Reading *All Things Made New* brings home an essential truth: that one can be funny, playful, and mildly seditious-and still be learned and authoritative. It is a lesson that academics need constantly to relearn."--*Weekly Standard* "Overall, this is a delightful and enlightening book, and is not designed merely for those interested in the Anglican Church. As the author states in

the preface, the work is not aimed just at Anglicans, and he does not see himself as an Anglican historian, but he is an historian who is an Anglican... The work belongs in all academic libraries which have holdings on the varied aspects of Reformation history, and especially upper-level college, university, and seminary libraries. Much of the work can be readily enjoyed by educated, interested laypersons as well...Highly recommended."--Catholic Library World "All Things Made New is a serious book on a serious subject. It is written with elegance and sometimes donnish wit, but it is very far from being a book for specialists. As the author says, he aims to 'reflect on scholarship and interpret it for a wider audience', and he wears his learning pretty lightly."--The Times (UK) "Dazzling... prodigiously learned... MacCulloch has a gift for explaining complicated things simply."--Catholic Herald (UK) "MacCulloch is one of very best public historians: a charismatic telly don who has served his time in the academic trenches and is, as this collection triumphantly confirms, able to write authoritatively and engagingly on a remarkably diverse range of topics in the history of Christian culture and thought."--Peter Marshall, Literary (UK) "[All Things Made New] exhibits MacCulloch's skills profusely. He is a historian's historian in all three ways: masterful comprehension of the facts and history and ideas, an analytical mind on the history of Reformation and its reformers, and his jaunty prose clicks with wit, barb, and sparkle."--Jesus Creed, Patheos.com About the Author Diarmaid MacCulloch is Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford University. His *Thomas Cranmer* (1996) won the Whitbread Biography Prize, the James Tait Black Prize and the Duff Cooper Prize; *The Reformation: A History* (2004) won the Wolfson Prize and the British Academy Prize. *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* (2010), which was adapted into a six-part BBC television series, was awarded the Cundill and Hessel-Tiltman Prizes. His Gifford Lectures at the University of Edinburgh were published in 2013 as *Silence: A Christian History*. His most recent television series, *Sex and the Church*, broadcast in 2015. He was knighted in 2012.