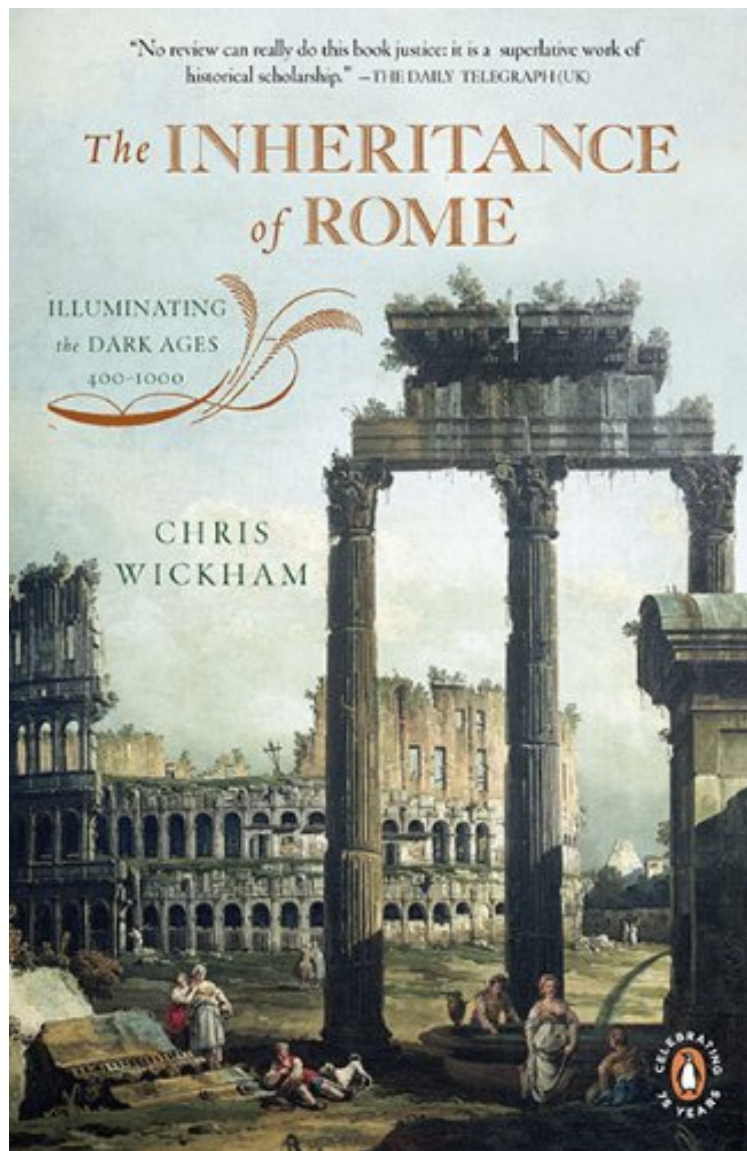


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The Inheritance of Rome: Illuminating the Dark Ages 400-1000 (The Penguin History of Europe)

Chris Wickham

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Chris Wickham : The Inheritance of Rome: Illuminating the Dark Ages 400-1000 (The Penguin History of Europe) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Inheritance of Rome: Illuminating the Dark Ages 400-1000 (The Penguin History of Europe):

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Reviews of this book have varied. I agree with those who have spoken of its over-long, complex sentences. If you choose to purchase this book, prepare to have your attention span tested to the full. You will find yourself re-reading sentences to remind yourself of just what the author is trying to say. It is full of names: Theudebert, Sigibert, Dagobert and Adalbert, just to mention a few. I found my mind wandering to names like Dogbert and Catbert, from the Dilbert comic strip (just for comic relief). That said, this book is full of scholarship, erudition and insights. It deals not just with names, but with broader cultural, political and economic themes. You will learn more about the early Middle Ages.
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Informative ... too much so. It was too academic for my taste.
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A unique and enlightening look at Europe's so-called Dark Ages; the second volume in the Penguin History of Europe Defying the conventional Dark Ages view of European history between A.D. 400 and 1000, award-winning historian Chris Wickham presents *The Inheritance of Rome*, a work of remarkable scope and rigorous yet accessible scholarship. Drawing on a wealth of new material and featuring a thoughtful synthesis of historical and archaeological approaches, Wickham argues that these centuries were critical in the formulation of European identity. From Ireland to Constantinople, the Baltic to the Mediterranean, the narrative constructs a vivid portrait of the vast and varied world of Goths, Franks, Vandals, Arabs, Saxons, and Vikings. Groundbreaking and full of fascinating revelations, *The Inheritance of Rome* offers a fresh understanding of the crucible in which Europe would ultimately be created.