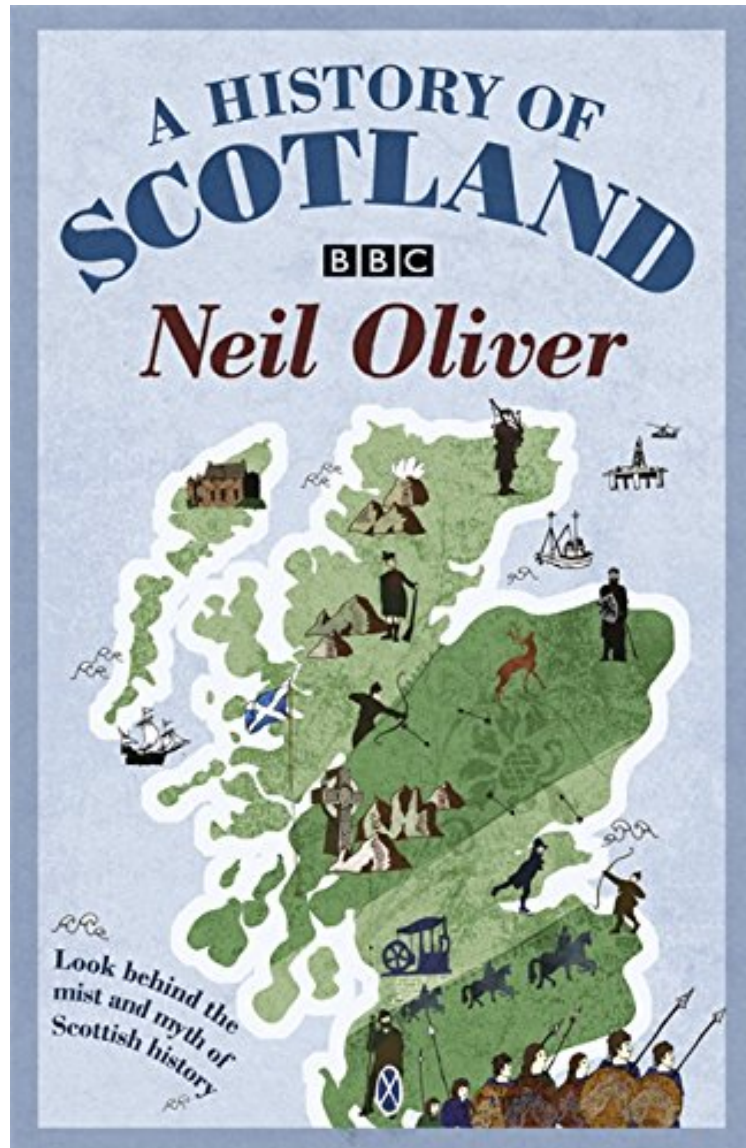


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A History of Scotland: Look Behind the Mist and Myth of Scottish History

Neil Oliver

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well written and engaging.By The ProfessorThis is a good effort at

the fascinating history of Scotland. There is enough detail to really give a sense of things but not so much that it bogs down most of the time. In few places the reverse is actually true, where perhaps a little more detail would be appropriate. But overall this is a good read and great way to get an overview of Scottish history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Real history, real stories
By Ron Webb
This is history written by an outstanding story teller. It is never boring, almost always accurate, and answers the real questions people have (like what actually happened to the Picts?). The treatment of economic issues and how people lived, and now live, is excellent. It provides both the long view and the short view. I was a history major in university, and continue to read many history books, this is one of the most enjoyable I have read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scotland revisited
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Scotland's history gets a rewrite by archaeologist and historian Neil Oliver. How accurate are the accounts of Mary Queen of Scots's tragic demise or Bonnie Prince Charlie's forlorn cause? Oliver reveals a Scotland that forged its own identity with success, despite its union with England in 1707.

From Booklist
Archaeologist Oliver has become a BBC star hosting such history programs as *Two Men in a Trench*. This volume accompanies his latest series, about his homeland. Scotland is wedded, for better or worse, to England, and its often been the latter for Scotland. Periods when Highlanders and Lowlanders stood independent of the English live on, however, in historical memory. It is to such popularly recollected names as William Wallace and Robert the Bruce that Oliver accordingly pegs his narrative, which unrolls from Celtic times to Roman times to Stuart times, which expired with Bonnie Prince Charlie's defeat in 1745. Like characters in a dramatic play, the historical figures are pithily characterized (Mary Queen of Scots: dynastic dynamite) and then sent into action. While populist in style, Oliver's presentation never caricatures its actors. He imparts impressions of them as real people with passions, convictions, and choices. Including such great Scottish cultural icons as poet Robert Burns, Oliver's warmhearted yet illusion-free survey of Scottish history piques interest in the auld country. --Gilbert Taylor
It's an affectionate portrait by an author who, for all its flaws and magnificence, clearly loves his country
IRISH NEWS
About the Author
Neil Oliver is a Scottish archaeologist, historian and broadcaster best known for his distinctive voice and long black hair and as the charismatic presenter of the award-winning documentary series *Coast*. His 10-part 'bold, pugnacious and authoritative' *History of Scotland* on BBC2 was a critical success as was the book of the same name that accompanied it. Visit the website for more information at www.neiloliver.com, follow on Twitter at https://twitter.com/NEIL_OLIVER_ and join on Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/Neil-Oliver.