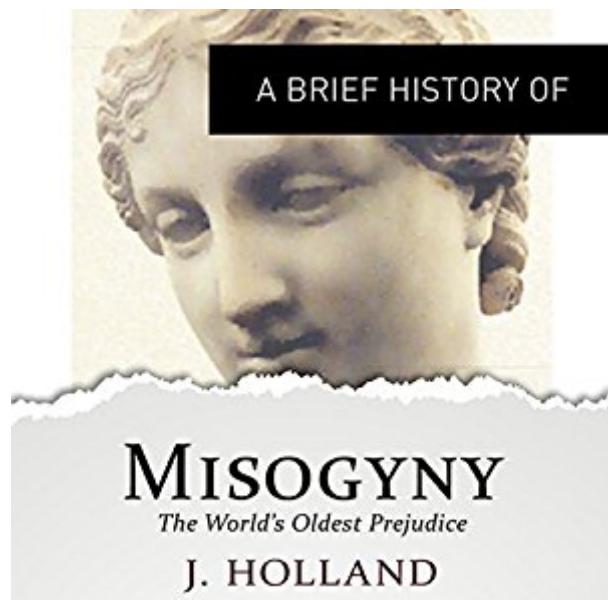


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# A Brief History Of Misogyny: The World's Oldest Prejudice: Brief Histories



## Synopsis

In this compelling, powerful book, highly respected writer and commentator Jack Holland sets out to answer a daunting question: How do you explain the oppression and brutalization of half the world's population by the other half, throughout history? The result takes the listener on an eye-opening journey through centuries, continents, and civilizations as it looks at both historical and contemporary attitudes to women. Encompassing the Church, witch hunts, sexual theory, Nazism and pro-life campaigners, we arrive at today's developing world, where women are increasingly and disproportionately at risk because of radicalised religious belief, famine, war and disease.

Well-informed and researched, highly readable and thought-provoking, this is no outmoded feminist polemic: It's a refreshingly straightforward investigation into an ancient, pervasive, and enduring injustice. It deals with the fundamentals of human existence - sex, love, violence - that have shaped the lives of humans throughout history. The answer? It's time to recognize that the treatment of women amounts to nothing less than an abuse of human rights on an unthinkable scale. *A Brief History of Misogyny* is an important and timely book that will make a long-lasting contribution to the efforts to improve those rights throughout the world. Jack Holland was a highly respected author and journalist known particularly for his commentary about Northern Irish politics. He grew up in Belfast (where he was taught by Seamus Heaney) and worked with Jeremy Paxman and other outstanding journalists at BBC Belfast during a period of seminal current affairs programming. Jack published four novels and seven works of non-fiction, most of the latter having to do with politics and terrorism in Northern Ireland, including the best-selling *Phoenix*. Sadly, Jack died of cancer in 2004, just after the manuscript of *Misogyny* had been delivered and accepted by his US publisher. On his death, his family received letters of respect from statesmen including Ted Kennedy and Hilary Clinton, who had come to rely on his balanced analysis of Irish politics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the most fascinating, important and angering books I've ever read. I don't understand why it isn't available as a trade paperback and taught regularly in college classrooms. Brilliantly done.

This seminal work should be required reading in all college sociology, humanities and women's study courses. Mr. Holland, God rest his soul, provides the reader with a razor sharp view of the history of this insidious world community prejudice. Easy to read with concepts that challenge our sensibilities and acceptance, the author strips away the rhetoric and lays bare the bias that keeps us all in bondage.

I found the book very informative, well written and dealing with a very difficult subject that can so easily make people apprehensive and hostile. The historical perspective and the analysis of societal prejudices against women is presented as a matter of fact, in a simple but, nevertheless, very convincing way. Every woman inevitably experiences some misogynistic attitudes from both - men and, ironically, women. It is easy to get upset, when somebody abuses or attempts to abuse you as a person. It is much harder to understand that some abuse comes to you for a sole reason of being a woman, to realize that you are not at fault there, that the reason of what you go through is systemic, and pervasive, and rooted so deeply in our world history that the only way to beat the monster of misogyny is with a consistent systemic change, which can't happen by itself: women need to open their eyes and see what's happening to them, the positive things too, of course, but also a lot of horrific eventuality of the injustice of ages. And this book is just that incredible guide that can help women do that. I enjoyed the writing, the factual richness, the passion, and the intelligence of this book. I highly recommend it to both women and good men, because we need their help in order to become whole again. Thank you, Jack Holland! You are a good man.

I am with a man I love, but he doesn't get Misogyny. This book lays it out straight, and gives you everything you need to explain how our culture is the way it is. Instead of getting angry and spluttering (which leads to accusations of being 'hysterical' - look up the etymology of that word) this book explains why women are angry about how this culture treats us.

If you are a woman, this is required reading....it's fascinating, entertaining, and definitely shines a very bright light on the role of women since history began! I loved it...so much I'm re-reading it. It's that good

I knew so little about the history of misogyny and this writer goes into such detail without being too wordy. Fascinating, educational, and extremely well-written. Thank you to the author and his daughter for such a wonderful account of a dark history.

This book is BRILLIANT!, it's the most enlightening book I have ever read. It answered all my questions on why people are, the way they are. Before I had read this book I didn't have much of an idea about what misogyny was. For example, I didn't know that both men and women can be misogynistic, that they can be misogynistic and not even know it, and what a devastating effect misogyny has on boys, girls, men and women. This word needs to be taught and understood in schools to prevent any resurrection, as nobody can protect themselves against something that is invisible. This word was invisible to me until I read this book. I just hope that Jack Holland, wherever he is now, understands how remarkable and inspirational he has been to me. Money well spent.

I would HIGHLY RECOMMEND this book to everyone that has a loved woman in their life. Understanding our shared human history helps us move forward into the future progressively and morally. Technological advances are moving us all more and more into a global community, which requires us to relate to, integrate, and affect differing cultures on a scale never before experienced on our planet. Without knowledge, we cannot live our lives in a state of informed awareness in our own neighborhoods, much less in a broader spectrum. This author explores the one common thread running through nearly every society since the rise of the ancient Greeks, 3,000 years ago, the "invisible prejudice." He explores the practice of misogyny in an intricate, detailed, and excellently researched manner. He does not blame man or espouse hatred, but empathy and compassion. Many elements of this book are disturbing, yet they are pieces of our collective history. Women should read this book to see what your sisters across the world and down the block have and are experiencing. maybe you've experienced some of these behaviors in your own life. Men, this is equally for you- not because you've done anything horrendous yourself, but to better understand your wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, and their experiences in this world.

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