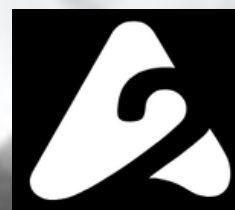


# WHY ATHEISTS ARE CONSIDERING CHRISTIANITY AGAIN



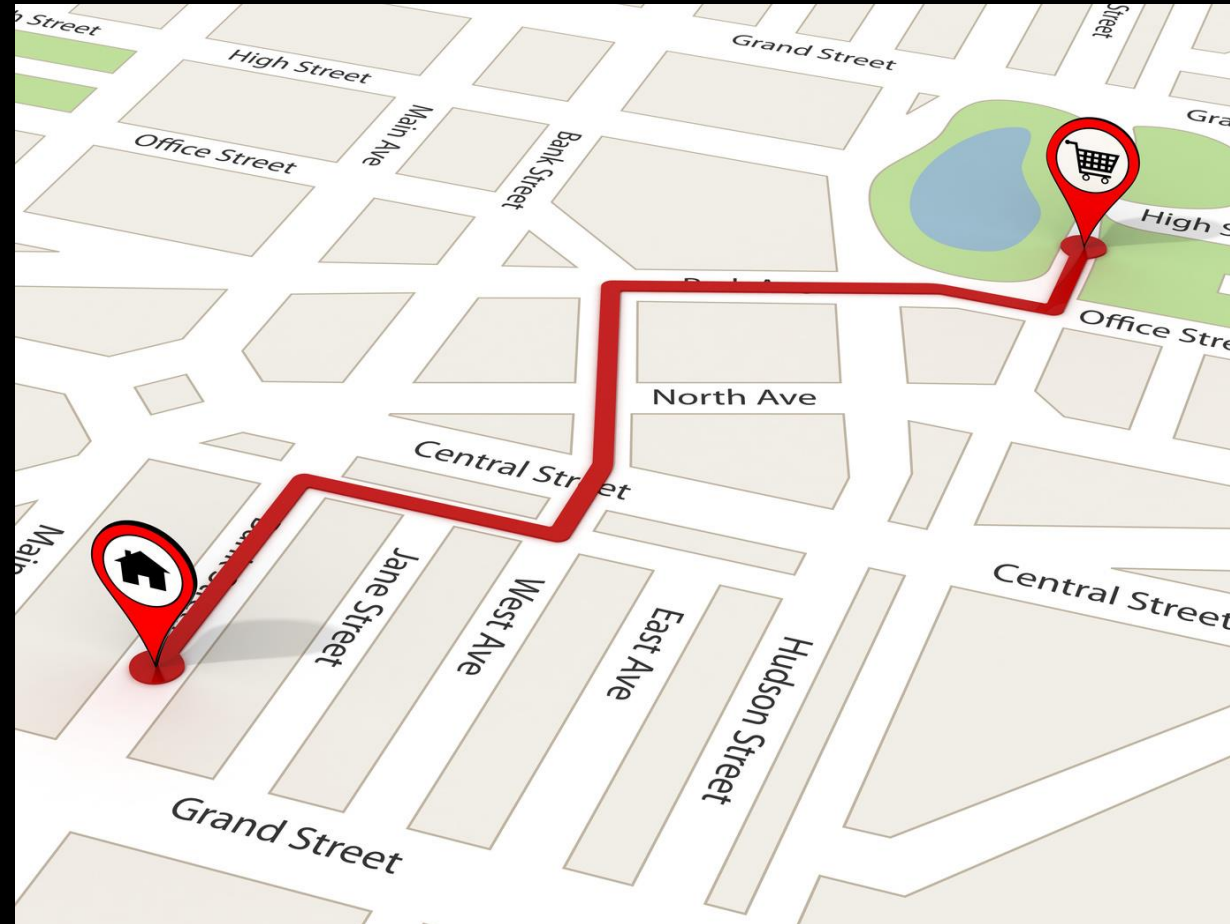
**AWC**



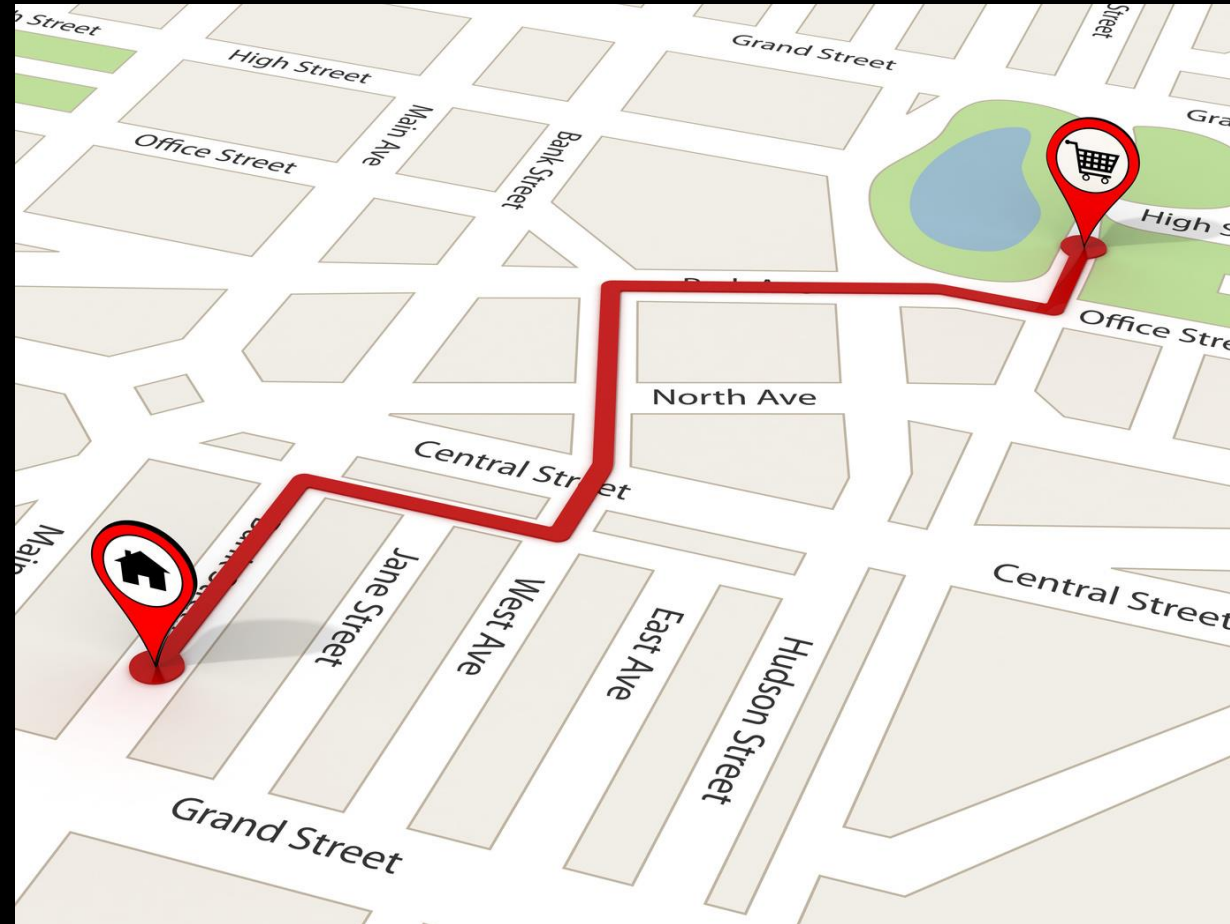




# ROAD MAP



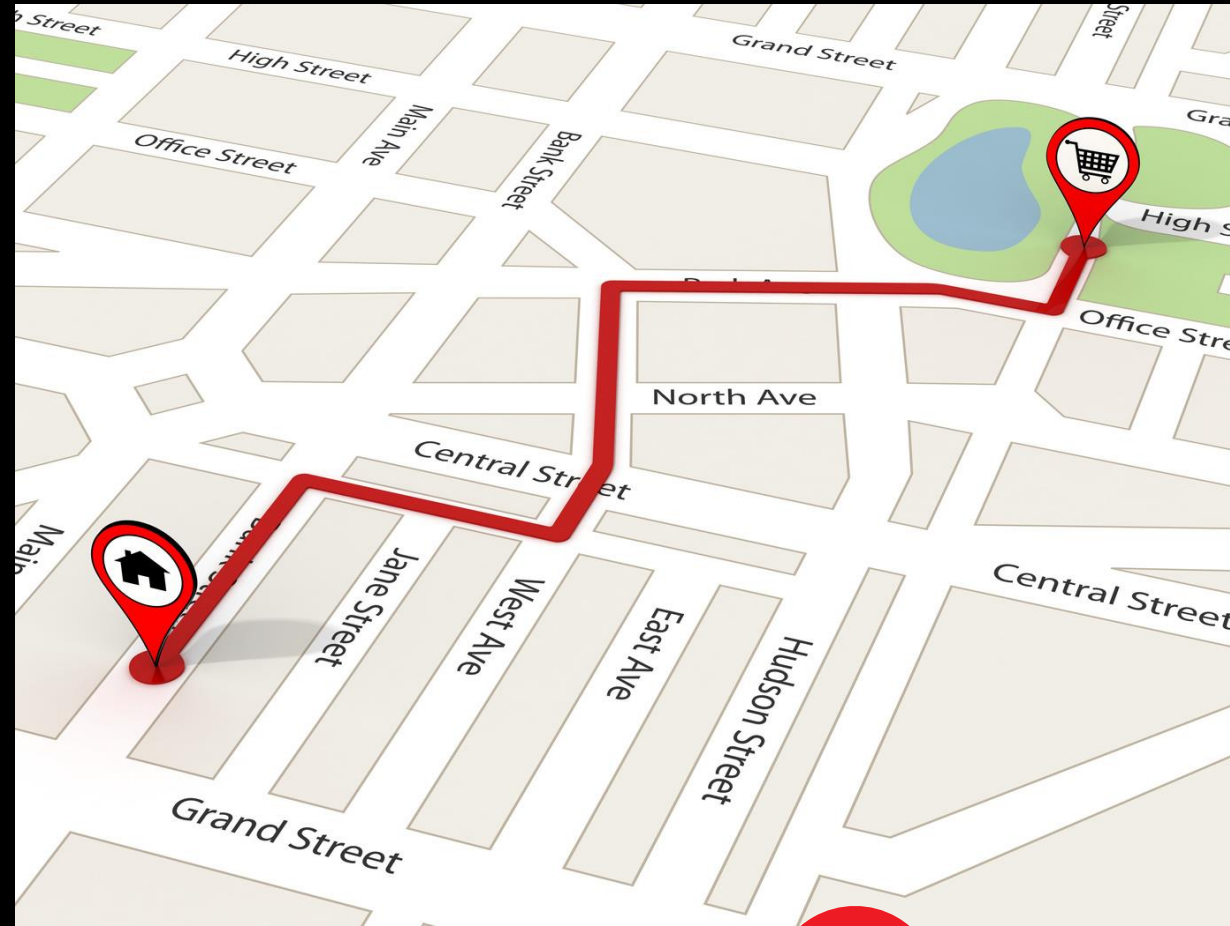
# ROAD MAP



The RISE & FALL  
of NEW ATHEISM



# ROAD MAP



The RISE & FALL  
of NEW ATHEISM

Meet the ATHEISTS  
TURNING to Christianity

# ROAD MAP

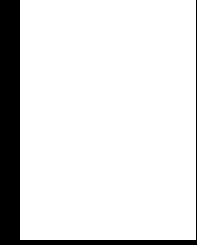


**The RISE & FALL  
of NEW ATHEISM**

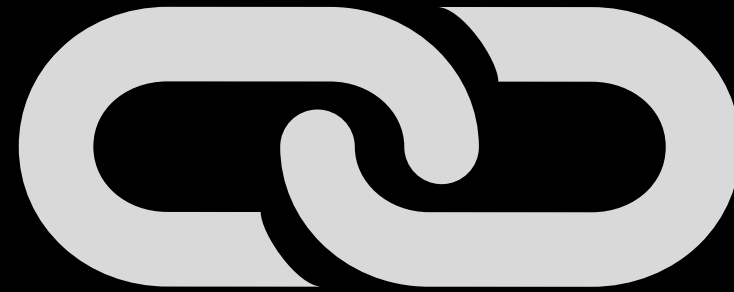


**Meet the ATHEISTS  
TURNING to Christianity**

# ROAD MAP



The RISE & FALL  
of NEW ATHEISM



Meet the ATHEISTS  
TURNING to Christianity

# ROAD MAP



The RISE & FALL  
of NEW ATHEISM

culture  
wars



Meet the ATHEISTS  
TURNING to Christianity

The **CULTURE WARS** that led to New Atheism's  
fall revealed:

- the **VALUES** of human worth & dignity that  
atheists still hold deeply,



# ROAD MAP



The RISE & FALL  
of NEW ATHEISM

culture  
wars



Meet the ATHEISTS  
TURNING to Christianity

The **CULTURE WARS** that led to New Atheism's fall revealed:

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# ROAD MAP



The RISE & FALL  
of NEW ATHEISM

culture  
wars



Meet the ATHEISTS  
TURNING to Christianity

The **CULTURE WARS** that led to New Atheism's fall revealed:

- the **VALUES** of human worth & dignity that atheists still hold deeply,
- the **LACK** of a foundation New Atheism provides for these values,
- and **THE SCARLET THREAD** leading from these values back to Christianity.

RISE of New Atheism





# RISE of New Atheism



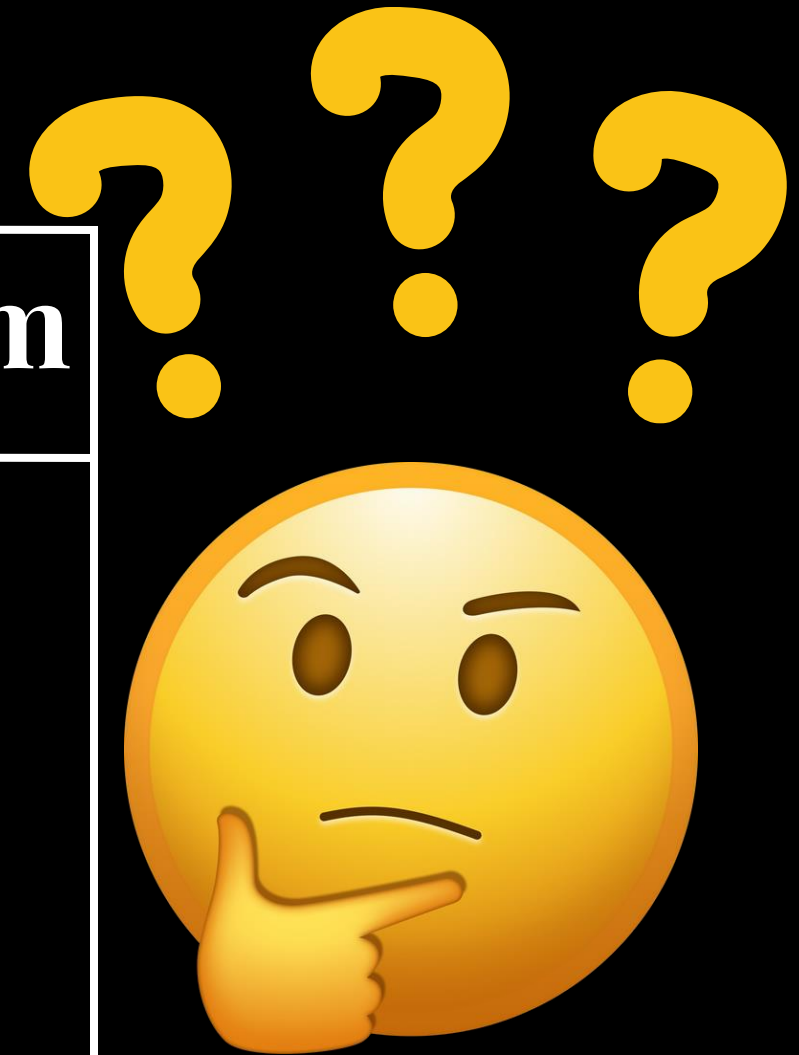
Atheism vs. New Atheism



# RISE of New Atheism



Atheism	New Atheism
a position on belief in gods	a movement critiquing religion with activism



# RISE & FALL of New Atheism

2006 to 2018





THE SURPRISING  
REBIRTH OF  
BELIEF IN GOD

---

WITH  
JUSTIN BRIERLEY



# RISE of New Atheism



**"We're here! We're**

**The Reason Rally**  
**Washington DC, 2012**

# RHETORIC > SUBSTANCE



**Jana Harmon**  
teaching fellow @ the CS Lewis  
Institute

*“When you would see debate, it seemed to me oftentimes that the substance was on the side of the Christian, **but the rhetoric** was on the side of the **new atheist**.”*

*“And that that seemed to be much more convincing, the style, the manner, rather than the substance.”*



# RISE of New Atheism



**The Reason Rally**  
Washington DC, 2012



# RISE of New Atheism



**Sept 11, 2001**  
**Terrorist Attack**



**The Reason Rally**  
**Washington DC, 2012**



# RISE of New Atheism



## The 4 Horsemen

- Richard Dawkins “The God Delusion” (2006)
- Christopher Hitchens “God Is Not Great” (2007)
- Sam Harris “Letter to a Christian Nation” (2006)
- Daniel Dennett “Breaking the Spell” (2006)



# RISE of New Atheism



## The 4 Horsemen

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Rationality  
Rules

Cult of  
Dusty

The  
Amazing  
Atheist

FALL of New Atheism



**FALL of New Atheism**



**Elevatorgate, 2011**

# FALL of New Atheism



Elevatorgate, 2011



# FALL of New Atheism



Elevatorgate, 2011



“Stop Whining  
Will You?”



FALL of New Atheism



Culture  
Wars

FALL of New Atheism



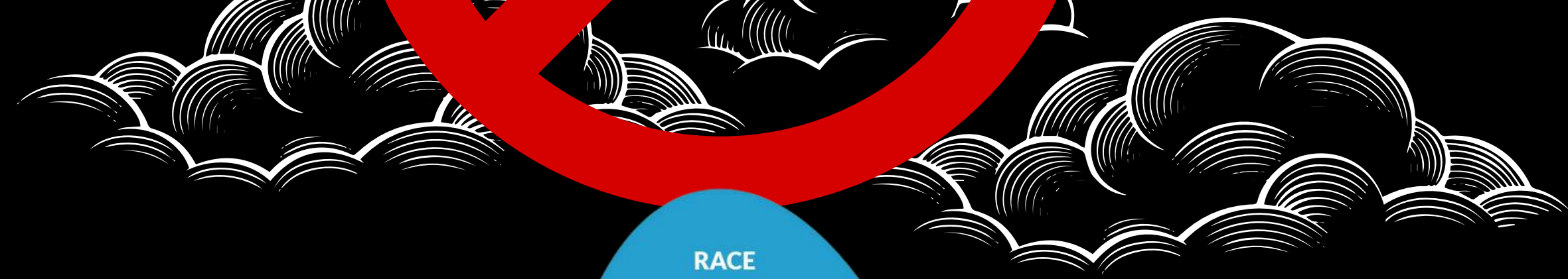
Culture  
Wars  
Atheism +

# FALL of New Atheism



**you also had and people**







# FALL of New Atheism



**Alex O'Connor**  
on the Meaning Crisis

# FALL of New Atheism



**or got something to do with**

**Alex O'Connor**  
on the Meaning Crisis

# RISE & FALL of New Atheism



Justin Brierley

**“The question of which particular values we should celebrate and support** was the issue that came to tear apart the New Atheist world as proved by the rancorous infighting of its factions over feminism, race, gender and LGBT. **It turned out science and reason alone could not provide the answer to such vexed issues.**”

# RISE & FALL of New Atheism



**Justin Brierley**

“Science turned out to be a poor substitute for a savior.

Science can tell you how the universe arose, but not why it is there.

Science can tell you what you consist of, but not what you are worth.



# RISE & FALL of New Atheism



**Justin Brierley**

“Science can generate solutions to poverty, but not the compassion to implement them.

Science can make you money, but not purchase a meaningful existence.”



What's the link?



The RISE & FALL  
of NEW ATHEISM



ATHEISTS TURNING to  
Christianity

# RISE & FALL of New Atheism

1. Everyone stubbornly holds to the VALUES of  
HUMAN WORTH and DIGNITY



# RISE & FALL of New Atheism

1. Everyone stubbornly holds to the VALUES of HUMAN WORTH and DIGNITY
2. Atheism and a materialistic worldview provide NO SOLID SUBSTITUTE for the foundation of these values & rights

The NEW THINKERS



The NEW THINKERS



DOUGLAS MURRAY

# The NEW THINKERS



**I think very worried about**

**DOUGLAS MURRAY**

**debating Motion**

***“This House Believes Religion  
Has No Place in the 21st  
Century”***



**I wonder if we could start with  
your**

Justin Brierley

Sub  
scr  
ibe▶



# DISCUSSION

Why is Douglas  
Murray re-  
considering  
Christianity?





# DISCUSSION

**“Atheism has  
no answers in the  
face of death,  
human tragedy, or  
suffering.”**

The NEW THINKERS



Ayaan Hirsi Ali



**you know the Iranian regime**



# DISCUSSION

Why is Ayaan Hirsi  
Ali re-considering  
Christianity?



# DISCUSSION

**“The more I look at  
it, the more I feel I  
no longer have this  
need, this void.”**

# FEMINISM



Louise Perry



# FEMINISM



**as Christianity recedes**

**Louise Perry**



# DISCUSSION

Why is Louise Perry  
re-considering  
Christianity?



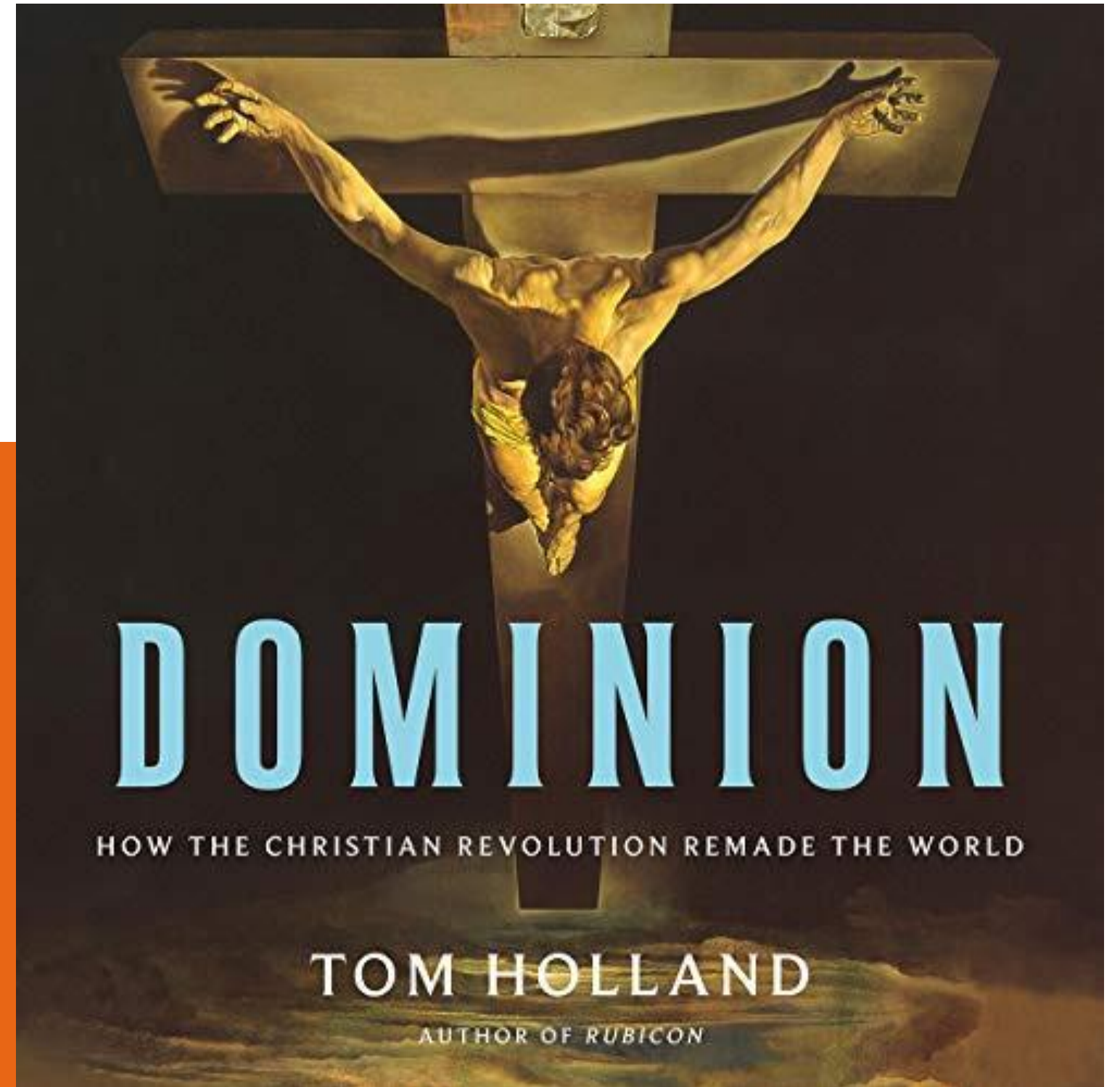
# DISCUSSION

**“Feminists who set themselves up in opposition to Christianity, are sawing off the branch in which they sit.”**





Tom  
Holland





# Tom Holland



*But I found the experience of living in the minds of people like Caesar, people who I had deeply admired as a child, almost hero-worship -- **I found it increasingly unsettling.** Caesar... was a man it is said who slaughtered a million Gauls and enslaved another and was kind of cheered through the streets of Rome for it. And I began to think that actually these are so remote from me, so alien, that actually the kind of assumption I'd had that these were the seed-beds of my own values, my own assumptions, were probably wrong.*

# Tom Holland



*Caesar was a man it is said who slaughtered a million Gauls and enslaved another and was kind of cheered through the streets of Rome for it. And I began to think that actually these are so remote from me, so alien, that actually the kind of **assumption** I'd had that these were the seed-beds of my own values, my own assumptions, were probably **wrong**.*





# Tom Holland



*“the kind of assumptions  
I’d had that Greco-Roman  
culture & values were the  
seedbeds of my own  
values ... were probably  
wrong...”*



The ancient world  
had **no concept of**  
**inherent human rights**

---





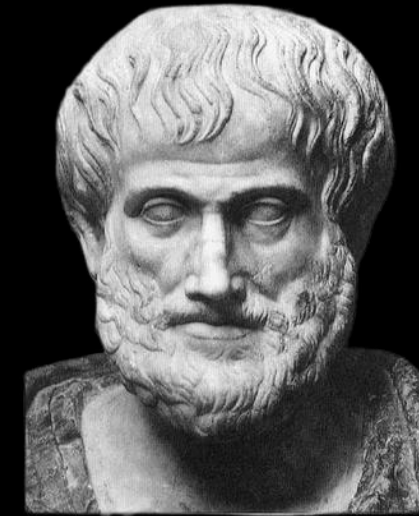
# no human rights

*"Know that I am still in Alexandria. And do not worry if they all come back and I remain in Alexandria. I ask and beg you to take good care of our baby son, and as soon as I receive payment I shall send it up to you. If you are delivered of a child [before I come home], if it is a boy keep it, if a girl discard it."*

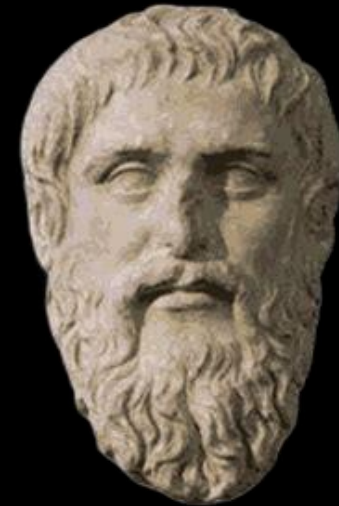
(Letter written in 1 B.C.E., cited in  
*The Rise of Christianity*, Stark, p.101)

 **no human rights**

*infanticide as legitimate  
state policy*



**Aristotle**



**Plato**



**Tacitus**

*the Jewish teaching that it is “a deadly sin  
to kill an unwanted child” was but  
another of their “sinister and  
revolting” practices*

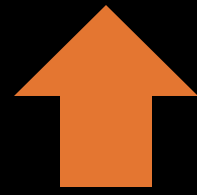
# Where DO values come from?

the Greeks



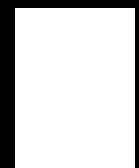
# Where DO values come from?

“natural law”



*"the natural order  
of the world"*

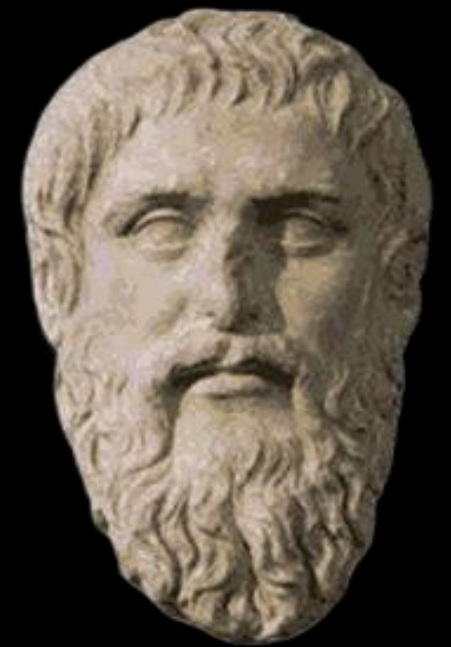
the Greeks





*“Nature herself intimates that  
it is just for the better to have more than  
the worse, the more powerful than the  
weaker...”*

– Plato

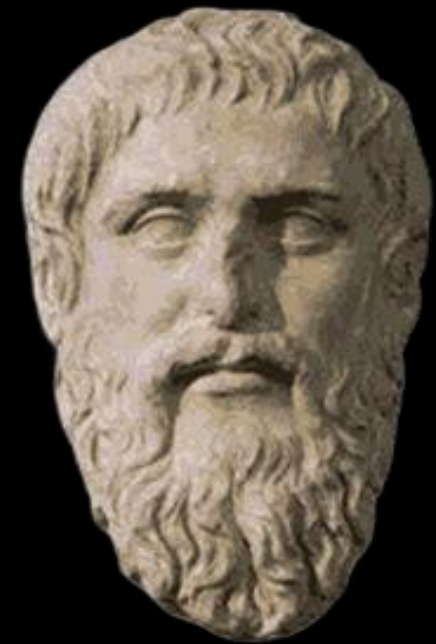


the Greeks



*Justice consists in the superior ruling over and having more than the inferior.”*

– Plato

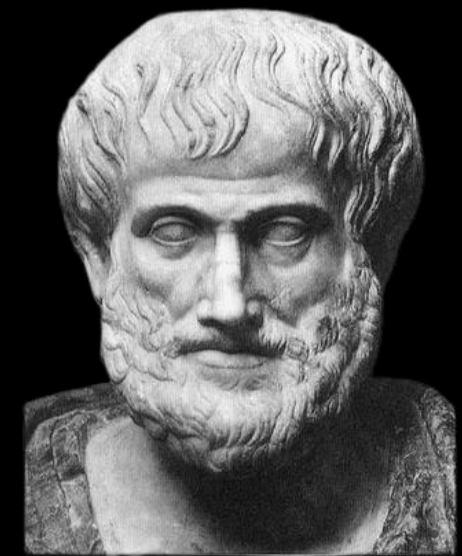


the Greeks



*“For that some should rule and others be ruled is a thing not only necessary, but expedient...”*

– Aristotle

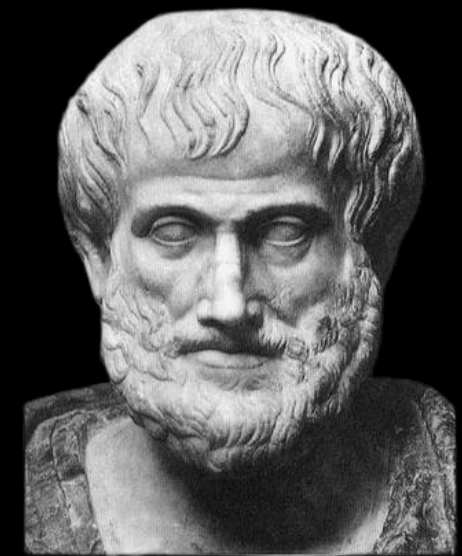


the Greeks



*From the hour of their birth some are  
marked out for subjection, others for rule.”*

– Aristotle



the Greeks





# Where DO our values of inherent worth come from?

“the Enlightenment”?



*"According to [the new atheists], science, health, and ethics were all hamstrung by Christianity as it ushered in the Dark Ages and kept things dark for a long time."*



■ the Enlightenment

*Only once the shackles of religion began to be thrown off during the Age of Enlightenment did rationalists, secular philosophers, and scientific pioneers get progress back on track."*

*(The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God, Ch.3, p.101)*



■ the Enlightenment

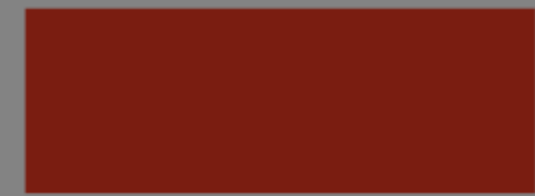


Tom  
Holland

values of human dignity

Enlightenment

the Greeks







Tom  
Holland

Enlightenment

values of human dignity

the Greeks

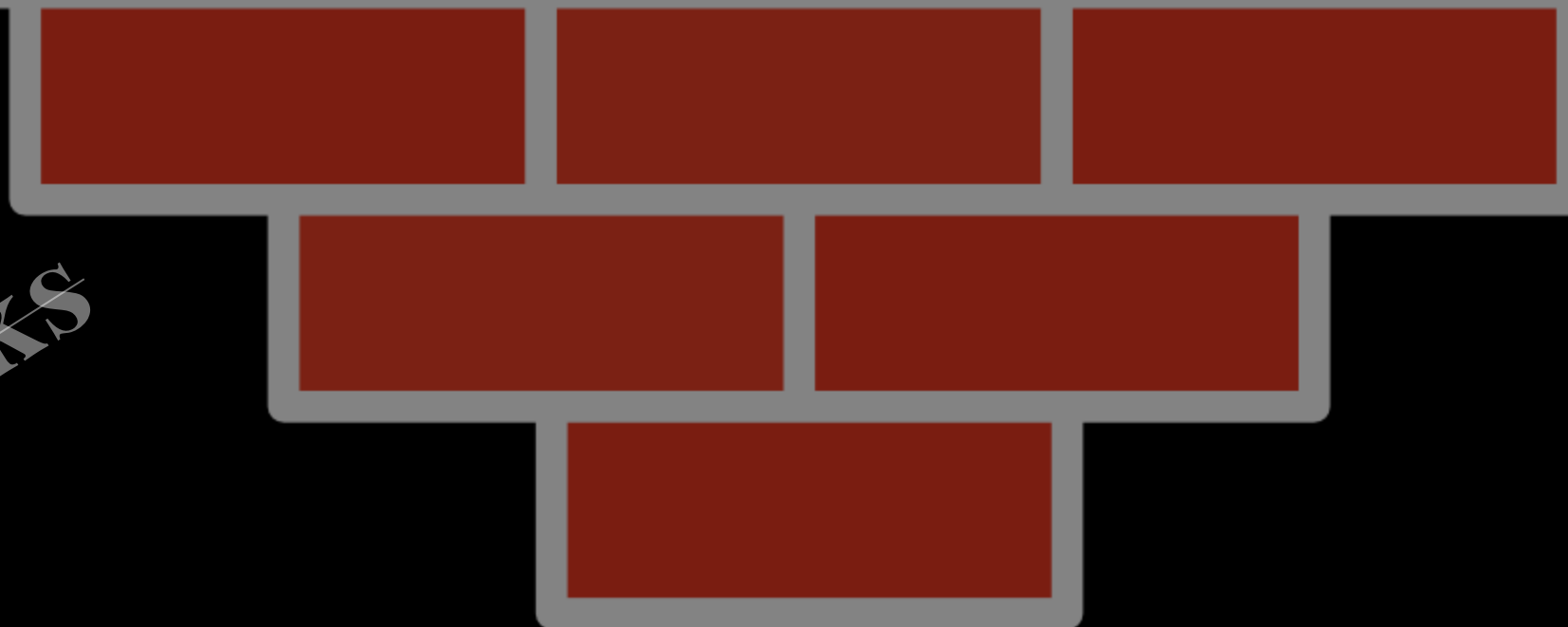




Tom  
Holland

Enlightenment  
the Greeks

values of human dignity





Tom  
Holland

Enlightenment  
the Greeks

values of human dignity

Christianity

Christ







Tom  
Holland



Jordan  
Peterson



Tim  
O'Neill



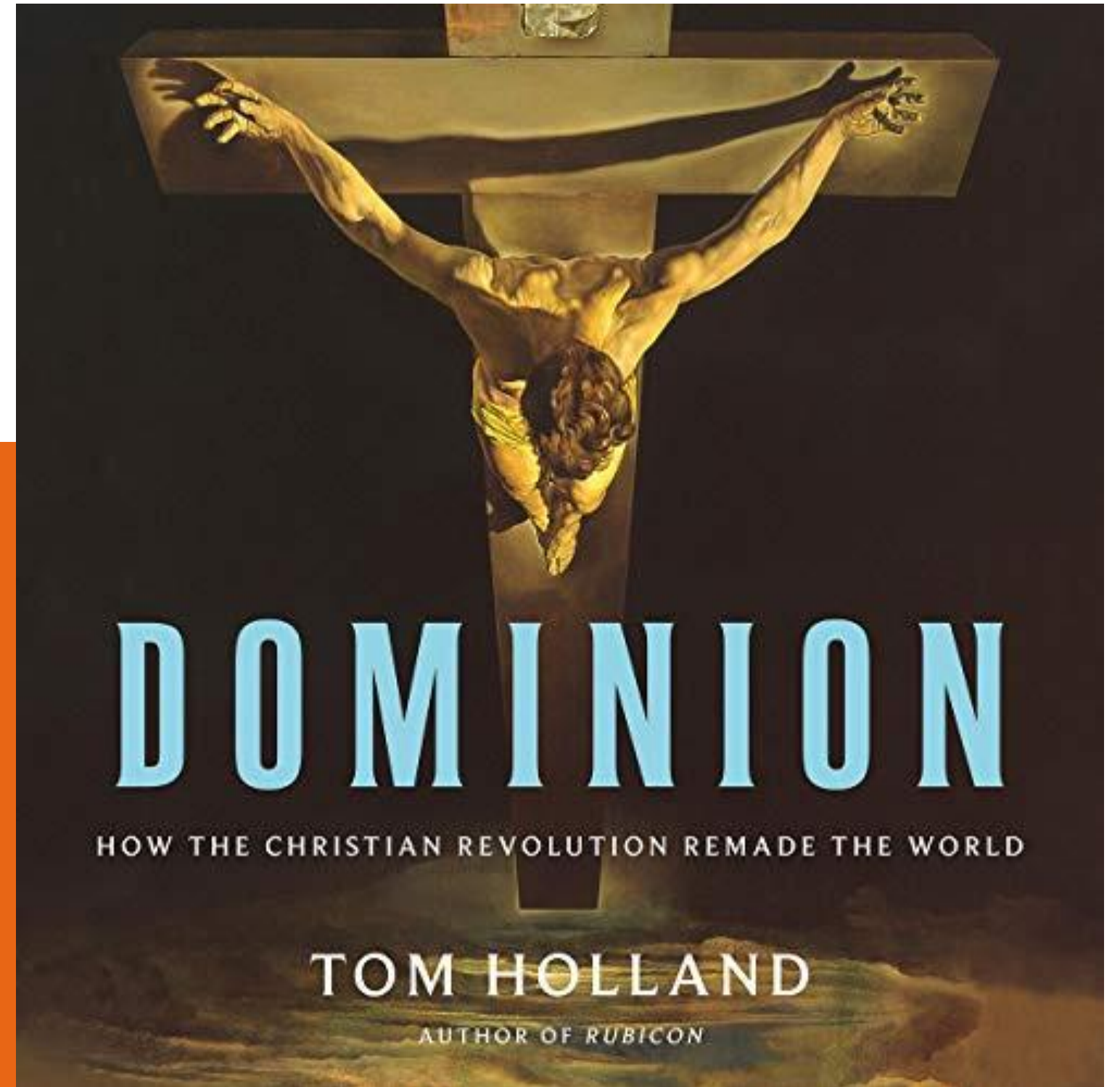
Douglas  
Murray







Tom  
Holland



BRUTAL

Persian World 

# BRUTAL

*"the scaphe, or 'trough'. The executioner, after placing his victim inside a boat or **hollowed-out tree trunk**, would then attach a **second one over the top of it**, so that only the wretched man's **head, hands and feet were left sticking out**. Fed continuously with rich food, the criminal would have no choice but to lie in his **own excrement**; smeared all over with **honey**, he would find himself powerless to brush away the buzzing flies.*

*'Worms and swarms of maggots were bred of the rottenness and the putrefaction of the excrement; and*

Persian World

**BRUTAL**

*excrement; smeared all over with honey, he would find  
powerless to brush away the buzzing flies.*

*‘Worms and swarms of maggots were bred of the  
rottenness and the putrefaction of the excrement; and  
these, eating away at his body, bored into his  
intestines.’”*

*(Dominion, Holland, p.23)*

Persian World





HONOR > HUMILITY

Greek World 

# HONOR > HUMILITY

*The ancient Greeks loved honour. **Philotimia**, [meant] literally **the love of honour (timē)**.*

*[A] Roman husband whose wife was found to be having an affair would feel **more injured by the public shame** she brought on him than by the betrayal of love itself.*

*In the 147 pithy maxims of the Delphic Canon (6th century BC), considered by ancient Greeks to be the sum and substance of the ethical life, there is **no mention of the***

**Greek World**

# HONOR > HUMILITY

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Greek World



# HONOR > HUMILITY

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*[T]aking hold of the honour due to your merit was perfectly acceptable. It was taken for granted that those with merit would seek the honour due to them. **This was philotimia.***

## Greek World

[HUMILITAS, ch.5]



*theme of let alone the word "humility."*

# HONOR > HUMILITY

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*[HUMILITAS, ch.5]*

Greek World



EXPLOITATIVE

Greek World



# EXPLOITATIVE

*“Sex was nothing if not an exercise of power. As captured cities were to the swords of the legions, so the bodies of those used sexually were to the Roman man. To be penetrated, male or female, was to be branded as inferior: to be marked as womanish, barbarian, servile ...*

*In Rome, men no more hesitated to use slaves and prostitutes to relieve themselves of their sexual needs than they did to use the side of a road as a toilet. In Latin, the same word, *meio*, meant both ejaculate and urinate.”*  
(Holland, *Dominion*)

Greek World

# EXPLOITATIVE

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*(Holland, Dominion)*

Greek World





# EXPLOITATIVE

*“In the ancient world sex with boys and girls was not merely tolerated; it was celebrated by writers like Juvenal, Petronius, Horace, Strato, Lucian, and Philostratus. The word they used was pederasty: love of children.”*

*(The Air We Breathe, Scrivener)*

Greek World



# EXPLOITATIVE

*"Zeus, the king of the gods, who ruled from the heights of Mount Olympus, had delighted in joining the banquets of mortals.*

*Increasingly, though, he had chosen to disguise himself, and to descend from his palace not to share in a feast, but to rape."*

*(Dominion, Holland, p.31)*

Greek World



# EXPLOITATIVE

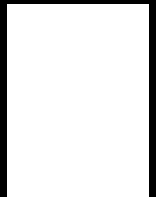
*"The strong do what they have the power to do,  
and the weak must suck it up."*

(Thucydides, 5.89)

Greek World



THE WORLD AFTER CHRIST





Believable?

Unbelievable?

**you say this in in the book is so**



# DISCUSSION

Why is Tom Holland  
re-considering  
Christianity?



# DISCUSSION

**“The measure of how vast that explosion [of the cross] was is that now we take for granted that the lowest of the low do have a dignity.”**





## **TAKEAWAYS**

- **confidence / passion**



## **TAKEAWAYS**

- **confidence / passion**
- **a convo tool**





## TAKEAWAYS

- **confidence / passion**
- **a convo tool**
- **listen to *Surprising***



## TAKEAWAYS

- **confidence / passion**
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- **read a book**



## TAKEAWAYS

- **confidence / passion**
- **a convo tool**
- **listen to *Surprising***
- **read a book**
- **pray**