GOLD

Alan Ereira tells the whole story – or more of it than any previous historian has attempted. To read the book is a pleasure as well an obligation. Alan Ereira has a film-maker´s eye for vivid evidence, a screenwriter´s gift for rhythm and pace, a scholar´s curiosity to know the truth and an intellectual´s determination to understand it.

He threads news, current concerns, artistic and literary allusions and his own impressive relevant experience deftly into the narration.

Startling comparisons, unfamiliar facts, curious images and engrossing experiences abound. **It´s a book about which everyone can argue, but nobody ignore.**

FELIPE FERNÁNDEZ-ARMESTO, author of The Oxford Illustrated History of the World

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FEATURE 15

PROFILE

Alan Ereira

BY DOREEN WACHMANN

Babylonians attacked the Temple for its 40 tons of gold

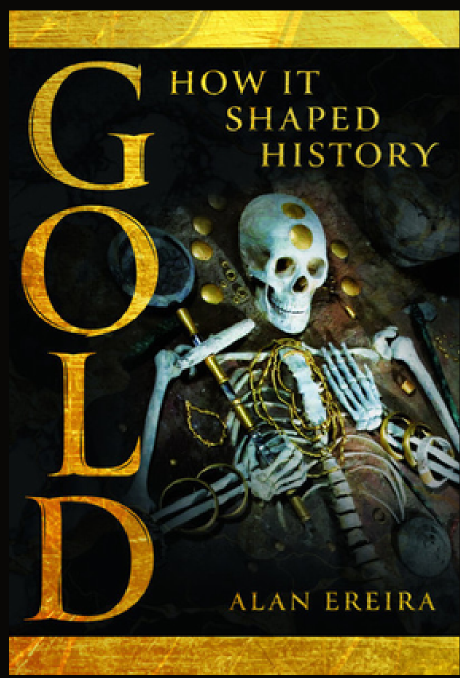
AFTER a distinguished career as an historian and documentary filmmaker, at the age of 81, Alan Ereira has struck gold with his latest book, *Gold: How it Shaped History* (Pen & Sword, £25).

Alan hails from a mixed marriage — between a Sephardi and an Ashkenazi.

"My father's family were Sephardi. They lived in Amsterdam till the end of the 19th century and then came to London. My mother's family were from eastern Europe," he told me.

He explained that in Amsterdam and later among British Sephardim, the community would pay a dota, a marriage award to Sephardim who married fellow Sephardim.

Because his father did not marry a Sephardi woman, he could



Discover how gold coinage resulted from the fall of Jerusalem, and what it is doing now. Why is it worth 30% more than a year ago?

The amount of gold in a country's reserves is a measure of the size of its nightmares. The biggest buyer in the first half of 2024 was Poland, and you can see why they would be scared right now. Russia also built up huge gold reserves as fast as it possibly could before attacking Ukraine. And it's very striking that this September, it announced that every day it would multiply its gold purchases by six over previous months. So it is building up a further big wall of gold, which it clearly sees as its armour in some way.

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