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We've finally put together a list of Chris's favourite podcasts from over the years! It features plenty of history, a few topics on COVID19, and even dictators.

Chris loves a good challenge when it comes to these topics! In fact, back in September, the team got treated to an epic 3-hour session on World War II strategies—talk about a history deep dive!

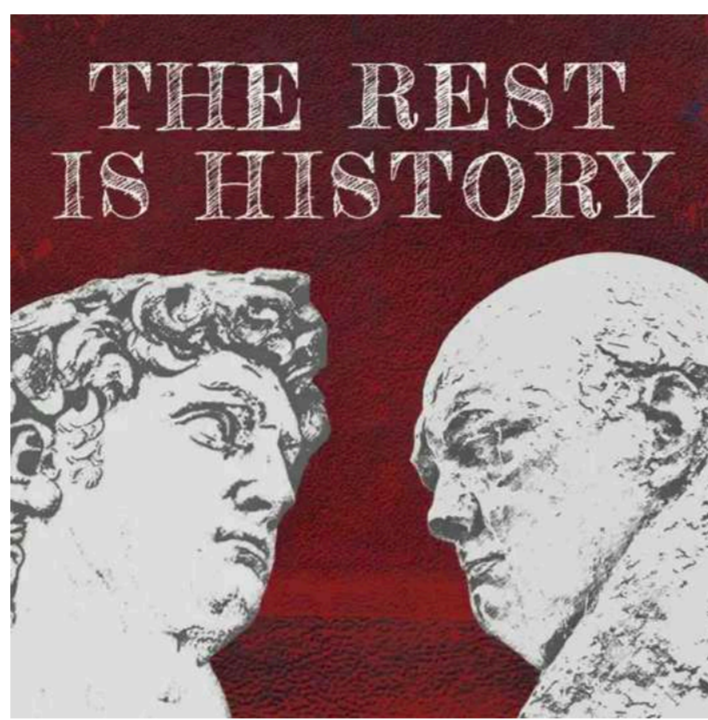
Podcasts have appeared from nowhere, largely as a result of the enforced working from home during the first Lockdown. It seems to be an easy way to gain traction, but they vary dramatically from an entertainment perspective. There is also the problem of making money out of a listener base.

I think there are 3 basic types:

- Telling a story
- Having a discussion about a given subject
- Discussing events politics/gossip etc



Which then get rolled together.



The most impressive of the lot is "[The Rest is History](#)" whereby Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook go into detail about various aspects of world history. The 8 hours of talking about Custer's Last Stand inspired me to beat the Talent Academy with the highlights. Very well researched and not really Woke, with easy humour between the 2 of them. Very professional: very smooth.

Recommended episodes;

Ep 136: [The birth of Modernity](#) – 1922. Lots of strange things happened that year (in the shadow of the First World War) with consequences for the following 100 years.

Ep 302: [The Cathar Crusade](#) – of the early 1100s. A brilliant demonstration that the ideology of the elites has always confused the residents of Hereford, although I'm not expecting to be burnt at the stake just yet. For those with stamina, The Custer Series starts at Ep 446.

Ep417: [The 1974 political crisis](#). - Stand by for a repeat in real time?

Compare and contrast with the podcast by Tom's younger brother, James, about the Second World War: "[We have ways of making you talk](#)".



Co-hosted by Pub Landlord Al Murray (who also has a degree in history). The pair are forever talking over one another and running off at tangents, but their sheer enthusiasm for the subject shines through.

You need to listen to a burst of 5 or so episodes in a row to get into the swing of it. Some of the interviews with veterans are outstanding.

Recommended episodes;

Try Ep 189, - [the chat with Brian Johnson](#) (yes: lead singer with AC/DC; born in 1947) talking about his father's war in Italy and his time as a paratrooper. It does come with an "industrial language" warning, which makes it even funnier.



"[Planet Normal](#)"; the Telegraph podcast with journalists Alison Pearson and Liam Halligan which comes out every Thursday.

They made their reputation by challenging the Covid narrative, but being under the Telegraph banner means that the views held are on the right of the Overton Window, but not (far) outside it.

As Westminster based journalists, they are pretty close to the government and therefore routinely talk to front line politicians. Guests are allowed to have their say with a little gentle challenging.

Try [the chat with Farage](#) on 13th June 2024.

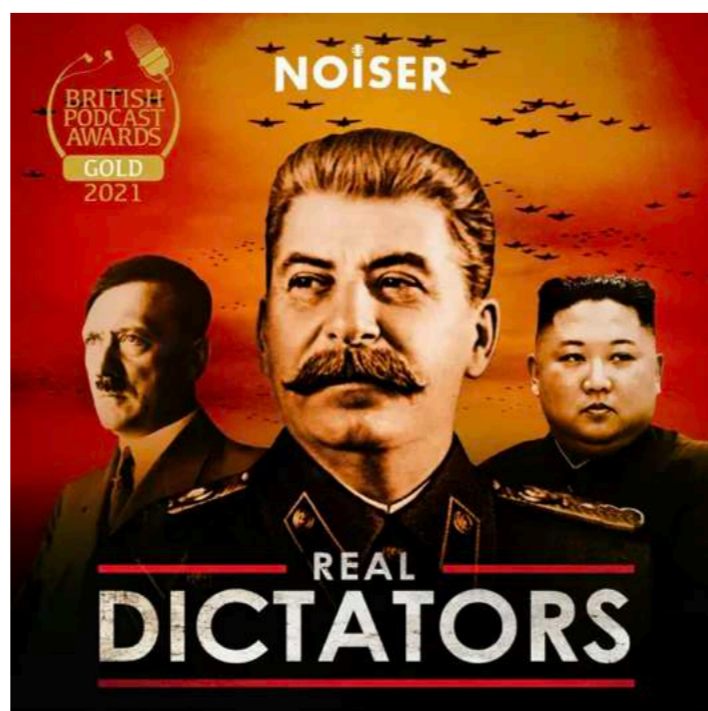
Those looking for genuinely outrageous opinion could try the [Delingpod](#) from James Delingpole.



He demonstrates just how narrow the Overton Window really is, but turns out to be right more often than is helpful. Brilliant and bonkers. Very hard to tell which is which.

Given my stance on The Vaccine, the conversation with [Edward Dowd on 16.10.23](#) looking at mortality statistics in the US is particularly reinforcing.

Or maybe [Mike Yeadon on 17.8.24](#)



I have tried "[Real Dictators](#)" (after a recommendation in the paper), which has Paul McGann reading the history. All very informative (and frequently grim/banal), but lacking the entertainment value of the 2-person discussion.

I've only done [Kim Jong-il](#) so far, but I suspect there is a recurring theme.

By all means let me know your favourites. I probably need to give up work to follow a meaningful sample.

