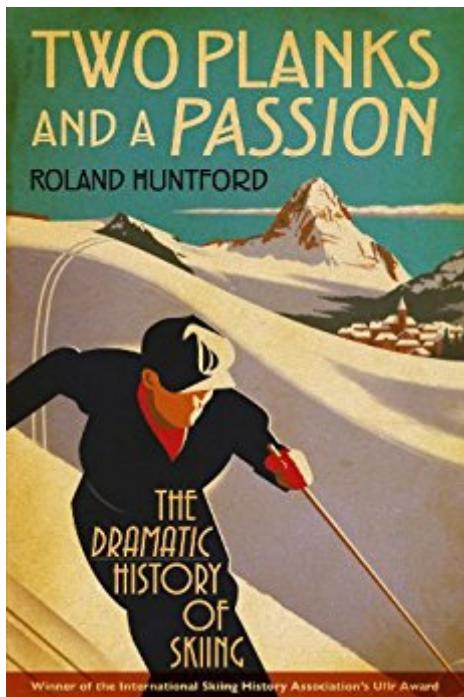


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# Two Planks And A Passion: The Dramatic History Of Skiing



## **Synopsis**

Roland Huntford's brilliant history begins 20,000 years ago in the last ice age on the icy tundra of an unformed earth. Man is a travelling animal, and on these icy slopes skiing began as a means of survival. That it has developed into the leisure and sporting pursuit of choice by so much of the globe bears testament to its elemental appeal. In polar exploration, it has changed the course of history. Elsewhere, in war and peace, it has done so too. The origins of skiing are bound up in with the emergence of modern man and the world we live in today.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you're serious about the early history of skiing, Huntford's book is essential reading. There are now a number of very good academic English-language studies of the history and culture of skiing in the modern era (beginning with the eighteenth century), but Huntford is the best scholarly work on the sport's prehistory -- that is, on over-snow travel by the preliterate peoples of Northern and Central Eurasia. Excellent, authoritative detail on the transfer of skills that led to the adoption of Scandinavian skiing in the Alps, on the relationship between wintersport and nineteenth century nationalism. Huntford is a polyglot and was able to do most of his research by reading sources in

their original languages. The book is not flawless, but it's a gem and should serve as a starting point for any further research into the history of the sport in Europe. And it's fun to read. --Seth Masia, [...]

Like others have mentioned, this book thoroughly covers the history of skiing up to WWII, and crams the last 70 years into a single chapter at the end. If you're looking for the "modern" history of skiing, then this isn't the book for you. The portion of history that is covered is thorough and well researched with notes and a full bibliography. It's obvious the author spent a lot of time doing research to make sure the information is correct. I love learning as much as possible about skiing, and I really enjoyed this book. As much as I enjoyed it, I only gave the book 4 stars because the writing style is a little boring, and that made it a slow read.

I have a whole bookshelf of ski books, mostly history. This one is my favorite and if you have a PASSION for skiing, this is the best one. I was stunned to see the tepid reviews of this book. Less dry than "From Skisport to Skiing" and certainly covering a much longer time period, with a world, rather than US, focus. My only quibble, as with many of these histories, is that more recent events are given short shrift. A decent amount of pictures adds to the better understanding of earlier times.

Yet another book which churns out info. which has not been properly checked.

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