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May 8th 2021 edition

With a whimper

Blame politics for disasters, says Niall Ferguson in "Doom"

His new book is an elegant historical tour that lacks a convincing argument



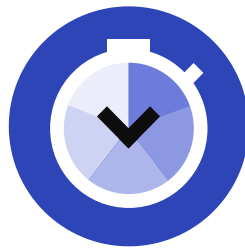
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Doom. By Niall Ferguson. *Penguin*; 496 pages; \$30. *Allen Lane*; £25

BOOK ABOUT "Doom" that in its first chapter quotes from "Dad's Army", "Beyond

A the Fringe" and Monty Python, all classics of British comedy, lifts a reviewer's spirit. But although "The Politics of Catastrophe", as Niall Ferguson's latest work is subtitled, takes off with the pacey prose, grand historical sweep and fine detail for which the author is renowned, it does not



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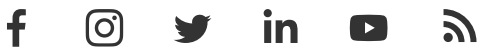
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