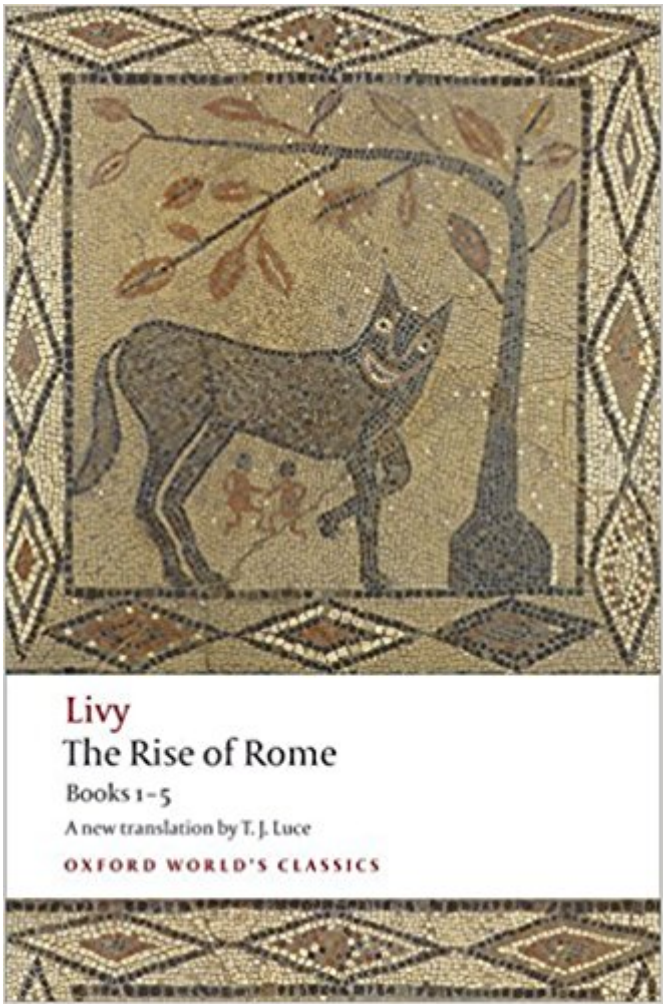
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The Rise Of Rome: Books One To Five (Oxford World's Classics) (Bks. 1-5)



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Synopsis

"The fates ordained the founding of this great city and the beginning of the world's mightiest empire, second only to the power of the gods"Romulus and Remus, the rape of Lucretia, Horatius at the bridge, the saga of Coriolanus, Cincinnatus called from his farm to save the state - these and many more are stories which, immortalized by Livy in his history of early Rome, have become part of our cultural heritage. The historian's huge work, written between 20 BC and AD 17, ran to 12 books, beginning with Rome's founding in 753 BC and coming down to Livy's own lifetime (9 BC). Books 1-5 cover the period from Rome's beginnings to her first great foreign conquest, the capture of the Etruscan city of Veii and, a few years later, to her first major defeat, the sack of the city by the Gauls in 390 BC.About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

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Customer Reviews

T. J. Luce is Kennedy Professor of Latin Emeritus at Princeton University.

This book was very informative and enlightening about the founding of the city of Rome and the early period of the Roman Republic. The case about the first incidental use bail reinforces the

modem-day view use of bail in the U.S. legal system.

Excellent Translation of Livy’s Rise of Rome. The book is a fun read that delves into the legends of the Roman Kings and the beginnings of the hallowed Roman Republic. It’s a must read for anyone seeking an escape from today’s turmoil.

It is so relevant to politics today it’s scary! Fantastic read if you take time to dig for each moral.The Rise of Rome: Books One to Five (Oxford World’s Classics) (Bks. 1-5)

Not my favorite way to read about the history of Rome, but it is was well written and very informative.

Livy’s history is fast-paced and colourful. T. J. Luce’s notes are very helpful and his translation is very readable, but sometimes his word choices are so modern as to be jarring; for example, "iure gentium," "the law of nations," is anachronistically translated as "international law" in the first half of the book, although it then becomes "the law of nations" in the second half. Another jarring anachronism is "sadist" for "carnifex," a word that means "executioner" (2.35)--not the sexual cruelty named after the Marquis de Sade. And since there are so many Latin-English cognates that have a similar connotation I find it misleading when translators take such liberties. Here are some other examples:"legum humanarum" becomes "civilized" (1.28, Luce) whereas the Loeb and SÃƒÂ©lincourt have "laws of humanity." "inhumanumque" is translated as "barbaric" (1.48) instead of "inhuman." Since the concept of the human as a moral standard is a new one at that time (I’m thinking in particular of the idea of "humanitas"), it is essential to keep it in the text. If Livy had meant "barbaric" he could have used "barbari." To make matters worse, "saevi exempli" (savage example) is later translated as "inhuman example.""sceleris tragici exemplum" is translated as "a tragic spectacle to rival those of Greece" (1.46). Luce’s gloss of "to rival those of Greece" is helpful, but Foster’s use of a footnote to make the gloss in the Loeb translation allows the translation itself to remain more literal.In such cases, it’s as if the translator is trying to "improve" upon Livy by using a different word from the one Livy used. But comparing it to the original, I think the more faithful translation is the more colorful and powerful one. Further, if you’re really trying to enter into the thought of the original, or are using the translation for academic writing, then it is very helpful to have a translation that stays as close to the original as possible.However, while the Loeb generally seems to be more faithful that is not always the case. For example, the Loeb awkwardly translates

"iniuste impieque" (I.32) as "unduly and against religion" whereas Luce more fittingly has "unjustly and impiously."For "puro pioque duello" (1.32), Luce has "a pure and pious war" (1.32, Luce) and Foster "warfare just and righteous."For "iusta ac legitima" (1.48), Luce has "just and legitimate" and Foster "just and lawful."Thus, sometimes Luce is admirably literal but other times his translations are rather loose.[Edited Feb 13, 2015]

The scholarly interest in Livy has blossomed in the past two decades, not only producing works that look at the merits of Livy's history and historiography, but also demonstrating the need for new translations and new commentaries. T. J. Luce's new translation of Books 1-5 of Livy's "Ab Urbe Condita" adds another offering to the growing list of translations in the Oxford World's Classics series. Unlike other works for which there are already a number of translations, Luce's rendering of Books 1-5 is the first in over thirty years. Aubrey de SÃƒÂ©lincourt's translation in the Penguin series has long stood as the only option for those wanting Latinless students to read the primary extant source for Rome's early history. Although SÃƒÂ©lincourt's translation has served its purpose, the liberties he took have never sat comfortably with those who desire a stronger reflection of the Latin. In contrast, Luce's translation follows not only the style but also the content of Livy's Latin with accuracy, allowing the reader to almost picture Livy's own words. At times, however, this faithfulness, particularly in the attempt to reflect participial clauses and ablative absolutes, interferes with the ease of reading that one would hope for in a translation.

Professor Luce, an eminent Livian scholar, has rendered the first five books of Livy's "Ab Urbe Condita" in concise English that not only retains the essence of the Latin but also conveys the vividness of the narrative. In other words, he tells the tales of the founding of Rome in an entertaining manner that is accessible to today's students, who have little patience for long-winded or stilted prose.The book includes an informative introduction, two maps, a brief chronology, and copious notes. My only quibble is with the index, which has been geared for scholars of Roman history. For example, a student looking up the dictator Cincinnatus must be aware that he is listed by the gens name of Quinctius (There is no cross-reference.); and then the student has to decide between Titus, Lucius, and Quintus. While this is good practice for the serious scholar of Roman history, it might be infuriating for the casual reader (One hopes that Oxford will correct this flaw in a future edition). Nevertheless, the book is so enjoyable that I recommend it highly and have adopted it for my Roman Civilization class.Four-and-one-half-stars!

The introduction to this translation of Livy is immensely helpful. It provides a structural and thematic understanding of the work that guides your reading in a productive manner, and is definitely worth the read.

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