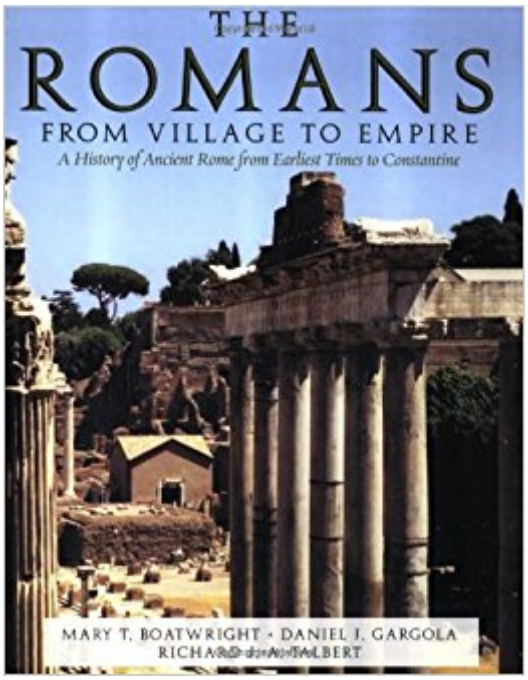
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The Romans: From Village To Empire



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Synopsis

How did a single village community in the Italian peninsula eventually become one of the most powerful imperial powers the world has ever known? In The Romans: From Village to Empire, Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel Gargola, and Richard J.A. Talbert explore this question as they guide readers through a comprehensive sweep of Roman history, ranging from the prehistoric settlements to the age of Constantine. Vividly written and accessible, The Romans traces Rome's remarkable evolution from village, to monarchy, to republic, and eventually to one-man rule by an emperor whose power at its peak stretched from Scotland to Iraq and the Nile Valley. Firmly grounded in ancient literary and material sources, the book describes and analyzes major political and military landmarks, from the Punic Wars, to Caesar's conquest of Gaul and his crossing of the Rubicon, to the victory of Octavian over Mark Antony, and to Constantine's adoption of Christianity. It also introduces such captivating individuals as Hannibal, Mithridates, Pompey, Cicero, Cleopatra, Augustus, Livia, Nero, Marcus Aurelius, and Shapur. The authors cover issues that still confront modern states worldwide, including warfare, empire building, consensus forging, and political fragmentation. They also integrate glimpses of many aspects of everyday Roman life and perspective--such as the role of women, literature, entertainment, town-planning, portraiture, and religion--demonstrating how Rome's growth as a state is inseparable from its social and cultural development. Ideal for courses in Roman history and Roman civilization, The Romans is enhanced by almost 100 illustrations, more than 30 maps (most produced by the Ancient World Mapping Center), and 22 textual extracts that provide fascinating cultural observations made by ancient Romans themselves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The rise and fall of Rome as an ancient world power continues to fascinate, especially in a world where people often draw comparisons between the Roman Empire and the United States in the 21st century. In an elegantly written and beautifully crafted study, three recognized historians of ancient Rome provide a first-rate and definitive history of the city from its prehistory to its rise and fall as the ancient world's dominant power. Drawing on a wide range of primary sources, Boatwright and her coauthors recreate the bustling commerce of the earliest villages of Italy in the eighth century B.C., the rapidly shifting political fortunes of leaders in the move from monarchy through republic to empire and the compelling personalities of poets and emperors. Since much of Roman history is the history of its leaders, the authors devote a good deal of attention to the lives and works of men ranging from the Gracchus twins (Tiberius and Gaius) to Pompey, Caesar and Nero. History comes alive in the many illustrations accompanying the text. In addition, each chapter features boxed excerpts from primary sources that illumine particular historical events. A time line, a glossary of important Roman terms and a selected reading list of primary sources increase the value of this magnificent volume, which anyone interested in the history of Rome will return to over and over. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
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Aimed at college graduates who may have missed the introductory course on Roman history, this survey ably lays a foundation for its readers. At various points, the authors introduce topics attractive to such an audience, including women's status, religion, and literature, but their central emphasis is the organization of the Roman state. Its complicated composition, which contributed to the periodic civil wars that are mileposts in Roman history, is kept regularly in view, and assists in structuring the authors' narratives about victors such as Sulla, Octavian, Vespasian, or Constantine. Losers, such as the Gracchus brothers, were often viewed negatively in surviving ancient writings, so the authors ensure awareness of the bias inherent in the material--a point reinforced by boxed excerpts of primary sources. The many maps and photographs also serve as a graphic asset and will aid readers' absorption in the chronicle of Rome's expansion from a few hills in Italy to the entire Mediterranean world and beyond. Judicious and interesting fare. Gilbert TaylorCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Digital edition.

This is a long and sprawling history of the Roman Republic and Empire. It covers essentially all features of Roman life for the standard measure of the classical period, and considers social, political, religious and literary features of the Graeco-Roman culture. There are a few significant shifts in tone and style from chapter to chapter, making it less than impossible to guess at which chapters were written by the same historians. This isn't necessarily a problem, just a feature. One problem I found was the unsteady use of photos. There are spaces in the text covered in maps and photos, and others where you don't get a single photo for ten to fifteen pages. Moreover, the maps we never really helpful, just nice to look at, with basic geographical markers and the most important sites.

I have really enjoyed this introduction to the Romans and have found the maps invaluable. I enjoy cartography and the maps used are from the Ancient world mapping center at UNC Chapel Hill. They have a great website with free downloads of maps as well. It is a well organized book that has seen many revisions and is finely honed. Excellent for gaining a basic understanding of Roman history.

This was a required text for my Ancient Histories course. It ended up being very useful and it's easy to understand.

Having used this text for my Roman history class, I was quite pleased at the accessibility of the book for students. The authors took great pains to ensure that the text flows well, although there are some places where it backtracks in order to fill in some gaps. This is not a bad thing, for the big picture, I felt, materialized to produce a coherent narrative. Some of the minuscule facts were quite interesting. These led me to look at the bibliography at the end of certain chapters I had an affinity towards, leading me to further reading that enriched the panorama of Roman history. The authors, as they transitioned into each chapter, discussed the primary sources and their accounts. Some may find this interesting.The scholarship is superb, and the text did an excellent job at introducing Roman history that is palatable for the student. I was often taken back by the parallels that can be drawn from the Late Republic and the ultimate decline of Rome in comparison with the United States of today. These striking similarities brought this history to life. I recommend the book as a general introduction to Roman history, or as simply a reader for the backyard scholar. This is a great deal of history that seems to be speaking from the dust in this stage of American Empire. The chapters that introduced the politicians, who were dubbed popularÃƒâ Ã â œs, evoked the

politicians of today. They understood that the dole controlled the masses. Another book that I would recommend, which enlightened my mind on how to use history, is Ludwig Von Mises'Ã Â Theory and History: An Interpretation of Social and Economic Evolution. This may serve as a good primer for understanding that history is full of characters using means to achieve their ends, whatever they may be.

Great experience!

This was a great read. It should be in every history lover's library. A brief Roman History has been presented in a highly readable format. I wish there should be more history books like this.

This is an excellent survey of Roman history, especially helpful for the Latin classroom. The maps and diagrams are especially welcome.

Great for learning about Roman history! Helped me ace my Roman Republic class!

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