



The Romans: From Village to Empire: A History of Rome from Earliest Times to the End of the Western Empire

Mary T. Boatwright , Daniel J. Gargola , Noel Lenski , Richard J.A. Talbert

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"The Romans is currently the best textbook on Roman history available in English."--Walter Scheidel, Stanford University 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*, Second Edition, Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel J. Gargola, Richard J.A. Talbert, and new coauthor Noel Lenski explore this question as they guide students through a comprehensive sweep of Roman history, ranging from the prehistoric settlements to the fall of the empire in 476. Addressing issues that still confront modern states worldwide--including warfare, empire building, consensus forging, and political fragmentation--the authors also provide glimpses into everyday Roman life and perspective, demonstrating how Rome's growth as a state is inseparable from its social and cultural development.

Vividly written and accessible, *The Romans*, Second Edition, traces Rome's remarkable evolution from village, to monarchy, to republic, to one-man rule by an emperor--whose power at its peak stretched from Scotland to Iraq and the Nile Valley--to the empire's fall in 476. Firmly grounded in ancient literary and material sources, the text 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 through Constantine's adoption of Christianity. Featuring two new chapters (13 and 14), the second edition extends the book's coverage through the rise of Christianity, the growth of the Barbarian threat, the final years of the empire, its fall in 476, and, finally, to its revival in the East as Byzantium. This edition also combines chapters 1 and 2 into one--"Archaic Italy and the Origins of Rome"--and integrates more material on women, religion, and cultural history throughout.

Ideal for courses in Roman history and Roman civilization, *The Romans*, Second Edition, is enhanced by two new 8-page, 4-color inserts and almost 100 extensively captioned illustrations. It also includes more than 30 ancient maps, revised and improved under the supervision of coauthor Richard J. A. Talbert, and textual extracts that provide fascinating cultural observations made by ancient Romans themselves. A new Image Bank CD contains PowerPoint-based slides of all the photos and maps in the text.

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From Reader Review The Romans: From Village to Empire: A History of Rome from Earliest Times to the End of the Western Empire for online ebook

Tracy Duvall says

I found this book a fairly engaging read. It certainly covers the political history of the Roman polity with sufficient clarity and comprehensiveness. The maps, photos of antiquities, and informational aids at the back of the book (glossary, map index, timeline, ...) were quite helpful. However, I would have preferred to read less about emperors' careers and more about 1) the religious beliefs and philosophical currents that are frequently mentioned but left completely unexplained and 2) people's daily lives and physical environment (e.g. sewers).

Streator Johnson says

Ok. Well basically, this is a textbook, so I am not sure quite how one reviews something like this. However, it was an informative and lively read. Certainly not for everyone, but I enjoyed it.

David says

It's really nice to take a history class with a professor that has written the textbook being used and is a recognized authority in Roman History. Plus, Professor Talbert is British!

Mike Hankins says

Solid textbook on Roman history up to Constantine. Treats everything pretty well, on good undergrad level of depth. Includes a good amount of pictures, and primary source readings to elucidate the text. Does a great job of explaining the sources we have, as well as giving an easy to understand narrative that, at times, is quite entertaining.

Marvin says

Highly informative and well researched account, but written in a very rambling style with a lot of repetition. The rambling style makes it very hard to follow the chain of events in important phases of Roman history, such as the conflict between Marius and Sulla, to name just one. Essentially the same map of the region seemed to be reproduced at least 10 times at various points in the book. And in the first few chapters on the beginnings of Rome, if I had a dime for every time I encountered the phrase "votive deposits", I would have a million dollars by now! But I still learned a LOT from this book.

Andrea says

I took a class on Ancient Greece and Rome my freshman year of college (it was a 300 level; I don't know what I was thinking) and this book was one of the necessary books.

I absolutely despised this book in comparison to the one I read on Ancient Greece. In my opinion, it was more difficult to read and I just couldn't comprehend it.

In all honesty, I didn't even properly read this book. I skimmed it and took notes in class. And, somehow I managed to still get a high B in the class!

Dakota says

Nice easy read, solid narrative, well-segmented, handy out takes. Good college text. Ends with Constantine. Low on actually stories.

Heather Moore says

Not bad. Wonderful images, intelligent yet easy to understand and to learn from.

Sara says

Read this book for my Roman History class in college. Also, my professor (Boatwright) is the author. The book is a solid introduction to Roman history with lots of illustration and good overview of the people and events.

Anisa says

3.5 - 4 stars

Biff Nightingale says

Stops right at the part you probably don't care about anyway!

Alison says

Gift from Frances Hahn, spring 2008.

