



A history of the Roman people

Fritz M. Heichelheim , Allen Mason Ward , Cedric A. Yeo

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This comprehensive yet readable book about Roman history gives the reader a fascinating journey from prehistoric Italy to the dissolution of the Roman Empire in A.D. 600. Centered around a traditional political and military narrative, it presents in-depth coverage of Roman social, economic, and cross-cultural developments, providing a reader of a greater understanding of the people, places, and events that shaped the great Roman empire. **KEY TOPICS:** This comprehensive book covers such topics as the foundations of early Rome and Italy; the Phoenicians, Etruscans and Greeks in pre-Roman Italy, early Rome to 500 B.C.; early Roman society, religion, and values; the rise of the Roman Republic; the Roman Conquest of Italy; the late Republic; the rise of Caesar; the early Roman empire; the impact of Augustus on Roman life; Tiberius and Caligula; Claudius, Nero, and the Julio-Claudians; the Flavians; crisis and change in the third and fourth centuries A.D.; Constantine and Christianity; and the Church and its legacy. **MARKET:** For anyone interested in a comprehensive book on the history of the Roman people, from prehistory through 600 A.D.

A history of the Roman people Details

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From Reader Review A history of the Roman people for online ebook

Alison says

Textbook used by Ron Mellor in History of the Roman Empire class (Augustus-Constantine), UCLA, winter 2004.

Angie says

Well, I'm about halfway through, and I think they did an excellent job--with the parts they could do well. As a political and military history, this works. When they attempt to analyze culture, the authors run into problems.

The authors argue that "one of the most visible signs of the increased power and independence of upper-class women is...their sexual liberation." They proceed to give a list of women who have been divorced or been slandered for "promiscuity," which isn't exactly a sign of "increased power."

This continues. On page 257, the authors speak about female slaves, but something appears to be amiss. The slaves were "available to masters for sexual purposes, to which neither they nor their wives necessarily objected." While perhaps, some slave women didn't mind, it seems fair to say that most would, but the authors felt more comfortable talking about the outliers--those women who did not mind being exploited by their owners. Phrasing the rape of slaves so positively like this is white washing history, and I think the fact that they discussed so many social issues in this sort of manner is detrimental to the quality of the text as a whole.

I understand the authors, much like myself, must have a significant regard for Roman history, and perhaps the social problems made them uncomfortable. But these problems existed, and the authors do their work a disservice by white washing these issues.

I know the work was reprinted significantly later, and I can only hope that these kinds of issues were remedied; it's a good read otherwise.

Edit upon finishing: Yup. This book was pretty biased. I only got through it by sheer force of will.

Mark Austin says

★ - Most books with this rating I never finish and so don't make this list. This one I probably started speed-reading to get it over with.

★★ - Average. Wasn't terrible, but not a lot to recommend it. Probably skimmed parts of it.

★★★ - Decent. A few good ideas, well-written passages, interesting characters, or the like.

★★★★ - Good. This one had parts that inspired me, impressed me, made me laugh out loud, made me think

- it got positive reactions and most of the rest of it was pretty decent too.

★★★★★ - Amazing. This is the best I've read of its genre, the ones I hold on to so I can re-read them and/or loan them out to people looking for a great book. The best of these change the way I look at the world and operate within it.

Robert says

Whew. That's some history!

Catherine Woodman says

Dry as a bone. Does not make history come alive...

Jess says

So well written and accessible.

Mark Materum says

I plan on writing a more thorough review. However, here are some of my initial thoughts. While it was a very clear book on the whole, I thought the book was lacking in illustrations, diagrams, and maps. I would have much rather preferred something more akin to the Landmark series, where illustrations and maps are found every few pages; doing so would have helped put things more in their geographic and cultural context. Apart from that, it is an excellent book and serves as a fine introduction to Ancient Roman history. Be sure to supplement it with other texts for more information on culture, military, etc.

Lauren Langford says

As far as 'name and date' history texts go, this one is not so bad!
