



The Oxford History of the Roman World

John Boardman (Editor) , Jasper Griffin (Editor) , Oswyn Murray (Editor)

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In less than fifty-three years, Rome subjected most of the known world to its rule. This authoritative and compelling work tells the story of the rise of Rome from its origins as a cluster of villages to the foundation of the Roman Empire by Augustus, to its consolidation in the first two centuries CE. It also discusses aspects of the later Empire and its influence on Western civilization, not least of which was the adoption of Christianity.

Packed with fascinating detail and written by acknowledged experts in Roman history, the book expertly interweaves chapters on social and political history, the Emperors, art and architecture, and the works of leading Roman poets, historians, and philosophers. Reinforcing the book's historical framework are maps, diagrams, a useful chronology, and a full bibliography.

Taken as a whole, this rich work offers an indispensable resource on the history of one of the world's greatest empires.

The Oxford History of the Roman World Details

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Download and Read Free Online The Oxford History of the Roman World John Boardman (Editor) , Jasper Griffin (Editor) , Oswyn Murray (Editor)

From Reader Review The Oxford History of the Roman World for online ebook

Andrew Sutherland says

Although I read it cover to cover, it wasn't intended to be read this way. Good supplemental material for a course on Roman history.

Skye says

I did it-- read this book in one week, while taking 15 pages of notes on my own! It was assigned for a class I'm taking this fall that has a very heavy workload, so I thought I'd pre-read this. Honestly, I can't recommend it. It reads like an encyclopedia, which is dizzying even if you only read a few pages at a time. The moment I finished it and moved toward Gian Biagio Conte's "Latin Literature" book (which is even MORE of an encyclopedia in form, though not in style), I realized that Conte was a far more dynamic and straightforward writer. I learned some interesting things from Boardman's history, and it was good to feel like I actually read an overview of Roman history (since I usually read biographies or primary sources) but if I were just getting my feet wet in Roman history, I would have been very uninspired. Nevertheless, it is an impressive overview and I did find a few chapters (especially the one which highlighted the evolution of Latin in late antiquity) to be quite interesting.

Kafkasfriend says

Not the most recent publication but the quality of the research has stood the test of time. Still on many university reading lists.

Birgitta Hoffmann says

Somebody once described this book as a primer and that is what it does well: offering a first stop summary on the Roman World, not just Roman history, but Roman art and literature as well. Being a compilation of different authors, not all parts are of the same depth or quality, but as a whole it works and it is very popular with my adult education students. However, being nearly 30 years old, the bibliographies need updating and some sections are beginning to show their age.

Keith says

This is a good introduction to many different aspects of Roman History, but since it is a collection of essays by different authors, there is occasional overlapping between chapters. It has a good assortment of illustrations and a useful timeline.

Bruce says

This is a primer that touches on many topics in a rather cursory manner. There are roles and places for primers, so that cannot be a criticism. Like many books with multiple authors, though, this book suffers from being uneven. Each of its seventeen chapters is written by a different author, and the book as a whole may be more a reflection of their individual interests than a unified attempt to cover the primary topic.

The historical material is, logically, arranged chronologically, but it is curious that as events become more recent and more primary source material is available, less and less is presented. There is in fact very little historical material post-dating Augustus and almost nothing about Imperial Rome.

There was more than anticipated material about Roman literature, and I found those discussions interesting. Granted, most of the authors were only touched upon, but the comments and examples were helpful.

On the other hand, a rather long chapter on Roman art and architecture suffered from having very few illustrations of the items which were being discussed.

At the end of chapter there was a helpful bibliography with comments about sources, translators, and publishers.

Marc says

Very heterogeneous collection of articles on Roman History, and less complete than the edition about ancient Greece.

B. P. Rinehart says

This book is a great introduction to Ancient Rome in a series of essays written by experts on antiquity. This book was very impressive in subject matter and I found the timeline at the end very helpful. Though I wish there were more content on the last years of the Empire, it was still a strong book overall. I would recommend that book be read by people who DO NOT know much about Ancient Rome, or else this might be slightly boring or redundant.

Siria says

Solid enough introduction to the Roman world, tracing its history from its origins as a cluster of villages to the foundation of the Empire and its growth in the first two centuries. I used it as a primer during my course on the Roman Empire, and though rather uninspiring, it does lay out the basic facts which one needs to grasp.

Lane Wilkinson says

Did you know that Rome conquered the known world in only 53 years? And that it took barely over five decades to expand its borders across the Mediterranean? And that in half a century, Rome became the largest empire in the world? And that in less than 60 summers, Rome expand great power military conquer wharrgarbl...

Oh yeah, another neat fact...it only took 53 pages to realize that this book is just a half-assed, disjointed rehashing of Polybius.

Seriously, though, for an Oxford history of Rome, I am a bit displeased with how rudimentary this book is. Moreover, the authors of the various essays pepper their discussions with dense catalogs of names, but far too little in the way of exposition. To wit, the Illyrian and Macedonian Wars occur within a single paragraph.

I'll withhold final judgment until I've finished.

Orla says

An excellent series of essays on the Roman world written in engaging and often amusing styles. Very helpful.

Patrice says

I haven't really finished this book. I think it's more of a reference book, not something to read from cover to cover.

I returned to this book and just about finished it. I found it very easy to read and very informative.
