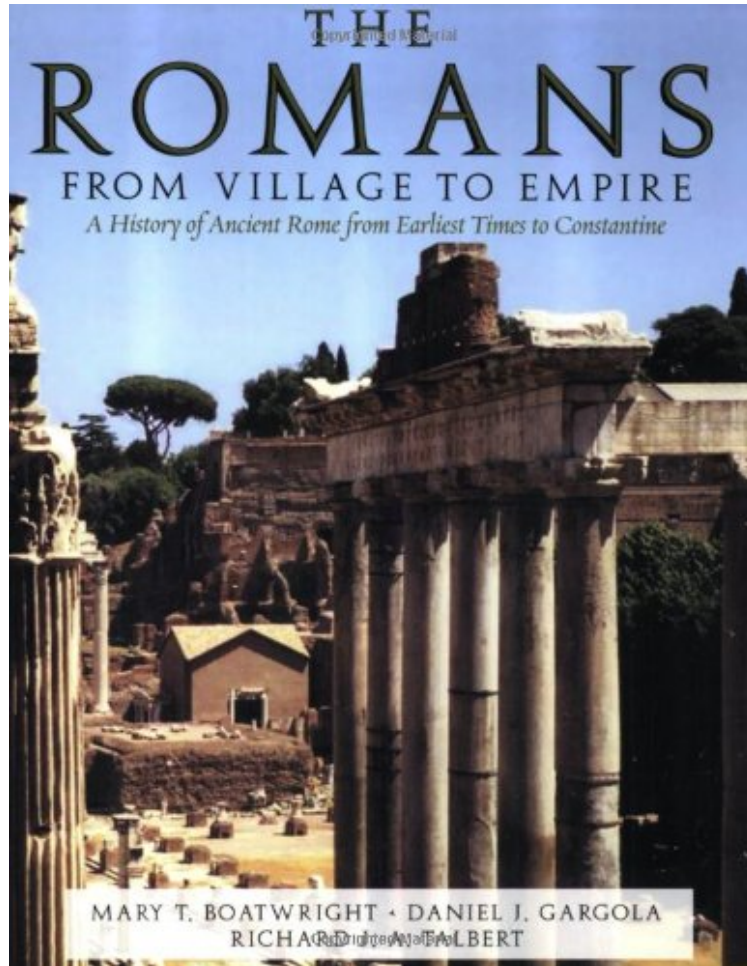


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The Romans: From Village to Empire

Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel J. Gargola, Richard J. A. Talbert
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Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel J. Gargola, Richard J. A. Talbert : The Romans: From Village to Empire before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Romans: From Village to Empire:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Review of The RomansBy Ryan MeaseThis 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.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Concise

introduction with beautiful maps By Michael 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. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ancient History By Tori Brown This was a required text for my Ancient Histories course. It ended up being very useful and it's easy to understand.

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.

From Publishers Weekly 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 Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist 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

Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A wonderful new textbook for my course on the Roman republic to Augustus. Fills a yawning gap. Nothing comparable exists."--William Turpin, Swarthmore College "At long last, we have a thorough, clearly written, well-informed, eminently sensible introduction to Roman History. Many of us have been waiting quite a long time for the appearance of such a book."--Thomas McGinn, Vanderbilt University "Fresh, comprehensive, and up-to-date, this volume will meet a long-standing need among undergraduates and general readers for a new, stand-alone survey of Roman history. The authors strike a judicious balance between lively and well-paced narrative and thoughtful treatments of institutional and thematic topics. All in all, this is a tour de force of historical synthesis and a benchmark for the field."--Nathan Rosenstein, Ohio State University "This is a superb book, which provides a lucid and comprehensible account of Roman history and shows how the Roman state was not a static phenomenon but evolved over time. The historical narrative is enriched by details on social, economic and cultural life."--Anthony A. Barrett, University of British Columbia