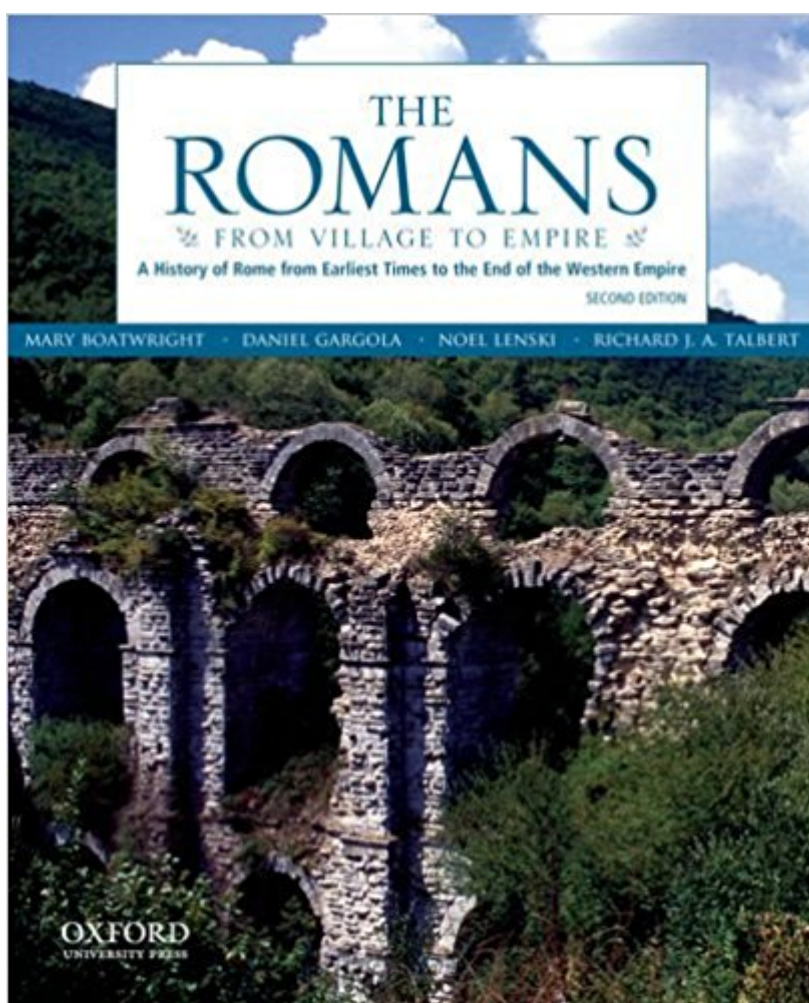


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# The Romans: From Village To Empire: A History Of Rome From Earliest Times To The End Of The Western Empire



## Synopsis

"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.

## Book Information

Paperback: 624 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 2 edition (November 22, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199730571

ISBN-13: 978-0199730575

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 1.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,753 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Rome](#) #38 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Ancient](#)

## Customer Reviews

"The Romans is currently the best textbook on Roman history available in English."--Walter Scheidel, Stanford University  
"This text is a very straightforward and organized full-length treatment of Roman history. It balances historical narrative with excellent explanations for terms and concepts that are unfamiliar to students . . . it succeeds marvelously at reaching its audience."--Vanessa B. Gorman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
"This is the best textbook on Roman history that I have read. It is very well conceived, thorough, and well written. While the different voices and interests of the four contributors are indeed 'detectable' in the textbook's different sections, it is obvious that a great deal of effort has been expended to make the whole work cohere. The maps are excellent and the captions for the well-chosen illustrations are really helpful to the reader."--Guy MacLean Rogers, Wellesley College  
"The Romans presents a unified narrative voice despite having been written by four authors. The narrative flows seamlessly throughout the text from beginning to end. In addition, the maps and their captions are both useful and informative."--Debra L. Nousek, University of Western Ontario  
"This is a very good introduction to ancient Roman history. It is clear and engaging, and the numerous pedagogical devices are well conceived and quite helpful for the beginner."--Carlos F. Norena, University of California, Berkeley  
"The Romans, in general, is of outstanding quality. It provides a coherent narrative of Roman history with a strong emphasis on the development of the Roman state. The writing style is extremely clear and lively, making for an engaging read."--Denise Demetriou, Michigan State University  
"This is the best textbook for students coming to Roman history for the first time. Its main qualities are an attractive and varied presentation, balance in the material, and readability . . . the writing style is attractive and clear."--Brian McGing, Trinity College, Dublin

Mary Boatwright is Professor of Ancient History in the Department of Classical Studies at Duke University. Daniel Gargola is Associate Professor of History at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. Noel Lenski is Professor and Chair of Classics Department at University of Colorado, Boulder and Editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Constantine* (Cambridge University

Press, 2006). Richard J. A. Talbert is Kenan Professor of History and Classics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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 popularis, 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' 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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