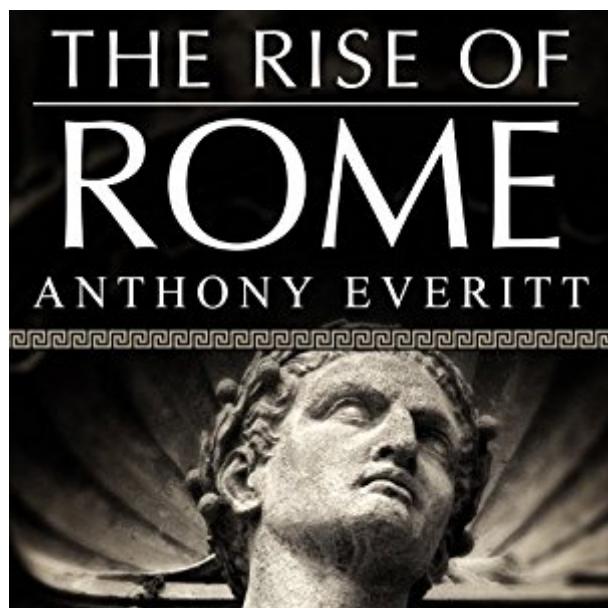


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The Rise Of Rome: The Making Of The World's Greatest Empire



Synopsis

Emerging as a market town from a cluster of hill villages in the eighth and seventh centuries B.C., Rome grew to become the ancient world's preeminent power. Everitt fashions the story of Rome's rise to glory into an erudite book filled with lasting lessons for our time. He chronicles the clash between patricians and plebeians that defined the politics of the Republic. He shows how Rome's shrewd strategy of offering citizenship to her defeated subjects was instrumental in expanding the reach of her burgeoning empire. And he outlines the corrosion of constitutional norms that accompanied Rome's imperial expansion, as old habits of political compromise gave way, leading to violence and civil war. In the end, unimaginable wealth and power corrupted the traditional virtues of the Republic, and Rome was left triumphant everywhere except within its own borders. Everitt paints indelible portraits of the great Romans - and non-Romans - who left their mark on the world out of which the mighty empire grew: Cincinnatus, Rome's George Washington, the very model of the patrician warrior/aristocrat; the brilliant general Scipio Africanus, who turned back a challenge from the Carthaginian legend Hannibal; and Alexander the Great, the invincible Macedonian conqueror who became a role model for generations of would-be Roman rulers. Here also are the intellectual and philosophical leaders whose observations on the art of government and "the good life" have inspired every Western power from antiquity to the present: Cato the Elder, the famously incorruptible statesman who spoke out against the decadence of his times, and Cicero, the consummate orator whose championing of republican institutions put him on a collision course with Julius Caesar and whose writings on justice and liberty continue to inform our political discourse today. Rome's decline and fall have long fascinated historians, but the story of how the empire was won is every bit as compelling. With *The Rise of Rome*, one of our most revered chroniclers of the ancient world tells that tale in a way that will galvanize, inform, and enlighten modern listeners.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If I were to mention the Roman Empire in any sort of word association context, many people might respond with some variation of "decline and fall of". It seems that every historian or history buff who is at all familiar with the history of the Roman Empire thinks largely in terms of its decline and fall and they all seem to have their favorite theories why the Empire fell; moral decay, economic collapse, climate change, etc. The impression seems to be that Rome was somehow doomed to fail and that the only lessons to learn from Roman history is what great powers ought not to do in order to avoid their own decline and fall. Yet, Rome was an enormously successful state. For almost six hundred years, 146 BC to AD 410, Rome was uncontested ruler of the lands surrounding the Mediterranean, a feat unmatched by any of the many great powers since, and even after the "fall" of the Empire in 476, the eastern half of the Roman Empire, the so-called Byzantine Empire managed to last for another thousand years. No other, more recent, great power has managed such longevity. Perhaps the question we need to ask about the Roman Empire is not how it fell, but how a small, Italian city-state rose to rule the known world, and how they managed to rule for so long. This is the question which Anthony Everett seeks to answer in "The Rise of Rome". In his book, Everett traces the history of Rome from its legendary, even mythical, beginnings to the generation before the rise of Caesar. Everett recounts the legends of Rome's founder, Romulus, and its kings, the overthrow of Tarquin and the establishment of the Republic, and the wars in which the city fought for its life against its neighbors. Everett then considers what truth, if any, may be behind these legends based on the findings of archeology, while noting that the true events are less important than the fact that the Romans themselves believed the legends to be true and were influenced by them. The Republic slowly came to dominate Italy, in part because of Rome's military prowess, Rome was an aggressive, militaristic state, but also because the Romans repeatedly demonstrated a statesmanlike common sense in their relations with defeated enemies and in their own internal politics. Here we begin to have somewhat more reliable historical accounts and we can begin to understand what the Romans were doing right. The Romans did not seek to destroy their enemies once they were defeated, but to have their former enemies join them. Italians could become allies in league with Rome and perhaps even gain Roman citizenship. Rome suffered from the same sort of

class conflicts as the Greek city-states, but while the Greek factions usually tried to destroy each other, the Roman ruling class generally managed to find some compromise which kept the city together. More than any thing else, it was the Roman refusal to accept defeat and determination to continue fighting, even when their cause seemed lost, that led to the many Roman victories, as such warlords as Pyrrhus and Hannibal discovered. The Punic Wars were a turning point in Roman history. For the first time, Rome acquired territories outside of Italy, and by the end of the Third Punic War in 146 BC, Rome had come to dominate the Mediterranean. Rome had become a wealthy superpower. This success was not altogether favorable to the development of the character of the Romans. The Republican customs and institutions which suited an Italian city-state did not scale all that well to a mighty empire and the traditional good sense and willingness to compromise that had been displayed by Rome's ruling class began to falter in the newly affluent society. Everett ends his account of the rise of Rome with the rebellion of Rome's Italian allies, who, perhaps uniquely in history, did not seek to overthrow Roman leadership, but to be allowed to become Roman citizens themselves, and rise and fall of the Roman generals and statesmen, Marius and Sulla, who set the precedents for Caesar's dictatorship and the end of the Roman Republic. I can highly recommend "The Rise of Rome" for anyone interested in the history of the Roman Republic, particularly the early centuries that do not get nearly so much attention time of Caesar and the early emperors. Maybe we could learn some lessons in how to manage an empire.

Enjoyed this book for several reasons. First, the author writes history in an interesting manner and I like the way the book was organized. Roman history covers a significant amount of time and the best way to study it is in pieces like this book. Second, the author has added information about the daily lives of the Romans during this time and how they lived, not just history. This was important to me because people say the stupidest things about the way Romans were and how they lived. Like they made everyone slaves, which isn't true. Third, he adds comments by other historians like Cicero, Polybius etc. The only negative is that I wish he had included better maps. I really get a better idea about what's going on when I have a good map. I will definitely read other books by this author.

An uneven account of how Rome became a major force in the Mediterranean. The author continues to rely on his previous writings about Cicero and other notable Roman historians. This tends to distract the reader and does not provide sufficient information that is needed to explain why Roman leaders and political operatives behaved the way they did and conditioned the development of their

empire.

How does a reviewer give a 4.5? I finally settled on a 4, expecting that the glowing reviews by others more knowledgeable than I will lead anyone even vaguely interested in this fascinating subject to read this book. It is both a fun and easy read, and a fount of knowledge about a fascinating society, the various governments by which it was ruled, the factors that led to its success, and to its ultimate failure. A failure occurring after many more years than our own country has been around. But a failure which offers many lessons for us. A thoroughly enjoyable book. The only reservation which led to my taking .5 off the rating is that in the Kindle version I didn't find any maps (perhaps my fault) which made it difficult to understand much of the discussion of military encounters. But that information isn't really necessary to understand the big picture, and learn the important lessons..

This is a great book for anyone who is curious about the Roman Republic yet doesn't want to pour over thicker volumes. The author explains things clearly for readers who may otherwise not be familiar with Roman nomenclature or government. It was a quick read for me I found Everitt's prose engaging and vivid. A well researched book that rarely gets bogged down by extraneous details. I could safely say such a book will ignite further curiosity in the classic age and serves as a great jump off point for those who are curious but don't know where to start.

I learned so much about the beginnings of Rome which I have always wondered about. I especially was interesting in the belief that the original Roman settlers believed they were the survivors of the Trojan war and that the area in and around which they settled was known as the Latin States. I found this fascinating. I always wondered where the term "Latin" came from. A very enjoyable read!!

I loved this book. I lived in Italy for 2.5 years and became interested in Roman history. The Rise of Rome provides the reader with an engaging and interesting account of the most powerful empire in the ancient world from about 750 BC to 1 AD. It delves deeply into the lives of some of the most influential figures in the Roman Republic from the myths of Remus and Romulus to the stories of Cincinnatus, Hannibal, Scipio Africanus, Tiberius and Gaius Gracchi, Sulla, etc...

Another great effort from Everett. Could not put it down.

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