

# Be Elite Be Emperor

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## **THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AS ORGANIZATIONAL EMPEROR** - ZHENG YONGNIAN 2009-12-16

THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY (CCP) IS THE LARGEST AND ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL, POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORLD TODAY, WHICH HAS PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN INITIATING MOST OF THE MAJOR REFORMS OF THE PAST THREE DECADES IN CHINA. CHINA'S RAPID RISE HAS ENABLED THE CCP TO EXTEND ITS INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE, BUT THE WEST REMAINS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE CCP WILL SURVIVE CHINA'S ONGOING SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND BECOME A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY. WITH RAPID SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, THE CCP HAS ITSELF EXPERIENCED DRASTIC CHANGES. ZHENG YONGNIAN ARGUES THAT WHILST THE CONCEPT OF POLITICAL PARTY IN CHINA WAS IMPORTED, THE CCP IS A CHINESE CULTURAL PRODUCT: IT IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BREED OF POLITICAL PARTY FROM THOSE IN THE WEST - AN ORGANIZATIONAL EMPEROR, WIELDING ITS POWER IN A SIMILAR WAY TO CHINESE EMPERORS OF THE PAST. USING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THEORY, THIS BOOK EXAMINES THE CCP'S TRANSFORMATION IN THE REFORM ERA, AND HOW IT IS NOW STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN THE CONTINUING DOMINATION OF ITS IMPERIAL POWER. THE AUTHOR ARGUES THAT THE CCP HAS MANAGED THESE CHANGES AS A PROACTIVE PLAYER THROUGHOUT, AND THAT THE NATURE OF THE CCP IMPLIES THAT AS LONG AS THE PARTY IS TRANSFORMING ITSELF IN ACCORDANCE TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES, THE STRUCTURE OF PARTY DOMINION OVER THE STATE AND SOCIETY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CHANGE.

## **THE PRAETORIAN GUARD** - SANDRA BINGHAM 2013

CONCEIVED AS A PERSONAL ARMY FOR THE EMPEROR, THE ELITE PRAETORIAN GUARD SOON TOOK OVER A WIDE RANGE OF POWERS IN ROME, AND THUS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING MADE A MUCH GREATER IMPACT ON THE CITY'S LIFE THAN JUST AS AN IMPERIAL BODYGUARD. THE PRAETORIANS WERE IN FACT INSEPARABLE FROM THE WHOLE MACHINERY OF STATE, IN SOME CASES EVEN MAKING OR BREAKING INDIVIDUAL EMPERORS. SANDRA BINGHAM HERE OFFERS A TIMELY HISTORY OF THE GUARD FROM ITS FOUNDATION BY AUGUSTUS IN 27 BCE TO ITS DISBANDMENT BY CONSTANTINE IN CE 312. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE ARMS AND INSIGNIA;

THE SIZE, RECRUITMENT AND COMMAND STRUCTURE OF THE GUARD; DURATION OF SERVICE; THE DUTIES OF INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS; AND THEIR FAMILIES, DAILY LIVES AND RELIGION.

## **THE EMPEROR HADRIAN** - THORSTEN OPPER 2008

THE ROMAN EMPIRE, RULED BY ITS EMPERORS, WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST POWERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. HADRIAN (C. AD 117-138) REIGNED FOR TWENTY-ONE YEARS IN ITS GOLDEN AGE AND IS PERHAPS BEST KNOWN TODAY FOR HIS GREAT WALL IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND. HOWEVER, THIS WAS JUST ONE OF HIS CELEBRATED ACHIEVEMENTS. HE WAS INDEED A CREATOR OF MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES THAT WERE ARCHITECTURALLY DARING, BUT HE WAS ALSO A SKILLED MILITARY LEADER AND STRATEGIST; A TIRELESS TRAVELLER WHO ROAMED HIS ENORMOUS EMPIRE AND ITS BOUNDARIES; A WELL-EDUCATED MAN WHO LOVED THE ARTS AND WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT GREECE AND GREEK CULTURE. THIS INFORMATIVE AND BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED LITTLE BOOK PRESENTS A CONCISE PORTRAIT OF HADRIAN HIS FAMILY, HIS DEEDS, HIS LOVES, HIS DARK SIDE AND HIS LEGACY. A POTTED BIOGRAPHY IS FOLLOWED BY PICTURE-AND-CAPTION SPREADS THAT AMPLIFY THE DETAILS OF HIS LIFE. THESE FEATURE ART AND ARTEFACTS FROM MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AROUND THE WORLD, AS WELL AS SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PANTHEON, THE VILLA ADRIANI, HIS MAUSOLEUM. THE EMPEROR HADRIAN IS NOT ONLY A CELEBRATION OF A REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL BUT A WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION TO A FASCINATING PERIOD OF ROMAN HISTORY.

## **EMPEROR AND SENATORS IN THE REIGN OF CONSTANTINUS II** - MURIEL MOSER 2018-12-06

IN THIS BOOK, MURIEL MOSER INVESTIGATES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EMPERORS CONSTANTINE I AND HIS SON CONSTANTINUS II (AD 312-361) AND THE SENATORS OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND ROME. SHE EXAMINES AND CONTEXTUALIZES THE INTEGRATION OF THE SOCIAL ELITES OF ROME AND THE EASTERN PROVINCES INTO THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM AND DEMONSTRATES THEIR INCREASED IMPORTANCE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF IMPERIAL RULE IN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL FRAGILITY AND FRAGMENTATION. AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF SENATORIAL CAREERS AND IMPERIAL LEGISLATION IS COMBINED WITH A DETAILED ASSESSMENT

OF THE POLITICAL CONTEXT - SHARED RULE, THE SUPPRESSION OF USURPATIONS, CONSTANTIUS' USE OF CONSTANTINE'S MEMORY. USING A WIDE RANGE OF LITERARY, EPIGRAPHIC, NUMISMATIC, AND LEGAL SOURCES, SOME OF WHICH ARE AS YET UNPUBLISHED, THIS VOLUME PRODUCES SIGNIFICANT NEW READINGS OF THE HISTORY OF THE SENATES IN ROME AND CONSTANTINOPLE, OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF IMPERIAL RULE AND OF HISTORICAL CHANGE IN LATE ANTIQUITY.

**THE LAST EMPERORS** - EVELYN S. RAWSKI 1998-11-15

THE QING DYNASTY (1644-1911) WAS THE LAST AND ARGUABLY THE GREATEST OF THE CONQUEST DYNASTIES TO RULE CHINA. ITS RULERS, MANCHUS FROM THE NORTH, HELD POWER FOR THREE CENTURIES DESPITE MAJOR CULTURAL AND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE HAN MAJORITY. IN THIS BOOK, EVELYN RAWSKI OFFERS A BOLD NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THIS DYNASTY, ARGUING THAT IT DERIVED NOT FROM THE ASSIMILATION OF THE DOMINANT CHINESE CULTURE, AS HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN BELIEVED, BUT RATHER FROM AN ARTFUL SYNTHESIS OF MANCHU LEADERSHIP STYLES WITH HAN CHINESE POLICIES.

**EMPEROR ALEXANDER SEVERUS** - JOHN S. MCHUGH 2017-06-30

ALEXANDER SEVERUS' IS FULL OF CONTROVERSY AND CONTRADICTIONS. HE CAME TO THE THRONE THROUGH THE BRUTAL MURDER OF HIS COUSIN, ELAGABALUS, AND WAS ULTIMATELY ASSASSINATED HIMSELF. THE YEARS BETWEEN WERE FILLED WITH REGULAR UPRISINGS AND REBELLIONS, COURT INTRIGUE (THE PRAETORIAN GUARD SLEW THEIR COMMANDER AT THE EMPEROR'S FEET) AND FOREIGN INVASION. YET THE ANCIENT SOURCES GENERALLY PRESENT HIS REIGN AS A GOLDEN AGE OF JUST GOVERNMENT, PROSPERITY AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE NOT YET FOURTEEN WHEN HE BECAME EMPEROR, ALEXANDER WAS DOMINATED BY HIS MOTHER, JULIA MAMMAEA AND ADVISORS LIKE THE HISTORIAN, CASSIUS DIO. IN THE MILITARY FIELD, HE SUCCESSFULLY CHECKED THE AGGRESSIVE SASSANID PERSIANS BUT SOME SOURCES SEE HIS PERSIAN CAMPAIGN AS A COSTLY FAILURE MARKED BY MUTINY AND REVERSES THAT WEAKENED THE ARMY. WHEN GERMANIC AND SARMATIAN TRIBES CROSSED THE RHINE AND DANUBE FRONTIERS IN 234, ALEXANDER TOOK THE FIELD AGAINST THEM BUT WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO NEGOTIATE TO BUY TIME, HIS SOLDIERS PERCEIVED HIM AS WEAK, ASSASSINATED HIM AND REPLACED HIM WITH THE SOLDIER MAXIMINUS THRAX. JOHN MCHUGH REASSESSES THIS FASCINATING EMPEROR IN DETAIL.

**THE EMPEROR OF LAW** - KAIUS TUORI 2016

IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, THE EMPEROR WAS CONSIDERED NOT ONLY THE RULER OF THE STATE, BUT ALSO ITS SUPREME LEGAL AUTHORITY, FULFILLING THE MULTIPLE ROLES OF SUPREME COURT, LEGISLATOR, AND ADMINISTRATOR. THE EMPEROR OF LAW EXPLORES HOW THE EMPEROR CAME TO ASSUME THE MANTLE OF A JUDGE, BEGINNING WITH AUGUSTUS, THE FIRST EMPEROR, AND SPANNING THE YEARS LEADING UP TO CARACALLA AND THE SEVERAN DYNASTY. WHILE EARLIER STUDIES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN THIS CHANGE EITHER THROUGH LEGISLATION OR BEHAVIOR, THIS VOLUME UNDERTAKES A NOVEL ANALYSIS OF THE GRADUAL EXPANSION AND ELABORATION OF THE EMPEROR'S ADJUDICATION AND JURISDICTION:

BY ANALYZING THE PROCESS THROUGH HISTORICAL NARRATIVES, IT ARGUES THAT THE EMERGENCE OF IMPERIAL ADJUDICATION WAS A DISCOURSE THAT INVOLVED NOT ONLY THE EMPERORS, BUT ALSO PETITIONERS WHO SOUGHT THEIR RULINGS, LAWYERS WHO AIDED THEM, THE SENATORIAL ELITE, AND THE ROMAN HISTORIANS AND COMMENTATORS WHO DESCRIBED IT. STORIES OF EMPERORS SETTling LAWSUITS AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR POWER THROUGH LAW, INCLUDING THOSE DEPICTING MAD EMPERORS ENGAGING IN VIOLENT REPRESSIONS, PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN CREATING A SHARED CONVICTION THAT THE EMPEROR WAS INDEED THE SUPREME JUDGE ALONGSIDE THE EMPIRICAL SHIFT IN THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL DYNAMIC. IMPERIAL ADJUDICATION REFLECTED EQUALLY THE GROWTH OF IMPERIAL POWER DURING THE PRINCIPATE AND THE CENTRALITY OF THE EMPEROR IN PUBLIC LIFE, AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMATION WAS THUS CREATED THROUGH THE EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS--EXAMPLES THAT HISTORICAL AUTHORS DID MUCH TO SHAPE. AIMED AT READERS OF CLASSICS, ROMAN LAW, AND ANCIENT HISTORY, THE EMPEROR OF LAW OFFERS A FUNDAMENTAL REINTERPRETATION OF THE MUCH DEBATED PROBLEM OF THE ADVENT OF IMPERIAL SUPREMACY IN LAW THAT ILLUMINATES THE IMPORTANCE OF NARRATIVE STUDIES TO THE FIELD OF LEGAL HISTORY.

**CHRISTIAN EMPERORS AND ROMAN ELITES IN LATE ANTIQUITY** - RITA LIZZI TESTA 2022-04-29

THIS BOOK BRINGS TOGETHER A NUMBER OF CASE STUDIES TO SHOW SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH, AS SOON AS THE ROMAN SENATE GAINED NEW POLITICAL AUTHORITY UNDER CONSTANTINE AND HIS SUCCESSORS, ITS MEMBERS CROWDED THE POLITICAL SCENE IN THE WEST. IN THESE CHAPTERS, RITA LIZZI TESTA MAKES MUCH OF HER WORK - THE FRUIT OF DECADES OF RESEARCH - AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE FOCUS IS ON THE ARISTOCRATS' PASSION FOR ARUSPICAL SCIENCE, THE POLITICAL USE OF EXPHRASTIC POEMS, AND EVEN THEIR CONTROL OF THE HAGIOGRAPHIC GENRE IN THE LATE SIXTH CENTURY. SHE DEMONSTRATES HOW ROMAN SENATORS WERE CHOSEN AS LEGATES TO ESTABLISH PROACTIVE RELATIONS WITH CHRISTIAN EMPERORS, THEIR MINISTERS AND MILITARY COMMANDERS, AND EASTERN AND WESTERN PROVINCIAL ELITES. SENATORS WOVE A WEB OF RELATIONS IN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN EMPIRES, SEWING AND STITCHING THE EMPIRE'S FABRIC WITH THEIR DIPLOMATIC SKILLS, WEALTH, AND INFLUENCE, WHILE LIVELY AND HIGHLY LITIGIOUS ASSEMBLY ACTIVITY STILL REQUIRED OF THEM A CULTURED RHETORIC. THROUGH EMPLOYING ASTUTE POLITICAL STRATEGIES, THEY MAINTAINED THEIR PRIVILEGES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN BELIEFS IN ANCIENT CULTS. CHRISTIAN EMPERORS AND ROMAN ELITES IN LATE ANTIQUITY PROVIDES A CRUCIAL COLLECTION FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS OF LATE ANTIQUE HISTORY AND RELIGION, AND OF POLITICS IN THE LATE ROMAN EMPIRE.

**THE EMPEROR JAHANGIR** - LISA BALABANLILAR 2020-04-16

JAHANGIR WAS THE FOURTH OF THE SIX "GREAT MUGHALS," THE OLDEST SON OF AKBAR THE GREAT, WHO EXTENDED THE MUGHAL EMPIRE ACROSS THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT, AND THE FATHER OF SHAH JAHAN, BUILDER OF THE TAJ MAHAL. ALTHOUGH AN ALCOHOLIC AND OPIUM ADDICT, HIS REPUTATION MARRED BY REBELLION AGAINST HIS FATHER, ONCE ENTHRONED THE

EMPEROR JAHANGIR PROVED TO BE AN ADEPT POLITICIAN. HE WAS ALSO A THOUGHTFUL AND REFLECTIVE MEMOIRIST AND A GENEROUS PATRON OF THE ARTS, RESPONSIBLE FOR AN INNOVATIVE GOLDEN AGE IN MUGHAL PAINTING. THROUGH A CLOSE STUDY OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MUGHAL COURT CHRONICLES, THE EMPEROR JAHANGIR SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON THIS REMARKABLE HISTORICAL FIGURE, EXPLORING JAHANGIR'S STRUGGLE FOR POWER AND DEFENSE OF KINGSHIP, HIS ADDICTIONS AND INSECURITIES, HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FAVOURITE WIFE, THE EMPRESS NUR JAHAN, AND WITH HIS SONS, WHOSE OWN FAILED REBELLIONS BOOKENDED HIS REIGN.

**THE EMPEROR OF LAW** - Kaius Tuori 2016-11-10

IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, THE EMPEROR WAS CONSIDERED NOT ONLY THE RULER OF THE STATE, BUT ALSO ITS SUPREME LEGAL AUTHORITY, FULFILLING THE MULTIPLE ROLES OF SUPREME COURT, LEGISLATOR, AND ADMINISTRATOR. THE EMPEROR OF LAW EXPLORES HOW THE EMPEROR CAME TO ASSUME THE MANTLE OF A JUDGE, BEGINNING WITH AUGUSTUS, THE FIRST EMPEROR, AND SPANNING THE YEARS LEADING UP TO CARACALLA AND THE SEVERAN DYNASTY. WHILE EARLIER STUDIES HAVE ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN THIS CHANGE EITHER THROUGH LEGISLATION OR BEHAVIOUR, THIS VOLUME UNDERTAKES A NOVEL ANALYSIS OF THE GRADUAL EXPANSION AND ELABORATION OF THE EMPEROR'S ADJUDICATION AND JURISDICTION: BY ANALYSING THE PROCESS THROUGH HISTORICAL NARRATIVES, IT ARGUES THAT THE EMERGENCE OF IMPERIAL ADJUDICATION WAS A DISCOURSE THAT INVOLVED NOT ONLY THE EMPERORS, BUT ALSO PETITIONERS WHO SOUGHT THEIR RULINGS, LAWYERS WHO AIDED THEM, THE SENATORIAL ELITE, AND THE ROMAN HISTORIANS AND COMMENTATORS WHO DESCRIBED IT. STORIES OF EMPERORS SETTling LAWSUITS AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR POWER THROUGH LAW, INCLUDING THOSE DEPICTING 'MAD' EMPERORS ENGAGING IN VIOLENT REPRESSIONS, PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN CREATING A SHARED CONVICTION THAT THE EMPEROR WAS INDEED THE SUPREME JUDGE ALONGSIDE THE EMPIRICAL SHIFT IN THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL DYNAMIC. IMPERIAL ADJUDICATION REFLECTED EQUALLY THE GROWTH OF IMPERIAL POWER DURING THE PRINCIPATE AND THE CENTRALITY OF THE EMPEROR IN PUBLIC LIFE, AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMATION WAS THUS CREATED THROUGH THE EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS - EXAMPLES THAT HISTORICAL AUTHORS DID MUCH TO SHAPE. AIMED AT READERS OF CLASSICS, ROMAN LAW, AND ANCIENT HISTORY, THE EMPEROR OF LAW OFFERS A FUNDAMENTAL REINTERPRETATION OF THE MUCH DEBATED PROBLEM OF THE ADVENT OF IMPERIAL SUPREMACY IN LAW THAT ILLUMINATES THE IMPORTANCE OF NARRATIVE STUDIES TO THE FIELD OF LEGAL HISTORY.

IN THE LIGHT AND SHADOW OF AN EMPEROR - Artur K. Wardega 2012-03-15

THE PRESENT COLLECTION WAS WRITTEN TO COMMEMORATE THE THIRD CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF THE PORTUGUESE JESUIT, Tom s Pereira (1645-1708). DEALING WITH SOME OF THE MOST DECISIVE AND CONTROVERSIAL MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE JESUIT MISSION IN CHINA DURING THE KANGXI ERA (1662-1722), THESE ESSAYS WERE PRODUCED BY AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF SCHOLARS AND COVER A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS THAT REFLECT A PERMANENT ACADEMIC INTEREST, IN EUROPE AND AMERICA AS WELL AS IN CHINA,

IN THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC MISSION IN CHINA, SINO-RUSSIAN DIPLOMACY, THE HISTORY OF WESTERN SCIENCE AND MUSIC IN CHINA, INTERCULTURAL HISTORY, AND HISTORY OF ART. WHILE THE NAMES OF SUCH MISSIONARIES AS MATTEO RICCI, ADAM SCHALL AND FERDINAND VERBIEST ARE WELL KNOWN, PEREIRA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY NEGLECTED, AND THIS VOLUME SEEKS TO REDRESS THAT IMBALANCE. PEREIRA WAS IMPORTANT AS A MUSICIAN AND DIPLOMAT AND WAS CLOSER TO THE KANGXI EMPEROR THAN ANY OTHER WESTERNER, SOMETHING THAT ENABLED HIM TO EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CHINESE CHRISTIANS AND ALSO TO FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF PORTUGAL IN CHINA. HOWEVER, TOWARDS THE END OF HIS LIFE HE SAW HIS EFFORTS UNDERMINED BY THE DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES OF THE PAPAL LEGATION TO CHINA LED BY CHARLES-THOMAS MAILLARD DE TOURNON.

**SAGE AND EMPEROR** - Philip A. Stadter 2002

THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE IS TO ESTABLISH THE CONTEXT OF PLUTARCH'S WORK IN THE SOCIETY AND THE HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN. *AUTOCRACY AND CHINA'S REBEL FOUNDING EMPERORS* - Anita M. Andrew 2000  
WHAT KIND OF 'RULER' WAS MAO ZEDONG? UTILIZING A RICH MIX OF ANALYSIS AND NEW TRANSLATIONS, THIS BOOK EXAMINES OTHER IMPERIAL PREDECESSORS AND THE ELEMENTS LINKING MAO AND MING TAIZU, THE FOURTEENTH-CENTURY PEASANT REBEL WHO FOUNDED THE MING DYNASTY, AS WELL AS CRITIQUES OF WESTERN AND CHINESE SCHOLARSHIP. THE BOOK THEN PRESENTS TRANSLATIONS WITH COMMENTARY OF PRC SCHOLARS ON TAIZU AND MAO, SHOWING THE EVOLUTION IN CHINESE THOUGHT TOWARD BOTH RULERS FROM THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION TO THE DENG XIAOPING REFORM ERA.

**THE DAY COMMODUS KILLED A RHINO** - Jerry Toner 2015-01-05

IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE ROMAN GAMES—THAT HEADY COCKTAIL OF MASS SLAUGHTER, GLADIATORIAL COMBAT, AND CHARIOT RACING—MADE STRONG POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL STATEMENTS. THE ROMAN EMPEROR COMMODUS WANTED TO KILL A RHINOCEROS WITH A BOW AND ARROW, AND HE WANTED TO DO IT IN THE COLOSSEUM. COMMODUS'S PASSION FOR HUNTING ANIMALS WAS SO FERVENT THAT HE DREAMT OF SHOOTING A TIGER, AN ELEPHANT, AND A HIPPOPOTAMUS; HIS PROWESS WAS SUCH THAT PEOPLE CLAIMED HE NEVER MISSED WHEN HURLING HIS JAVELIN OR FIRING ARROWS FROM HIS BOW. FOR FOURTEEN DAYS NEAR THE END OF AD 192, THE EMPEROR MOUNTED ONE OF THE MOST LAVISH AND SPECTACULAR GLADIATORIAL GAMES ROME HAD EVER SEEN. COMMODUS HIMSELF WAS THE STAR ATTRACTION, AND PEOPLE RUSHED FROM ALL OVER ITALY TO WITNESS THE SPECTACLE. BUT THIS SLAUGHTER WAS SIMPLY THE WARM-UP ACT TO THE MAIN EVENT: THE EMPEROR WAS ALSO PLANNING TO FIGHT AS A GLADIATOR. WHY DID ROMAN RULERS SPEND VAST RESOURCES ON SUCH OVER-THE-TOP DISPLAYS—AND WHY DID SOME EMPERORS APPEAR IN THEM AS COMBATANTS? WHY DID THE ROMAN RABBLE ENJOY WATCHING THE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND THE SIGHT OF MEN FIGHTING TO THE DEATH? AND HOW BEST CAN WE IN THE MODERN WORLD UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS TRULY AT STAKE IN THE CIRCUS AND THE ARENA? IN THE DAY COMMODUS KILLED A RHINO, JERRY TONER SET OUT TO

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS BY VIVIDLY DESCRIBING WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE TO ATTEND COMMODUS' FANTASTIC SHOWS AND WATCH ONE OF HIS MANY APPEARANCES AS BOTH HUNTER AND FIGHTER. HIGHLIGHTING THE MASSIVE LOGISTICAL EFFORT NEEDED TO SUPPLY THE GAMES WITH ANIMALS, PERFORMERS, AND CRIMINALS FOR EXECUTION, THE BOOK REVEALS HOW BLOOD AND GORE WERE ACTUALLY INCIDENTAL TO WHAT REALLY MATTERED. GLADIATORIAL GAMES PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN ESTABLISHING A FORUM FOR POLITICAL DEBATE BETWEEN THE RULERS AND THE RULED. ROMAN CROWDS WERE NOT PASSIVE: THEY WERE MADE UP OF SOPHISTICATED CONSUMERS WITH THEIR OWN POLITICAL AIMS, WHICH THEY USED THE GAMES TO SECURE. IN ADDITION, THE GAMES ALSO SERVED AS A PURE EXPRESSION OF WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A TRUE ROMAN. DRAWING ON NOTIONS OF PERSONAL HONOR, MANLY VIGOR, AND SOPHISTICATED CRAFTSMANSHIP, THE GAMES WERE A STORY THAT THE ROMANS LOVED TO TELL THEMSELVES ABOUT THEMSELVES.

*THE MAD EMPEROR* - HARRY SIDEBOTTOM 2022-10-06

ON 8 JUNE AD218 A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD SYRIAN BOY, EGGED ON BY HIS GRANDMOTHER, LED AN ARMY TO BATTLE IN A ROMAN CIVIL WAR. AGAINST ALL EXPECTATIONS, HE WAS VICTORIOUS. VARIUS AVITUS BASSIANUS, KNOWN TO THE MODERN WORLD AS HELIOGABALUS, WAS PROCLAIMED EMPEROR. THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WERE TO BE THE STRANGEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE EMPIRE. HELIOGABALUS HUMILIATED THE PRESTIGIOUS SENATORS AND THREW EXTRAVAGANT DINNER PARTIES FOR LOWER-CLASS FRIENDS. HE OUSTED JUPITER FROM HIS SUMMIT AMONG THE GODS AND REPLACED HIM WITH ELAGABAL. HE MARRIED A VESTAL VIRGIN - TWICE. RUMOURS ABOUNDED THAT HE WAS A PROSTITUTE. IN THE FIRST BIOGRAPHY OF HELIOGABALUS IN OVER HALF A CENTURY, HARRY SIDEBOTTOM UNVEILS THE HIGH DRAMA OF SEX, RELIGION, POWER AND CULTURE IN ANCIENT ROME AS WE'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.

**CHARLEMAGNE** - JOANNA STORY 2005-06-04

FIFTEEN INTRODUCTORY BUT CHALLENGING ESSAYS ON THE KEY ASPECTS OF THE AGE OF CHARLEMAGNE WRITTEN BY MANY OF THE TOP SCHOLARS OF EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE.

**THE POLITICS OF MUNIFICENCE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE** - ARJAN ZUIDERHOEK 2009-04-27

A STUDY OF PUBLIC BENEFACTIONS BY ELITE INDIVIDUALS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES IN ROMAN ASIA MINOR.

CONTESTED MONARCHY - JOHANNES WIENAND 2015

"THIS VOLUME AIMS TO REAPPRAISE THE WIDE-RANGING AND LASTING TRANSFORMATION OF THE ROMAN MONARCHY BETWEEN THE PRINCIPATE AND LATE ANTIQUITY. THE FOCUS OF THE BOOK WILL LIE ON THE PERIOD FROM DIOCLETIAN TO THEODOSIUS I (284-395) AND THUS ON A MAJOR DEVELOPMENTAL PHASE IN THE HISTORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. DURING THIS PERIOD, THE STABILITY OF MONARCHICAL RULE DEPENDED HEAVILY ON THE EMPEROR'S MOBILITY, ON COLLEGIAL OR DYNASTIC RULE, AND ON THE MILITARY RESOLUTION OF INTERNAL POLITICAL CRISES. AT THE SAME TIME, PROFOUND RELIGIOUS CHANGES MODIFIED THE PREMISES OF POLITICAL INTERACTION AND SYMBOLIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE EMPEROR AND HIS SUBJECTS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND MILITARY READJUSTMENTS CHANGED THE

INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE ROMAN MONARCHY. THIS VOLUME CONCENTRATES ON THE MEASURES TAKEN BY ROMAN EMPERORS OF THIS PERIOD TO COPE WITH THE CHANGING FRAMEWORK OF THEIR RULE. THE COLLECTION WILL EXAMINE MONARCHY ALONG THREE DISTINCT YET INTERTWINED FIELDS: ADMINISTERING THE EMPIRE, PERFORMING THE MONARCHY, AND BALANCING RELIGIOUS CHANGE. EACH FIELD POSSESSES ITS OWN HISTORIOGRAPHY AND METHODOLOGY, AND ACCORDINGLY HAS USUALLY BEEN TREATED SEPARATELY. THIS VOLUME'S MULTIFACETED APPROACH BUILDS ON RECENT TRENDS TO EXAMINE IMPERIAL RULE IN A MORE INTEGRATED FASHION. A BRIEF INTRODUCTORY ARTICLE TO EACH THEMATIC SECTION PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD, THEREBY PROVIDING A COHERENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS. INCLUDING NEW WORK FROM A WIDE RANGE OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN SCHOLARS, BOTH ESTABLISHED AND JUNIOR, CONTESTED MONARCHY PROMISES TO PROVIDE A FRESH SURVEY OF THE ROLE OF THE ROMAN MONARCH IN A PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANT AND ENDURING CHANGE"--PROVIDED BY PUBLISHER.

**GOD ON EARTH: EMPEROR DOMITIAN** - AURORA RAIMONDI COMINESI 2021-05-05

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY VOLUME ON THE EMPEROR DOMITIAN (81-96) WHICH RE-EVALUATES HIS IMPORTANCE WITHIN ROMAN HISTORY AND HIS RECEPTION THEREAFTER.

**THE EMPEROR'S BLADES** - BRIAN STAVELEY 2014-01-14

IN THE EMPEROR'S BLADES BY BRIAN STAVELEY, THE EMPEROR OF ANNUR IS DEAD, SLAIN BY ENEMIES UNKNOWN. HIS DAUGHTER AND TWO SONS, SCATTERED ACROSS THE WORLD, DO WHAT THEY MUST TO STAY ALIVE AND UNMASK THE ASSASSINS. BUT EACH OF THEM ALSO HAS A LIFE-PATH ON WHICH THEIR FATHER SET THEM, DESTINIES ENTANGLED WITH BOTH ANCIENT ENEMIES AND INSCRUTABLE GODS. KADEN, THE HEIR TO THE UNHEWN THRONE, HAS SPENT EIGHT YEARS SEQUESTERED IN A REMOTE MOUNTAIN MONASTERY, LEARNING THE ENIGMATIC DISCIPLINE OF MONKS DEVOTED TO THE BLANK GOD. THEIR RITUALS HOLD THE KEY TO AN ANCIENT POWER HE MUST MASTER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. AN OCEAN AWAY, VALYN ENDURES THE BRUTAL TRAINING OF THE KETTRAL, ELITE SOLDIERS WHO FLY INTO BATTLE ON GIGANTIC BLACK HAWKS. BUT BEFORE HE CAN SET OUT TO SAVE KADEN, VALYN MUST SURVIVE ONE HORRIFIC FINAL TEST. AT THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE, MINISTER ADARE, ELEVATED TO HER STATION BY ONE OF THE EMPEROR'S FINAL ACTS, IS DETERMINED TO PROVE HERSELF TO HER PEOPLE. BUT ADARE ALSO BELIEVES SHE KNOWS WHO MURDERED HER FATHER, AND SHE WILL STOP AT NOTHING—AND RISK EVERYTHING—TO SEE THAT JUSTICE IS METED OUT. CHRONICLE OF THE UNHEWN THRONE THE EMPEROR'S BLADES THE PROVIDENCE OF FIRE THE LAST MORTAL BOND OTHER BOOKS IN THE WORLD OF THE UNHEWN THRONE SKULLSWORN (FORTHCOMING) AT THE PUBLISHER'S REQUEST, THIS TITLE IS BEING SOLD WITHOUT DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE (DRM) APPLIED.

**TEN CAESARS** - BARRY STRAUSS 2020-03-03

BESTSELLING CLASSICAL HISTORIAN BARRY STRAUSS DELIVERS "AN EXCEPTIONALLY ACCESSIBLE HISTORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE...MUCH OF TEN CAESARS READS LIKE A SCRIPT FOR GAME OF THRONES" (THE WALL STREET JOURNAL)—A SUMMATION OF THREE AND A HALF CENTURIES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AS SEEN THROUGH THE LIVES OF TEN OF THE MOST

IMPORTANT EMPERORS, FROM AUGUSTUS TO CONSTANTINE. IN THIS ESSENTIAL AND “ENLIGHTENING” (THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW) WORK, BARRY STRAUSS TELLS THE STORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE FROM RISE TO REINVENTION, FROM AUGUSTUS, WHO FOUNDED THE EMPIRE, TO CONSTANTINE, WHO MADE IT CHRISTIAN AND MOVED THE CAPITAL EAST TO CONSTANTINOPLE. DURING THESE CENTURIES ROME GAINED IN SPLENDOR AND TERRITORY, THEN LOST BOTH. BY THE FOURTH CENTURY, THE TIME OF CONSTANTINE, THE ROMAN EMPIRE HAD CHANGED SO DRAMATICALLY IN GEOGRAPHY, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, AND CULTURE THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY UNRECOGNIZABLE TO AUGUSTUS. ROME’S LEGACY REMAINS TODAY IN SO MANY WAYS, FROM LANGUAGE, LAW, AND ARCHITECTURE TO THE SEAT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. STRAUSS EXAMINES THIS ENDURING HERITAGE THROUGH THE LIVES OF THE MEN WHO SHAPED IT: AUGUSTUS, TIBERIUS, NERO, VESPASIAN, TRAJAN, HADRIAN, MARCUS AURELIUS, SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS, DIOCLETIAN, AND CONSTANTINE. OVER THE AGES, THEY LEARNED TO MAINTAIN THE FAMILY BUSINESS—THE GOVERNMENT OF AN EMPIRE—BY ADAPTING WHEN NECESSARY AND ALWAYS PERSEVERING NO MATTER THE COST. TEN CAESARS IS A “CAPTIVATING NARRATIVE THAT BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO A HOST OF TRANSFORMATIVE FIGURES” (PUBLISHERS WEEKLY). THIS “SUPERB SUMMATION OF FOUR CENTURIES OF ROMAN HISTORY, A MASTERPIECE OF COMPRESSION, CONFIRMS BARRY STRAUSS AS THE FOREMOST ACADEMIC CLASSICIST WRITING FOR THE GENERAL READER TODAY” (THE WALL STREET JOURNAL).

**IN THE SHADOW OF THE GODS** - DOMINIC LIEVEN 2022-06-07

A DAZZLING ACCOUNT OF THE MEN (AND OCCASIONAL WOMAN) WHO LED THE WORLD’S EMPIRES, A BOOK THAT PROBES THE ESSENCE OF LEADERSHIP AND POWER THROUGH THE CENTURIES AND AROUND THE WORLD. FROM THE RISE OF SARGON OF AKKAD, WHO IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BCE RULED WHAT IS NOW IRAQ AND SYRIA, TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE GREAT EUROPEAN EMPIRES IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE EMPIRE HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT FORM OF POWER IN HISTORY. DOMINIC LIEVEN’S EXPANSIVE BOOK EXPLORES STRENGTHS AND FAILINGS OF THE HUMAN BEINGS WHO HELD THOSE EMPIRES TOGETHER (OR LET THEM CRUMBLE). HE PROJECTS THE POWER, TERROR, MAGNIFICENCE, AND CONFIDENCE OF IMPERIAL MONARCHY, TRACKING WHAT THEY HAD IN COMMON AS WELL AS WHAT MADE SOME RISE TO GLORY AND OTHERS FAIL SPECTACULARLY, AND AT WHAT PRICE EACH DESTINY WAS REACHED. LIEVEN’S CHARACTERS—CONSTANTINE, CHINGGIS KHAN, TRAJAN, SULEYMAN, HADRIAN, LOUIS XIV, MARIA THERESA, PETER THE GREAT, QUEEN VICTORIA, AND DOZENS MORE—COME ALIVE WITH COLOR, ENERGY, AND DETAIL: THEIR UPBRINGINGS, THEIR LOVES, THEIR CRUCIAL SPOUSES, THEIR DREADFUL CHILDREN. THEY ILLUSTRATE HOW POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT ARE A GRUPELLING BUSINESS: A RULER NEEDED STAMINA, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL TOUGHNESS, AND SELF-CONFIDENCE. HE OR SHE NEEDED THE SOUND JUDGEMENT OF PROBLEMS AND PEOPLE WHICH IS PARTLY INNATE BUT ALSO THE PRODUCT OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE. A GOOD BRAIN WAS ESSENTIAL FOR SETTING PRIORITIES, WEIGHING CONFLICTING ADVICE, AND MATCHING ENDS TO NEEDS. A DIPLOMATICALLY ASTUTE MARRIAGE WAS OFTEN EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL. EMPERORS (AND THE RARE EMPRESSES) COULD BE SACRED SYMBOLS,

WARRIOR KINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINE, HEADS OF A FAMILY, AND IMPRESARIOS DIRECTING THE MANY ELEMENTS OF “SOFT POWER” ESSENTIAL TO ANY REGIME’S SURVIVAL. WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO LIVE AND WORK IN SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY ROLE? WHAT QUALITIES DID IT TAKE TO PERFORM THIS ROLE SUCCESSFULLY? LIEVEN TRACES THE SHIFTING BALANCE AMONG THESE ELEMENTS ACROSS ERAS THAT ENCOMPASS A STAGGERING ARRAY OF EVENTS FROM THE RISE OF THE WORLD’S GREAT RELIGIONS TO THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION, THE EXPANSION OF EUROPEAN EMPIRES ACROSS OCEANS, THE GREAT TWENTIETH CENTURY CONFLICTS, AND THE TRIUMPH OF NATIONALISM OVER IMPERIALISM. THE RULE OF THE EMPEROR MAY BE OVER, BUT LIEVEN SHOWS US HOW WE LIVE WITH ITS POLITICAL AND CULTURAL LEGACIES TODAY.

**THE GREATEST EMPIRE** - EMILY R. WILSON 2014

“THE LIFE AND WORKS OF SENECA POSE A NUMBER OF FASCINATING CHALLENGES. FOR ONE THING, HOW CAN WE RECONCILE THE BLOODY, PASSIONATE TRAGEDIES, WITH THE PROSE WORKS ADVOCATING A LIFE OF STOIC TRANQUILITY? AN EVEN MORE CHALLENGING QUESTION IS, HOW ARE WE TO RECONCILE SENECA THE STOIC PHILOSOPHER, THE MAN OF PRINCIPLE, WHO ADVOCATED A LIFE OF CALM AND SIMPLICITY, WITH SENECA THE MAN OF THE MOMENT, WHO AMASSED A VAST PERSONAL FORTUNE IN THE SERVICE OF AN EMPEROR SEEN BY MANY, AT THE TIME AND AFTERWARDS, AS AN INSANE TYRANT? IN THIS BIOGRAPHY, EMILY WILSON WILL PRESENT SENECA AS A MAN UNDER ENORMOUS PRESSURE, STRUGGLING FOR COMPROMISE IN A WORLD OF ABSOLUTISM. HIS WORK AND HIS LIFE BOTH SHOW, IN FASCINATING WAYS, THE FISSURES AND CRACKS CREATED BY THE CLASH OF THE IDEAL AND THE REAL: THE GULF BETWEEN POLITICAL HOPES AND FEARS, AND PHILOSOPHICAL IDEALS; THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT WE WANT TO BE, AND WHAT WE ARE. THE BOOK WILL ASSUME NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE EITHER OF ANCIENT ROMAN SOCIETY, STOICISM, SENECA’S LIFE OR WORK, BUT WILL WEAVE THESE FEATURES TOGETHER INTO A LIVELY NARRATIVE, WHILE PRESENTING NEW INSIGHTS INTO AN AUTHOR WHOSE REPUTATION IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A REVIVAL WITHIN THE ACADEMY”--

**CONFUCIANISM AND THE SUCCESSION CRISIS OF THE WANLI EMPEROR, 1587** - DANIEL K. GARDNER 2022-07-01

CONFUCIANISM AND THE SUCCESSION CRISIS OF THE WANLI EMPEROR, 1587 IS SET IN THE HANLIN ACADEMY IN MING DYNASTY CHINA. MOST STUDENTS ARE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND SECRETARIAT OF THE HANLIN ACADEMY, THE BODY OF TOP-RANKING GRADUATES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION WHO SERVE AS ADVISERS TO THE WANLI EMPEROR. SOME GRAND SECRETARIES ARE CONFUCIAN “PURISTS,” WHO HOLD THAT TRADITION OBLIGES THE EMPEROR TO NAME HIS FIRST-BORN SON AS SUCCESSOR; OTHERS, IN SUPPORT OF THE MOST SENIOR OF THE GRAND SECRETARIES, MAINTAIN THAT IT IS WITHIN THE EMPEROR’S RIGHT TO CHOOSE HIS SUCCESSOR; AND STILL OTHERS, AS THEY DECIDE THIS MATTER AMONG MANY ISSUES CONFRONTING THE EMPIRE, CONTINUE TO SCRUTINIZE THE TEACHINGS OF CONFUCIANISM FOR GUIDANCE. THE GAME UNFOLDS AMID THE SECRECY AND INTRIGUE WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY AS SCHOLARS STRUGGLE TO APPLY CONFUCIAN

PRECEPTS TO A DYNASTY IN PERIL.

HADRIAN - THORSTEN OPPER 2008

"HADRIAN, A ROMAN EMPEROR, THE BUILDER OF HADRIAN'S WALL IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, A RESTLESS AND AMBITIOUS MAN WHO WAS INTERESTED IN ARCHITECTURE AND WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT GREECE AND GREEK CULTURE. IS THIS THE COMMON IMAGE TODAY OF THE RULER OF ONE OF THE GREATEST POWERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD?" "PUBLISHED TO COMPLEMENT A MAJOR EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM, THIS WIDE-RANGING BOOK REDISCOVERS HADRIAN. THE SHARP CONTRADICTIONS IN HIS PERSONALITY ARE EXAMINED, PREVIOUS CONCEPTS ARE QUESTIONED AND MYTHS THAT SURROUND HIM ARE EXPLODED." -- BOOK JACKET.

ASPECTS OF ROMAN HISTORY, AD 14-117 - RICHARD ALSTON 1998

ASPECTS OF ROMAN HISTORY AD 14-117 CHARTS THE HISTORY OF THE ROMAN IMPERIAL PERIOD, FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUGUSTAN PRINCIPATE TO THE REIGN OF TRAJAN, PROVIDING A BASIC CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE MAIN EVENTS AND INTRODUCTORY OUTLINES OF THE MAJOR ISSUES OF THE PERIOD. THE FIRST HALF OF THE BOOK OUTLINES THE LINEAR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, EMPEROR BY EMPEROR, ACCENTING THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL EVENTS. THE SECOND HALF OF THE BOOK CONCENTRATES ON IMPORTANT THEMES WHICH APPLY TO THE PERIOD AS A WHOLE, SUCH AS THE RELIGIOUS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. IT INCLUDES: A DISCUSSION OF THE PRIMARY SOURCES OF ROMAN IMPERIAL HISTORY CLEARLY LAID OUT CHAPTERS ON DIFFERENT THEMES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE SUCH AS PATRONAGE, RELIGION, THE ROLE OF THE SENATE, THE ARMY AND THE POSITION OF WOMEN AND SLAVES DESIGNED FOR EASY CROSS-REFERENCING WITH THE CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF EVENTS MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS A GUIDE TO FURTHER READING. RICHARD ALSTON'S HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE BOOK IS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR STUDENTS WITH LITTLE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF STUDYING ANCIENT/ROMAN HISTORY.

ASPECTS OF ROMAN HISTORY PROVIDES AN INVALUABLE INTRODUCTION TO ROMAN IMPERIAL HISTORY, WHICH WILL ALLOW STUDENTS TO GAIN AN OVERVIEW OF THE PERIOD AND WILL BE AN INDISPENSABLE AID TO NOTE-TAKING, ESSAY PREPARATION AND EXAMINATION REVISION.

**SONS OF HELLENISM, FATHERS OF THE CHURCH** - SUSANNA ELM 2012-04-10

THIS GROUNDBREAKING STUDY BRINGS INTO DIALOGUE FOR THE FIRST TIME THE WRITINGS OF JULIAN, THE LAST NON-CHRISTIAN ROMAN EMPEROR, AND HIS MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITIC, BISHOP GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS, A CENTRAL FIGURE OF CHRISTIANITY. SUSANNA ELM COMPARES THESE TWO MEN NOT TO DRAW OUT THE OBVIOUS CONTRAST BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE EMPEROR'S NEO-PAGANISM, BUT RATHER TO FIND THEIR COMMON INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL GROUNDING. HER INSIGHTFUL ANALYSIS, SUPPLEMENTED BY HER MAGISTERIAL COMMAND OF SOURCES, DEMONSTRATES THE WAYS IN WHICH BOTH MEN WERE PART OF THE SAME DIALECTICAL WHOLE. ELM RECASTS BOTH JULIAN AND GREGORY AS MEN ENTIRELY OF THEIR TIMES, SHOWING HOW THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN FACT PROVIDED CHRISTIANITY WITH THE IDEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL MATRIX WITHOUT WHICH ITS LONGEVITY AND DYNAMISM WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONCEIVABLE.

THE LAST EMPEROR - 2018

ONE OF THE GREATEST PERIOD DRAMAS EVER COMMITTED TO FILM, THIS SWEEPING CINEMATIC SPECTACLE TELLS THE STORY OF PU YI, THE LAST CHINESE EMPEROR, FROM HIS ELITE ORIGINS IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY TO HIS FORCED ABDICATION IN 1912 AND RETURN TO THE THRONE UNDER JAPANESE RULE. BOTH THE THEATRICAL VERSION (160MINS) AND DIRECTOR'S CUT (209MINS) ARE PRESENTED ON STUNNING NEW DIGITAL PRINTS THAT SPECTACULARLY CAPTURE THE FILM'S EXQUISITE COLOURS AND DETAIL.

**A COMPANION TO THE FLAVIAN AGE OF IMPERIAL ROME** - ANDREW ZISSOS 2016-03-07

A COMPANION TO THE FLAVIAN AGE OF IMPERIAL ROME PROVIDES A SYSTEMATIC AND COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL NUANCES OF THE FLAVIAN AGE (69-96 CE). INCLUDES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OVER TWO DOZEN CLASSICAL STUDIES SCHOLARS ORGANIZED INTO SIX THEMATIC SECTIONS ILLUSTRATES HOW ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL FORCES INTERACTED TO CREATE A VARIETY OF SOCIAL WORLDS WITHIN A COMPOSITE ROMAN EMPIRE CONCLUDES WITH A SERIES OF APPENDICES THAT PROVIDE DETAILED CHRONOLOGICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND AN EXTENSIVE GLOSSARY OF TERMS EXAMINES THE FLAVIAN AGE MORE BROADLY AND INCLUSIVELY THAN EVER BEFORE INCORPORATING COVERAGE OF OFTEN NEGLECTED GROUPS, SUCH AS WOMEN AND NON-ROMANS WITHIN THE EMPIRE

EMPEROR'S PALACE - JING SHI DI ZI 2020-04-08

THE PATH OF DESTINY, THE HEAVENLY DAO. THE SEAL OF MEMORIES, THE SEAL OF BLOOD, JUST WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD IT BE? THE PEAK OF POWER, THE CRUEL TEST. EVERYONE WAS TO BE KILLED, AND THE HEAVENLY DAO WAS TO BE EXECUTED. THE HARD TRAINING OF THE TOP POWERS IN THIS LIFE WAS ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR DIGNITY. THE HEAVENLY EMPEROR WAS BORN, HE WAS BUILT BY THE PEOPLE OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE. HEAVEN AND EARTH WERE TO BE ANNIHILATED, AND THE GREAT DAO WAS TO EXTERMINATE THE HEAVENS!  
☺

*EMPEROR AND ARISTOCRACY IN JAPAN, 1467-1680* - LEE BUTLER 2020-03-23

AN INSTITUTION IN DECLINE, POSSESSING LITTLE POWER IN AN AGE DOMINATED BY WARRIORS? OR A STILL-POTENT SYMBOL OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LEGITIMACY? EMPEROR AND ARISTOCRACY IN JAPAN TRACES THE FATE OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE COURT FROM ITS LOWEST POINT DURING THE TURBULENT, CENTURY-LONG SENGOKU, WHEN THE OLD SOCIETY, BUILT UPON THE STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE OF THE COURT, THE PRIESTHOOD, AND A NARROW WARRIOR ELITE, WAS SHAKEN TO ITS FOUNDATIONS, TO THE TOKUGAWA ERA, WHEN COURT CULTURE DISPLAYED RENEWED VITALITY, AND TEA GATHERINGS, FLOWER ARRANGING, AND ARCHITECTURE FLOURISHED. IN DETERMINING HOW THE COURT MANAGED TO PERSIST AND SURVIVE, BUTLER LOOKS INTO CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTS, DIARIES, AND LETTERS TO REVEAL THE COURT'S INTERNAL POLITICS AND PROTOCOLS, HIERARCHIES, FINANCES, AND CEREMONIAL OBSERVANCES. EMPEROR AND COURTIER ADJUSTED TO THE PROMINENCE OF THE WARRIOR ELITE, EVEN AS THEY HELD ON TO THE IDEOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES BESTOWED BY BIRTH, TRADITION, AND CULTURE. TO THIS HISTORICAL PRECEDENT THE NEW WIELDERS OF

POWER PAID DUTIFUL HOMAGE, EVER MINDFUL THAT RANKS AND TITLES, AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL BLESSING OF THE EMPEROR, WERE ADVANTAGEOUS MARKS OF DISTINCTION.

**THE EMPEROR'S WOKES CLOTHES AND THE ELITE WOKES EFFECT** - JAMIE CORBIN  
2022-03-20

AN ELITE WOKES FAIRY TALE PLAYED OUT TIME AFTER TIME OVER THE PAST CENTURY AS THEIR ALTERNATIVE TO REALITY. WITH REWRITTEN AND ELIMINATED HISTORY THROUGH THEIR MISGUIDED PERCEPTIONS, THEIR TRUE GOAL; POWER AND CONTROL FOR THEIR ELITE CLASS.

**HADRIAN AND THE CITIES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE** - MARY T. BOATWRIGHT 2018-06-05

CITIES THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE FLOURISHED DURING THE REIGN OF HADRIAN (A.D. 117-138), A PHENOMENON THAT NOT ONLY STRENGTHENED AND LEGITIMIZED ROMAN DOMINION OVER ITS POSSESSIONS BUT ALSO REVEALED HADRIAN AS A MASTERFUL NEGOTIATOR OF POWER RELATIONSHIPS. IN THIS COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE VIBRANT URBAN LIFE THAT EXISTED UNDER HADRIAN'S RULE, MARY T. BOATWRIGHT FOCUSES ON THE EMPEROR'S DIRECT INTERACTIONS WITH ROME'S CITIES, EXPLORING THE MANY BENEFACCTIONS FOR WHICH HE WAS CELEBRATED ON COINS AND IN LITERARY WORKS AND INSCRIPTIONS. ALTHOUGH SUCH EVIDENCE IS OFTEN AS IMPRECISE AS IT IS LAUDATORY, ITS COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS, UNDERTAKEN FOR THE FIRST TIME TOGETHER WITH ALL OTHER RELATED MATERIAL, REVEALS THAT OVER 130 CITIES RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE BENEFACCTION DIRECTLY FROM HADRIAN. THE BENEFACCTIONS, MEDIATED BY MEMBERS OF THE EMPIRE'S MUNICIPAL ELITE, TOUCHED ALL ASPECTS OF URBAN LIFE; THEY INCLUDED IMPERIAL PATRONAGE OF TEMPLES AND HERO TOMBS, ENGINEERING PROJECTS, PROMOTION OF ATHLETIC AND CULTURAL COMPETITIONS, SETTLEMENT OF BOUNDARY DISPUTES, AND REMISSION OF TAXES. EVEN AS HE MANIFESTED IMPERIAL BENEVOLENCE, HADRIAN REAFFIRMED THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND TRADITIONS OF CITIES FROM SPAIN TO SYRIA, THE MAJOR EXCEPTION BEING HIS HARSH TREATMENT OF JERUSALEM, WHICH SPARKED THE THIRD JEWISH REVOLT. OVERALL, THE ASSEMBLED EVIDENCE POINTS TO HADRIAN'S RECOGNITION OF IMPERIAL MUNIFICENCE TO CITIES AS ESSENTIAL TO THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE EMPIRE. BOATWRIGHT'S TREATMENT OF HADRIAN AND ROME'S CITIES IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT ENCOMPASSES EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE, DRAWING INSIGHTS FROM ARCHAEOLOGY AND ART HISTORY AS WELL AS LITERATURE, ECONOMY, AND RELIGION.

**THE EVERLASTING EMPIRE** - YURI PINES 2012-05-27

ESTABLISHED IN 221 BCE, THE CHINESE EMPIRE LASTED FOR 2,132 YEARS BEFORE BEING REPLACED BY THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN 1912. DURING ITS TWO MILLENNIA, THE EMPIRE ENDURED INTERNAL WARS, FOREIGN INCURSIONS, ALIEN OCCUPATIONS, AND DEVASTATING REBELLIONS--YET FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL, SOCIOPOLITICAL, AND CULTURAL FEATURES OF THE EMPIRE REMAINED INTACT. THE EVERLASTING EMPIRE TRACES THE ROOTS OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE'S EXCEPTIONAL LONGEVITY AND UNPARALLELED POLITICAL DURABILITY, AND SHOWS HOW LESSONS FROM THE IMPERIAL PAST ARE RELEVANT FOR CHINA TODAY. YURI PINES DEMONSTRATES THAT THE EMPIRE SURVIVED AND ADJUSTED TO A VARIETY OF DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES THROUGH A PECULIAR COMBINATION OF RIGID

IDEOLOGICAL PREMISES AND THEIR FLEXIBLE IMPLEMENTATION. THE EMPIRE'S MAJOR POLITICAL ACTORS AND NEIGHBORS SHARED ITS FUNDAMENTAL IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES, SUCH AS UNITY UNDER A SINGLE MONARCH--HENCE, EVEN THE EMPIRE'S STRONGEST DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN FOES ADOPTED THE SYSTEM OF IMPERIAL RULE. YET DETAILS OF THIS RULE WERE CONSTANTLY NEGOTIATED AND ADJUSTED. PINES SHOWS HOW DEEP TENSIONS BETWEEN POLITICAL ACTORS INCLUDING THE EMPEROR, THE LITERATI, LOCAL ELITES, AND REBELLIOUS COMMONERS ACTUALLY ENABLED THE EMPIRE'S BASIC INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO REMAIN CRITICALLY VITAL AND ADAPTABLE TO EVER-CHANGING SOCIOPOLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES. AS CONTEMPORARY CHINA MOVES TOWARD A NEW PERIOD OF PROSPERITY AND POWER IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, PINES ARGUES THAT THE LEGACY OF THE EMPIRE MAY BECOME AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FORCE IN SHAPING THE NATION'S FUTURE TRAJECTORY.

**PROSOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES ON THE COURT ELITE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE (4TH CENTURY A. D.)** - SZYMON OLSZANIEC 2013

THE WORK PRESENTED CONCLUDES AUTHOR'S LONG INTEREST IN THE PALACE ELITE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE 4TH CENTURY A.D. HE TRIES TO FILL THE LACK OF MODERN MONOGRAPH DEDICATED TO THE GROUP OF FOUR HEADS OF PALACE ADMINISTRATION: QUAESTOR (QSP), MASTER OF OFFICE'S (MAG. OFF.), COUNT OF THE SACRED LARGESSE (CSL) AND COUNT OF THE PRIVY PURSE (CRP), WHO FORMED THE EMPEROR'S COUNCIL WHICH MET IN THE CONSISTORY OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE, THUS OFTEN BEING REFERRED TO ASCOMITES CONSISTORIANI. THE WORK USES THE ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF BIOGRAMS. THEY CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT: NAMES, SOCIAL AND REGIONAL BACKGROUND, CAREER, RELIGION, FAMILY AND CONNECTIONS, EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, AND COLLECTS LITERATURE CONCERNING THEM. TRANSLATED BY: JACEK WEŁNIAK AND MAŁGORZATA STACHOWSKA-WEŁNIAK

**THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE NEW TESTAMENT** - WARREN CARTER 2010-09-01

AN INDISPENSABLE INTRODUCTION TO ROMAN SOCIETY, CULTURE, LAW, POLITICS, RELIGION, AND DAILY LIFE AS THEY RELATE TO THE STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. THE ROMAN EMPIRE FORMED THE CENTRAL CONTEXT IN WHICH THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS WRITTEN. ANYONE WHO WISHES TO UNDERSTAND THE NEW TESTAMENT TEXTS MUST BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIETAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF ROMAN RULE. MUCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT DEALS WITH ENABLING ITS READERS TO NEGOTIATE, IN AN ARRAY OF DIFFERENT MANNERS, THIS PERVASIVE IMPERIAL CONTEXT. THIS BOOK WILL HELP THE READER SEE HOW SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND DAILY PRACTICES IN THE ROMAN WORLD ILLUMINE SO MUCH OF THE CONTENT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT MESSAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, TO GRASP WHAT PAUL WAS SAYING ABOUT FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT TEMPLES IN THE ROMAN WORLD WERE NOT "CHURCHES," AND THAT THEY FUNCTIONED AS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND GASTRONOMIC CENTERS, WHOSE RELIGIOUS DEALINGS WERE EMBEDDED WITHIN THESE OTHER FUNCTIONS. BRIEF IN PRESENTATION YET BROAD IN SCOPE, THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE NEW TESTAMENT: AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE WILL INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO THE INFORMATION AND IDEAS ESSENTIAL TO COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE WORLD IN WHICH

EARLY CHRISTIANITY WAS BORN.

THE RULER'S HOUSE - HARRIET FERTIK 2019-12-03

HOW ROMANS USED THE WORLD OF THE HOUSE TO INTERPRET AND INTERROGATE THE ROLE OF THE EMPEROR. THE JULIO-CLAUDIAN DYNASTY, BEGINNING WITH THE RISE OF AUGUSTUS IN THE LATE FIRST CENTURY BCE AND ENDING WITH THE DEATH OF NERO IN 68 CE, WAS THE FIRST RULING FAMILY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. ELITE ROMANS HAD ALWAYS USED DOMESTIC SPACE TO ASSERT AND PROMOTE THEIR AUTHORITY, BUT WHAT WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE EMPEROR'S HOUSE? IN *THE RULER'S HOUSE*, HARRIET FERTIK CONSIDERS HOW THE EMPEROR'S HOUSEHOLD AND THE SPACE HE CALLED HOME SHAPED ROMAN CONCEPTIONS OF POWER AND ONE-MAN RULE. WHILE PREVIOUS STUDIES OF POWER AND PRIVACY IN JULIO-CLAUDIAN ROME HAVE EMPHASIZED THE EMPEROR'S INTRUSIONS INTO THE PRIVATE LIVES OF HIS FELLOW ELITES, THIS BOOK FOCUSES ON ROMAN IDEAS OF THE RULER'S LACK OF PRIVACY. FERTIK ARGUES THAT HOUSES WERE SPACES THAT ROMANS USED TO CONTEST POWER AND TO CONFRONT THE CONTINGENCY OF THEIR OWN AND OTHERS' CLAIMS TO RULE. DESCRIBING HOW THE JULIO-CLAUDIAN PERIOD PROVOKED ANXIETIES NOT ONLY ABOUT THE RULER'S POWER BUT ALSO ABOUT HIS VULNERABILITY, SHE REVEALS THAT THE RULER'S HOUSE OFFERED A POINT OF ENTRY FOR REFLECTING ON THE INTERDEPENDENCE AND INTIMACY OF RULER AND RULED. FERTIK EXPLORES THE WORLD OF THE ROMAN HOUSE, FROM FAMILY BONDS AND ELITE SELF-DISPLAY TO BODILY FUNCTIONS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN MASTERS AND SLAVES. SHE DRAWS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SOURCES, INCLUDING EPIC AND TRAGEDY, HISTORIOGRAPHY AND PHILOSOPHY, AND ART AND ARCHITECTURE, AND SHE INVESTIGATES SHARED CONCEPTIONS OF POWER IN ELITE LITERATURE AND EVERYDAY LIFE IN ROMAN POMPEII. EXAMINING POLITICAL CULTURE AND THOUGHT IN EARLY IMPERIAL ROME, *THE RULER'S HOUSE* CONFRONTS THE FRAGILITY OF ONE-MAN RULE.

*THE EMPEROR COMMODUS* - JOHN S. MCHUGH 2015-08-31

COMMODUS IS SYNONYMOUS WITH DEBAUCHERY AND MEGALOMANIA, BEST REMEMBERED FOR FIGHTING AS A GLADIATOR. RIDICULED AND MALIGNED BY HISTORIANS SINCE HIS OWN TIME, MODERN POPULAR CULTURE KNOWS HIM AS THE PATRICIDAL VILLAIN IN RIDLEY SCOTT'S *GLADIATOR*. MUCH OF HIS INFAMY IS CLEARLY BASED ON FACT, BUT IS THIS THE FULL STORY? JOHN MCHUGH REVIEWS THE ANCIENT EVIDENCE TO PRESENT THE FIRST FULL-LENGTH BIOGRAPHY OF COMMODUS IN ENGLISH. HIS TWELVE-YEAR REIGN IS SET IN ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT, SHOWING THAT THE 'KINGDOM OF GOLD' HE SUPPOSEDLY INHERITED WAS ACTUALLY AN EMPIRE DEVASTATED BY PLAGUE AND WAR. OPENLY AUTOCRATIC, COMMODUS COMPROMISED THE PRIVILEGES AND VESTED INTERESTS OF THE SENATORIAL CLIQUE, WHO THEREFORE PLOTTED TO MURDER HIM. SURVIVING REPEATED CONSPIRACIES ONLY CONVINCED COMMODUS THAT HE WAS UNDER DIVINE PROTECTION, INCREASINGLY IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS HERCULES REINCARNATE. THIS AND HIS ANTICS IN THE ARENA ALLOWED HIS SENATORIAL ENEMIES TO PRESENT COMMODUS AS A MAD TYRANT TO JUSTIFY HIS MURDER, WHICH THEY FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN ARRANGING BY HAVING HIM STRANGLING BY A

WRESTLER.

OFFICIAL POWER AND LOCAL ELITES IN THE ROMAN PROVINCES - RADA VARGA 2016-11-25

PRESENTING A NEW AND REVEALING OVERVIEW OF THE RULING CLASSES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, THIS VOLUME EXPLORES ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE OFFICIAL STATE STRUCTURES OF ROME AND LOCAL PROVINCIAL ELITES. THE CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF THE VOLUME IS TO PRESENT AS COMPLEX A PICTURE AS POSSIBLE OF THE PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIPS AND THEIR MANY AND VARIED RESPONSES TO THE OFFICIAL STATE STRUCTURES. THE PERSPECTIVES FROM WHICH ISSUES ARE APPROACHED BY THE CONTRIBUTORS ARE AS MULTIPLE AS THE REALITIES OF THE ROMAN WORLD: FROM HISTORICAL AND EPIGRAPHIC STUDIES TO RESEARCH OF PHILOLOGICAL AND LINGUISTIC INTERPRETATIONS, AND FROM ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSES TO DIRECT INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MATERIAL CULTURE. WHILE SOME LOCAL POTENTATES TOOK PRIDE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH ROME AND THEIR USE OF LATIN, EXHIBITING THEIR ALLEGIANCES PUBLICLY AS WELL AS PRIVATELY, OTHERS PREFERRED TO KEEP THIS DISPLAY SOLELY FOR PUBLIC MANIFESTATION. THESE COMPLEX AND COMPLEMENTARY PIECES OF RESEARCH PROVIDE AN IN-DEPTH IMAGE OF THE POWER MECHANISMS WITHIN THE ROMAN STATE. THE CHRONOLOGICAL SPAN OF THE VOLUME IS FROM ROME'S REPUBLICAN CONQUEST OF GREECE TO THE CHANGING WORLD OF THE FOURTH AND FIFTH CENTURIES AD, WHEN A NEW ECCLESIASTICAL ELITE BEGAN TO EMERGE.

**CONSTRUCTING AUTOCRACY** - MATTHEW B. ROLLER 2001

ROME'S TRANSITION FROM A REPUBLICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT TO AN IMPERIAL REGIME COMPRISED MORE THAN A CENTURY OF CIVIL UPHEAVAL AND RAPID INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE. YET THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RULING DYNASTY, CENTERED AROUND A SINGLE LEADER, CAME AS A CULTURAL AND POLITICAL SHOCK TO ROME'S ARISTOCRACY, WHO HAD SHARED POWER IN THE PREVIOUS POLITICAL ORDER. HOW DID THE IMPERIAL REGIME MANAGE TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AND HOW DID THE ROMAN ELITES FROM THE TIME OF JULIUS CAESAR TO NERO MAKE SENSE OF IT? IN THIS COMPELLING BOOK, MATTHEW ROLLER REVEALS A "DIALOGICAL" PROCESS AT WORK, IN WHICH WRITERS AND PHILOSOPHERS VIGOROUSLY NEGOTIATED AND CONTESTED THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE EMPEROR'S AUTHORITY, DESPITE THE CONSENSUS THAT HE WAS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY FIGURE IN ROMAN SOCIETY. ROLLER SEEKS EVIDENCE FOR THIS "THINKING OUT" OF THE NEW ORDER IN A WIDE RANGE OF REPUBLICAN AND IMPERIAL AUTHORS, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON LUCAN AND SENECA THE YOUNGER. HE SHOWS HOW ELITES ASSESSED THE IMPACT OF THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM ON TRADITIONAL ARISTOCRATIC ETHICS AND EXAMINES HOW SEVERAL LONGSTANDING AUTHORITY RELATIONSHIPS IN ROMAN SOCIETY-- THOSE OF MASTER TO SLAVE, FATHER TO SON, AND GIFT-CREDITOR TO GIFT-DEBTOR-- BECAME COMPETING MODELS FOR HOW THE EMPEROR DID OR SHOULD RELATE TO HIS ARISTOCRATIC SUBJECTS. BY REVEALING THIS IDEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY TO BE NOT MERELY REACTIVE BUT ALSO CONSTITUTIVE OF THE NEW ORDER, ROLLER CONTRIBUTES TO ONGOING DEBATES ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF THE ROMAN IMPERIAL SYSTEM AND ABOUT THE "POLITICS" OF LITERATURE.