



The Fall of the Roman Empire: A New History of Rome and the Barbarians

By *Peter Heather*

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The Fall of the Roman Empire: A New History of Rome and the Barbarians By Peter Heather

The death of the Roman Empire is one of the perennial mysteries of world history. Now, in this groundbreaking book, Peter Heather proposes a stunning new solution: Centuries of imperialism turned the neighbors Rome called barbarians into an enemy capable of dismantling an Empire that had dominated their lives for so long.

A leading authority on the late Roman Empire and on the barbarians, Heather relates the extraordinary story of how Europe's barbarians, transformed by centuries of contact with Rome on every possible level, eventually pulled the empire apart. He shows first how the Huns overturned the existing strategic balance of power on Rome's European frontiers, to force the Goths and others to seek refuge inside the Empire. This prompted two generations of struggle, during which new barbarian coalitions, formed in response to Roman hostility, brought the Roman west to its knees. The Goths first destroyed a Roman army at the battle of Hadrianople in 378, and went on to sack Rome in 410. The Vandals spread devastation in Gaul and Spain, before conquering North Africa, the breadbasket of the Western Empire, in 439. We then meet Attila the Hun, whose reign of terror swept from Constantinople to Paris, but whose death in 453 ironically precipitated a final desperate phase of Roman collapse, culminating in the Vandals' defeat of the massive Byzantine Armada: the west's last chance for survival.

Peter Heather convincingly argues that the Roman Empire was not on the brink of social or moral collapse. What brought it to an end were the barbarians.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A rich and dramatic synthesis of the latest research on Gibbon's old story.... The drama of Mr. Heather's book lies not just in the world-changing story he has to tell, but in his behind-the-scenes view of how historians work. Like a master detective, Mr. Heather employs the most various techniques--everything from pollen sampling to archaeology to literary criticism--to wring the truth from the reticent past.... What Mr. Heather offers is not easy analogies but a realization of the complex strangeness of the past--the achievement of a great historian."--Adam Kirsch, *New York Sun*

"Like a late Roman emperor, Heather is determined to impose order on a fabric that is always threatening to fragment and collapse into confusion; unlike most late Roman emperors, he succeeds triumphantly."--*The Times of London*

"Gibbon's 'awful revolution'--the decline and fall of the Roman Empire in the West--still casts a pall. Yet, as Peter Heather's brilliant mixture of rapid flowing narrative and deeply thought analysis fully brings out, it still exerts a pull too. 'Lepcisgate', Alaric's Goths, and Attila's Huns are all thrown into Heather's melting pot along with Roman imperial aims and mismanagement. The outcome is a conclusion Heather finds pleasing--and Gibbon would not have despised--that Roman imperialism was ultimately responsible for its own demise."--Paul Cartledge, University of Cambridge

"To a period that has often appeared as impenetrable as it is momentous, Peter Heather brings a rare combination of scholarship and flair for narrative. With this book, a powerful searchlight has been shone upon the shadow-dimmed end of Rome's western empire."--Tom Holland, author of *Rubicon: The Last Years of the Roman Republic*

"Deftly covering the necessary economic and political realities of decline and fall, Heather also presents the stories and the characters of this tumultuous epoch, in a colorful and enthralling narrative."--*The Independent*

"Masterful, lucid.... Always rewarding."--*ForeWord Magazine*

Review

'A rare combination of scholarship and flair for narrative. With this book, a powerful searchlight has been

shone upon the shadow-dimmed end of Rome's western empire' - Tom Holland

'a brilliant mixture of rapid flowing narrative and deeply thought analysis' - Paul Cartledge

From the Back Cover

In this ground-breaking book, Peter Heather proposes a new solution to one of the greatest mysteries of history: the demise of the Roman Empire. Mixing authoritative analysis with thrilling narrative, he brings fresh insight into the panorama of the empire's end, from the bejewelled splendour of the Imperial court to the dripping forests of "Barbaricum". He examines the successes of the Roman Empire and uses a new understanding of its continued strength and enduring limitations to show how Europe's barbarians, transformed by centuries of contact with Rome, eventually pulled it apart.

'Provides the reader with drama and lurid colour as well as analysis. Like a late Roman emperor, he is determined to impose order on a fabric that is always threatening to fragment and collapse into confusion; unlike most late Roman emperors, he succeeds triumphantly.' *Sunday Times*

'Heather presents the stories and the characters of this tumultuous epoch, in a colourful and enthralling narrative...an account full of enjoyably anachronistic flourishes, keen wit, and an infectious relish for the period.' *Independent On Sunday*

'The story is an exciting one, bursting with action, brutality... a gripping, and balanced account... one can recommend to anyone, whether specialist or interested amateur.' *History Today*

'A fascinating story, full of ups and downs and memorable characters.' *Spectator*

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Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *The Fall of the Roman Empire: A New History of Rome and the Barbarians*. Try to make the book *The Fall of the Roman Empire: A New History of Rome and the Barbarians* as your close friend. It means that it can be your friend when you really feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So, let us make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Kevin Ortiz:

With this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you must do is just spending your time little but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of the books in the top record in your reading list is usually *The Fall of the Roman Empire: A New History of Rome and the Barbarians*. This book which can be qualified as *The Hungry Hills* can get you closer in turning into precious

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