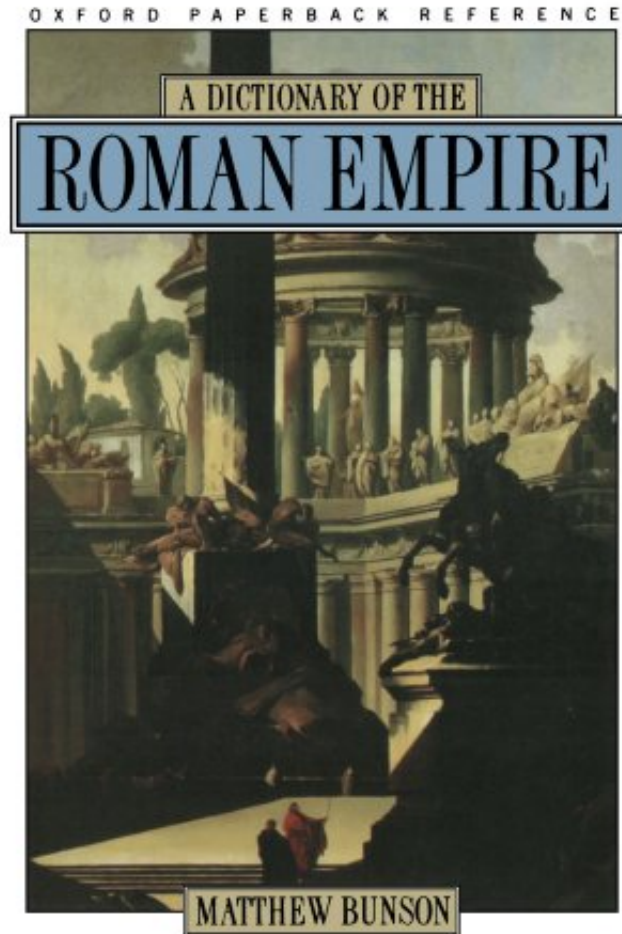


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## A Dictionary of the Roman Empire

*Matthew Bunson*

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**Matthew Bunson : A Dictionary of the Roman Empire** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of the Roman Empire:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not perfect, but an overall good buy By Terry R. Reynolds If you need a lexicon of persons, places, things, and events of the Roman Empire, this appears to be a decent attempt to provide such a reference for historians and enthusiasts. Almost every major figure during or leading up to Rome's classical "Imperial" period is covered, and there are articles covering minor figures, places, institutions, events, and other things. I did spot a couple errors, there are some important relevant omissions, and some entries are a bit briefer than I would like. But, while it's not perfect, I am surprised to find how complete and mostly accurate it is for a

single volume in its first edition.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Must Have for Roman History Enthusiasts.By A CustomerFrom the Abdagaeses to Zstommas, a superb collection of entries on the peoples places and things that made up the Roman world, including those who influenced but never fell within the sway of Roman power. Loads and loads of superb information, well cross referenced. By no means flawless, however. The illustrations are a mere afterthought and add little to the volume's presentation. Some of the articles are curiously stilted and awkwardly constructed like there was a rush to get them in under a deadline. A caveat to anyone looking for an all in one volume on Roman history, this dictionary covers the Empire only, with events and characters from the Republic and Kingdom presented only in reference to how they contributed to the Imperial Epoch or not at all.All in all, a great buy for anyone building a Roman history library. Ave Roma Aerterna!!!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Enormously helpfulBy Belinda MilnerI have been reading Gibbon's DECLINE AND FALL, but I suffer from a major disability: I have never studied Roman history at all. Therefore, while I know some names, I don't have a sharp understanding of the time periods under consideration.In reading Gibbon, I have been keeping this volume by my side, and it has been more useful than I had possibly imagined that it would be. I haven't gotten into the later periods that Gibbon covers, but at least on the earlier periods of the Roman Empire, this dictionary has had entries on nearly everything that I have wanted to look up.I highly recommend it.

The extraordinarily rich cultural legacy of the Roman world has had a profound affect world civilization. Roman achievements in architecture, law, politics, literature, war, and philosophy serve as the foundation of modern Western society. Now, for the first time in an A-Z format, A Dictionary of the Roman Empire assembles the people, places, events, and ideas of this remarkable period in one easy-to-use source. With over 1,900 entries covering more than five hundred years of Roman history, from Julius Caesar and the Gallic Wars (59-51 B.C.) to the fall of Romulus Augustus, the last Roman emperor (476 A.D.), this accessible guide provides quick reference to one of the most studied periods of all antiquity. Every aspect of Roman life is included. Here are profiles of the great emperors, such as Marcus Aurelius, one of the most profoundly intellectual monarchs in western civilization, and the aberrant Gaius Caligula, who, after draining the Roman treasury with his eccentric behavior, made it a capital crime for citizens not to bequeath him their estates. Informative entries describe the complex workings of Roman government, such as census taking, the creation of civil service, coinage, and the venerable institution of the Senate, and offer insight into the various trends and cultural tastes that developed throughout Roman history. For example, a discussion on baths, the most common type of building in the Roman Empire, demonstrates the unique intermingling of luxury, community, recreation, and, in the provinces, an association with Rome, that served as the focus of any city aspiring to greatness. Other entries describe the practice of paganism, marriage and divorce, ludi (public games held to entertain the Roman populace), festivals of the Roman year, and gluttony (epitomized by famous gourmands such as the emperor Vitellius, who according to the historian Suetonius, lived for food, banqueting three or four times a day, routinely vomiting up his meal and starting over). Also featured are longer essays on such topics as art and architecture, gods and goddesses, and the military, as well as a chronology, a short glossary of Roman terms, and appendices listing the emperors of the Empire and diagram the often intertwined family trees of ruling dynasties. Comprehensive, authoritative, and illustrated with over sixty illustrations and maps, A Dictionary of the Roman Empire provides easy access to the remarkable civilization upon which Western society was built.

"Broad in scope and easy to use, this is a strong basic survey."--The Book WatchAbout the AuthorMatthew Bunson, a long-time student of the Roman Empire, is the author of over a dozen books, including the forthcoming Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages. He lives in Las Vegas, Nevada.