



Ancient Rome: From the Earliest Times Down to 476 A.D.

Robert Franklin Pennell

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Ancient Rome: From the Earliest Times Down to 476 A.D. Details

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From Reader Review Ancient Rome: From the Earliest Times Down to 476 A.D. for online ebook

Eric says

As many have noted, this is an old textbook and reads as such. It's dry but it is an excellent reference book and guide for further study with its detailed account of names and dates.

Jerry Mrizek says

Not much here although I suppose that shouldn't be surprising considering the expansive scope of the book.

Greg says

A quick brief short history of rome. If you know much about the subject this is not the book for you.

Joseph Szabo says

There is something about Winter, which is when I read Ancient Rome, that compels me to read about unforgiving times.

Winter in itself is unforgiving, it's rough on the bones and the senses and takes no pity on the frail. This is why I picked up this little dozy and started reading, for the Romans themselves were very unforgiving. That is not to say the Romans were barbarians. I will not play the Ego Game which implies that since I was born in a gentler time that they were any less of then person I am. However, that being said, they weren't exactly the choirboys of their time either.

I wanted to read about battles and blood, great statesmen and mad emperors, towering deeds and shocking horror.

I found it here.

It's puzzling no one has written about it on GoodReads because this is a jewel of a book, not only informative and well written but, most importantly, damned entertaining.

Do yourself a favor, pick it up, it's everything you'll want: a bloody, unforgiving time.

Clay says

This was something I downloaded on a whim after reading something online about Roman history. I wanted

a book which covered early Rome's sweeping thousand years (give or take) of history without being a thousand or more pages or taking up multiple volumes. All I really wanted was the basics - an introduction, if you will. Robert Franklin Pennell's book did the trick. It's very bare bones but it covers all the events, locations and individuals key to Rome's rise and fall.

Despite being published in 1890, this book was easily enjoyed by my 21st century vocabulary. Sure, it's a little dry at times, but it's Roman history - a thousand year's worth - so I'll cut it some slack. Pennell writes history pretty well. He doesn't get too bogged down in minute detail and covers his topics in short little segments which are easy to devour in quick installments.

If you're looking for detail on the individuals and events which make up Roman history, you'd be wise to look elsewhere. But if you just want a quick refresher on Roman history, government, religion and politics - not to mention the men and women who shaped each - this is a good place to start. The foundation and tribal separations of early Rome are covered through the founding of the republic, the birth of Roman self government, the rise of the emperors, and the catastrophic collapse of the empire. As mentioned, there's not a lot of detail, but there are plenty of facts and dates and this makes an excellent reference source for those little factoids.

The writing is efficient and to the point. Pennell doesn't ramble or waste much time. The text is easily accessible to most reading levels and there are only a handful of instances where the author offers opinions and personal remarks. On the whole, the book is straight up history recitation.

I liked it for what it was despite a few dry spells. Three stars.

Logan says

Hometown lovin': The preface is signed by the author at Riverside, California in July 1890.

I wonder what the author means when he says that "the Iapygians...crowded into the southeastern corner of the peninsula (Calabria)," when Calabria is the "toebox" of the boot, which I would call the southwestern corner of the peninsula.

Russell says

Pennell wrote this in 1890 to summarize some 1,000+ years of Roman history in 232 pages and he pulls it off. I found it an easy read, full of interesting details about not only the times, but the major individuals that shaped the course of the Roman Republic and Empire. Pennell's writings clearly show he really liked Julius Caesar, casting the would be Emperor in favorable light. This did not detract from the book at all, indeed, it adds a certain charm to it; a reminder that not only is history written by the victors, but also by the historians :)

This is not Gibbon, nor does he try to be, but it is a solid overview of the vast Roman history.

Recommended.

Alberto Monroy says

This book, with its simple and explanatory narrative, served its purpose. I was looking for a general run down of the history of Rome, with the highlights of its important people and especially the great generals. Now I have a few more names to study individually, like Stillico, who fought off, as long as he could, the great Allaric. Really enjoyed this book.

Noah says

This book is a great beginners guide to the Roman Empire. Anyone who wants to learn about Rome and doesn't know where to start, this will give you the best, most concise, and comprehensive breakdown of the Empire highlights from its origins to it's fall.
