

Rome Against the Setting Sun: The Epic City and the End of an Empire



Rome: Against a Setting Sun by Shannon Karels

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 366 pages



Rome, the Eternal City, has captivated the imaginations of people for centuries. Its rise to power, its golden age, and its decline have been the subject of countless books, movies, and television shows. But what is it about Rome that makes it so fascinating? And what can we learn from its history?

In his book *Rome Against the Setting Sun*, Adrian Goldsworthy provides a comprehensive and engaging account of the city of Rome from its foundation to its fall in the fifth century CE. Goldsworthy traces the city's rise to power, its golden age, and its decline, all against the backdrop of the changing political and cultural landscape of the ancient world.

Goldsworthy begins his book with the founding of Rome in 753 BCE. According to legend, the city was founded by Romulus and Remus, twin brothers who were raised by a she-wolf. The city quickly grew into a

powerful force, and by the end of the third century BCE, it had conquered all of Italy.

The Roman Republic was a period of great expansion and prosperity. The Romans conquered vast territories, including Greece, Egypt, and North Africa. They also developed a sophisticated system of government and law. The Roman Republic reached its height in the first century BCE, during the reign of Augustus Caesar.

The Roman Empire was a period of even greater power and prosperity. The Romans expanded their empire to include all of Europe, much of Asia, and parts of Africa. They also built a vast network of roads, aqueducts, and other public works. The Roman Empire reached its height in the second century CE, during the reign of Hadrian.

However, the Roman Empire was not to last. By the third century CE, the empire began to decline. The Romans faced a number of challenges, including economic problems, political instability, and military threats. The empire was eventually divided into two halves, the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire. The Western Roman Empire collapsed in the fifth century CE, and the Eastern Roman Empire continued to exist for another thousand years.

Rome Against the Setting Sun is a magisterial work that provides a comprehensive and engaging account of one of the most important cities in history. Goldsworthy's book is a must-read for anyone who is interested in ancient Rome, the Roman Empire, or the history of the ancient world.

Why Rome Matters

Rome is more than just an ancient city. It is a symbol of Western civilization. The Roman Empire was one of the most important empires in history, and its legacy can still be seen today in our laws, our language, and our culture.

There are many reasons why Rome matters. Here are just a few:

- **Rome was a pioneer in government and law.** The Roman Republic developed a sophisticated system of government that included a senate, a popular assembly, and a system of checks and balances. The Romans also developed a comprehensive system of law that is still used as the basis for many legal systems today.
- **Rome was a center of culture and learning.** The Romans were great patrons of the arts and sciences. They built magnificent temples, theaters, and baths. They also founded libraries and universities. Roman culture had a profound influence on the development of Western civilization.
- **Rome was a force for peace and stability.** The Roman Empire brought peace and stability to Europe and the Mediterranean region for centuries. The Romans built a vast network of roads and aqueducts that connected the different parts of the empire. They also established a professional army that defended the empire from its enemies.

Rome is a city with a rich and complex history. It is a city that has been both a source of inspiration and a cautionary tale. Rome's story is a reminder that even the greatest empires can fall. But it is also a reminder that the legacy of a great city can endure for centuries.

Rome Against the Setting Sun is a must-read for anyone who is interested in ancient Rome, the Roman Empire, or the history of the ancient world. Goldsworthy's book is a comprehensive and engaging account of one of the most important cities in history. Rome's story is a reminder that even the greatest empires can fall. But it is also a reminder that the legacy of a great city can endure for centuries.

As the sun sets on Rome, we can reflect on the city's long and storied history. Rome has been a beacon of civilization for centuries, and its legacy will continue to inspire future generations.



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