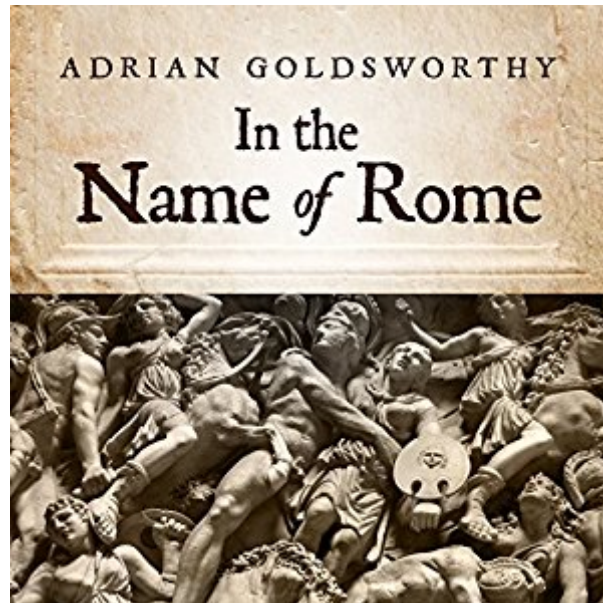


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In The Name Of Rome: The Men Who Won The Roman Empire



Synopsis

Adrian Goldsworthy has received wide acclaim for his exceptional writing on the Roman Empire - including high praise from the acclaimed military historian and author John Keegan - and here he offers a new perspective on the empire by focusing on its greatest generals, including Scipio Africanus, Marius, Pompey, Caesar, and Titus. Each chapter paints a fascinating portrait of a single general, offering in-depth insight into his leadership skills and victories as well as each one's pioneering strategies, many of which are still used today. In the process this absorbing, accessible history tells the complete story of Roman warfare, from the bitter struggle with Carthage in the third century BC to the last desperate attempt to win back the Western Empire in the sixth century AD.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 17 hours and 48 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: February 23, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01BNV6BT8

Best Sellers Rank: #31 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Ancient #56 in Books > History > Europe > Italy #99 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Rome

Customer Reviews

Goldsworthy successfully draws a picture of how Roman generals actually commanded their armies. This book is in similar style to Goldsworthy's first book "The Roman Army at War", which covers how the Roman Army actually fought its battles. Besides the story of individual generals, this book also traces the development of the Roman style of command as it evolved along with changing Roman society. The story starts with Fabius Maximus and Claudius Marcellus who are elected leaders of citizen soldiers in the Second Punic War and ends with Belisarius, a member of the Imperial household, who is general of an army of unruly mercenary cavalry and questionable infantry. A definite "Roman", style of command emerges which Goldsworthy then follows past the end of the Roman world and into modern times through leaders like Gustavus Adolphus, du Picq and especially Napoleon. The main Roman leaders covered in the book are: Fabius Maximus (2nd Punic War) Claudius Marcellus (2nd Punic War) Scipio Africanus (2nd Punic War) Aemilius Paullus

(Conquest of Macedonia)Scipio Aemilianus (Numantia)Gaius Marius (Jugurthine War / Cimbri & Teutones)Quintus Sertorius (Roman Civil war in Spain)Pompey the Great (Conquest of the East)Julius Caesar (Conquest of Gaul)There is also a chapter on Pompey vs. Caesar in the Civil War.

Roman-era expert Adrian Goldsworthy has written an outstanding history of seven centuries of Roman generalship with his latest volume, *In the Name of Rome: The Men Who Won the Roman Empire*. This is Goldsworthy's first volume that is focused primarily on individuals, rather than organizational studies of the Roman Army, but he handles the material deftly and brings these characters into sharp focus as individuals, rather than as mere ciphers. Goldsworthy also attempts to divine general lessons about the nature of the Roman command style from the behavior of these generals, many of whom are not well-known to modern readers. Each chapter in this volume details the career of one or two generals in a given period and the chapters are arranged sequentially, covering the period from the Second Punic War to the 6th Century A.D. Generally, Goldsworthy covers each of these Roman commanders in 25-30 pages as well as providing background material about contemporary conflicts and leaders. It is particularly impressive that Goldsworthy has been able to construct such a rich narrative on these generals, given the fragmentary and incomplete nature of the historical record. The chapters on Sertorius and Corbulo were particularly enlightening. Readers may also note that Goldsworthy's discussion of the Emperor Julian's generalship is far less complementary - although probably more accurate - than some modern accounts that attempt to rank him alongside Julius Caesar. Goldsworthy disputes the oft-held opinion that Roman generals were military amateurs and instead depicts them as professional public figures who alternated between military, civic and political roles.

In The Name of Rome by Adrian Goldsworthy presents summary biographies of fifteen Roman generals from roughly 200 BC through 565 AD. Subjects include not only many of the better known Roman generals from the Republican era (Scipio Africanus, Marius, Pompey, and Julius Caesar) but also many lesser known generals from both the Republican and Imperial eras (from Fabius and Marcellus who checked Hannibal's advance in Italy to Julian the Apostate who held back the Germanic invaders in Gaul in the 350s AD and Belisarius who battled the Persians on behalf of the Byzantine Empire after the fall of Rome. In addition to the chronological events and biographical materials on the primary actors, Goldsworthy presents, as an almost subliminal subplot, his analysis of the changes in Roman government that led to the fall of Rome. Rather than detail the lives of the

fifteen generals, I plan to outline this analysis in the following paragraphs. From about AD 200 on, Emperors were largely made and deposed by the army. This pattern had several effects on both the military and government of Rome. 1. Emperors were generally insecure in their positions. Having been placed in power by force of arms, they were inclined to be on the lookout for other generals who might attempt to follow the same path to power. To prevent rival generals from developing power bases in the army, Emperors spent more and more time in direct command of the army in the field. 2. Prior to AD 200, larger provinces were garrisoned by up to four legions. This was a considerable force and could become the power base for a potential rival. To reduce this potential threat, Emperors reduced the sizes of provincial garrisons by either transferring forces or subdividing the larger provinces.

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