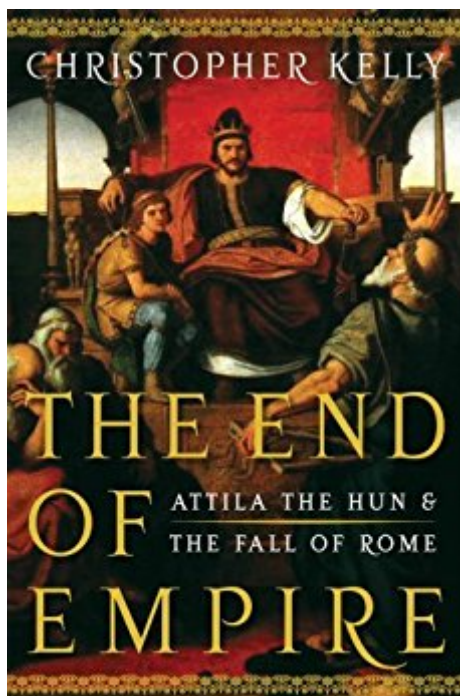


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The End Of Empire: Attila The Hun & The Fall Of Rome



Synopsis

"A thoughtful and sophisticated account of a notoriously complicated and controversial period."
—R. I. Moore, Times Literary Supplement
History remembers Attila, the leader of the Huns, as the Romans perceived him: a savage barbarian brutally inflicting terror on whoever crossed his path. Following Attila and the Huns from the steppes of Kazakhstan to the court of Constantinople, Christopher Kelly portrays Attila in a compelling new light, uncovering an unlikely marriage proposal, a long-standing relationship with a treacherous Roman general, and a thwarted assassination plot. We see Attila as both a master warrior and an astute strategist whose rule was threatening but whose sudden loss of power was even more so. The End of Empire is an original exploration of the clash between empire and barbarity in the ancient world, full of contemporary resonance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What I liked about this book is that there's a great well narrated story that decorates a fascinating and complex historical analysis. The writer includes just the right amounts of historiography, archeology, philosophy, and political theory to describe the rise of the Huns and the consequences

for the Roman Empire(s). Who has time to read The Game of Thrones when there are books like this available? Inspired- its on to Gibbon! We'll see if I can do it...

I generally agree with the 4 and 5 star reviews. I have read the contemporary cannon concerning the Steppes (Kurgan) Culture, the Goths and their friends, the Völkerwanderung and the late Roman Empire by our English and, chiefly in translation, German, Danish and Swedish historians, ethnologists and archeologists. What I want to say is that Part III, "Dinner With Attila," (pp. 151-208) is worth the price of this book for a general reader who has no particular interest in the twilight of the Roman Empire. I first read this book in 2010 and I have just re-read it. I did a lot of reading in between. As a piece of speculative history, the kind of history based on a very incomplete record but a sound understanding of what the available evidence shows about the people who accomplished what we understand actually happened, it does not get any better than this. Maybe HBO or Showtime will give us something like Game of Thrones or the Borgias based on "Dinner With Attila." I hope so.

I found this book an excellent and thought-provoking historical account of the third and fourth centuries. I recommend this book.

Have only browsed through this to date - but, I am well pleased.

Given the ubiquity of references to Attila and the Huns as the scourge of the west and a primary cause of the fall of the Roman empire - and the subtitle of this book itself - I had expected something like a biography of Attila. Interestingly, Attila himself doesn't even appear until about 1/3 of the way into this book. I hadn't realized that so little is known about either Attila or the Huns, and that little is almost exclusively from Roman writings. Given that lack, this author did an excellent job of piecing together the few 'knowns' in readable form without dumbing down. He does occasionally resort to the speculative 'certainly...', and 'surely...', and 'we can imagine...' constructions but these lapses are minimal. And, greatly appreciated by this highly skeptical reader, his speculations are generally supported in the end notes by cited evidence. I agree with another reviewer that the end notes really should have appeared at the end of each chapter, or even, despite the annoyance, as footnotes, because they are so indispensable to the narrative itself. Discussions of the activities of the Goths and Vandals in the same time frame - and the Persians in the east - whetted my appetite for more reading in this quite complex era. Not having ever paid much attention to this historical

period, I was particularly impressed by the 'modernity' of the politics and subtlety of the actors. Also, the book does shed light on the great importance of the Goth and Vandal movements relative to the short-lived impact of the Hun activities. All in all, a riveting read.

Book arrived on time and in good condition. I am satisfied with the purchase..I received what I paid for. My 16 year old son is reading the book and he love it so far

I found this to be a very fascinating and well-researched book covering the final years of the Western Roman Empire. Christopher Kelly was very even-handed in his presentation of both the Romans and the "Barbarians". The narrative of how the Huns, Goths, Vandals and Romans played-off and paid-off one another would make for a great political novel. Attila and the Huns accomplished more with the sacking of a few cities and towns than they ever did in open battle against the Romans. Attila was capable of reading his enemies and knowing when to attack and when to demand tribute. A very good overview of the personalities and the time period. Why did this book only receive four stars? I read the Kindle edition and unfortunately it does not contain the figures that are referenced throughout the text. This is no fault of the author but I can't give the Kindle edition five stars for this oversight.

Cool

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