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The HISTORY of ROME II
The Early Republic & Union of Italy ✨



Table of Contents & Maps

The History of Rome, Book Two, covers the period in which the early Republic consolidated its power within the Latin community of tribes, and then methodically began to subdue its closest mortal enemies, the Etruscans, Sabines, Volscians and others. Over two hundred years later, by the beginning of the third century B.C., Rome had gone on to conquer the mighty Samnites, as well as repelling invasions by the Celts of the Po Valley. But Rome's greatest challenge was meeting an invasion of the Greeks, led by King Pyrrhus of Epirus. The Roman legions slowly ground Pyrrhus' phalanxes to bits. It was a remarkable era in which Rome ended up being recognized by other Mediterranean nations as one of the foremost powers.



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Mommsen's many writings – a bibliography up to 1887 lists over 900 items – revolutionized the study of Roman history. He was the general editor of, and chief contributor to, the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, the gigantic collection of Roman inscriptions published by the Berlin Academy (1867-1959). This work laid the foundations for a systematic study of Roman government, administration, economics, and finance. Mommsen's books on Roman coinage and on Roman constitutional and criminal law are still classics in their fields. But he was more than a brilliant scholar. Mommsen possessed a tremendous grasp of detail and a powerful talent of organization. He was a vivid and powerful writer. His passionate involvement in the revolution of 1848-49 deeply affected the point of view of his main work, the incomplete *Römische Geschichte* (1854-55, 1885) [*History of Rome*]. His contempt for the Roman senatorial oligarchy of the first century B.C. and the "weakling" Cicero, as well as his boundless admiration for the energy and statesmanship of Julius Caesar, for a long time dominated the standard view of ancient Roman history. Even at the present day Mommsen's scholarship remains valid.



Cover art represents the Temple of Jupiter on the Capitoline Hill in Rome as it appeared in 509 B.C.; the portrait in the insert above is a photo of Theodor Mommsen.

BOOK TWO

The Early Republic & Union of Italy

Table of Contents

- Chapter 1 Change of the Constitution – Limitation of the
Power of the Magistrate
- Chapter 2 The Tribune of the Plebs and the Decemvirate
- Chapter 3 The Equalization of the Orders, and
the New Aristocracy
- Chapter 4 Fall of the Etruscan Power – the Celts
- Chapter 5 Subjugation of the Latins and Campanians
by Rome
- Chapter 6 Struggle of the Italians against Rome
- Chapter 7 Struggle Between Pyrrhus and Rome,
and Union of Italy
- Chapter 8 Law – Religion – Military System –
Economic Condition – Nationality
- Chapter 9 Art and Science









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