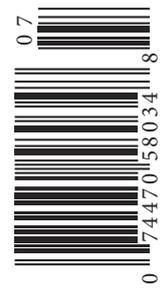


IN THIS ISSUE - Social, political and religious upheaval (AD 300 – 600)



WWW.ANCIENTHISTORYMAGAZINE.COM // KARWANSARAY PUBLISHERS

AUG / SEP 2017
US/CN \$10.99
€7,50 / CHF 7,50



LIVING IN A TIME OF **CHANGE** THE END OF ANTIQUITY

THEME - CONSTANTINE THE GREAT // SAINT AMBROSE // THE VISIGOTHS PLUNDER ROME
SPECIALS - VULTURES // THE TOMB OF CHINA'S FIRST EMPEROR // PONTIUS PILATE ON SCREEN



ENJOY EVEN MORE ANCIENT HISTORY.

(available in traditional and high-tech versions - www.kp-shop.com)

Subscription / Renewal - year (€39,95) - 2 years (€74,95 + 1 FREE issue)

Digital subscriptions and back issues are also available. Please visit our webshop for details (www.kp-shop.com)

If you would like to change or update your address, please fill it in below without indicating any of the other options.



Subscription / Renewal - 1 year

Subscription / Renewal - 2 years

Title: _____ First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address: _____

Postal / zip code: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Country: _____ E-mail address: _____

Bill me for a bank transfer

Bill me via PayPal

Please charge my credit card:

Visa / Mastercard no: _____

Expires: _____ CVC (3-digit): _____

Signature / Date: _____

Cut out or copy and send to:

Karwansaray Publishers
Postbus 4082
7200BB Zutphen
The Netherlands
Fax: +31-848-392775

Or visit our webshop:
<http://www.kp-shop.com>

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE



AH

ANCIENT HISTORY

Publisher: Rolof van Hövell tot Westerflier
 Managing Director: Jasper Oorthuys
 Editor: Josho Brouwers
 Proofreading: Naomi Munts, Damien Butler,
 and Marc G. DeSantis
 Design & Media: Christianne C. Beall
 Design © 2016 Karwansaray Publishers

Contributors: Richard Abels, Claudia Devoto, Russell Dewhurst, Olivier Gengler, David L. Reinke, Eugenia Russell, Fabian Schulz, Shelby Stansfield, Cristian Violatti, Jeroen Wijnendaele.

Illustrators: Rocío Espin, Ilya Kudriashov, Radu Oltean, Vilius Petrauskas, Marek Szyszko.

Print: Grafi Advies

Editorial office
 PO Box 4082, 7200 BB Zutphen, The Netherlands
 Phone: +31-575-776076 (NL), +44-20-8816281 (Europe), +1-740-994-0091 (US)
 E-mail: editor@ancienthistorymagazine.com
 Customer service: service@karwansaraypublishers.com
 Website: www.ancienthistorymagazine.com

Contributions in the form of articles, letters, reviews, news, and queries are welcomed. Please send to the above address or use the contact form on www.ancienthistorymagazine.com

Subscriptions
 Subscriptions can be purchased at www.kp-shop.com, via phone, or by email. For the address, see above.

Distribution
 Ancient History magazine is sold through retailers, the internet, and by subscription. If you wish to become a sales outlet, please contact us at service@karwansaraypublishers.com

Copyright Karwansaray B.V. All rights reserved. Nothing in this publication may be reproduced in any form without prior written consent of the publishers. Any individual providing material for publication must ensure that the correct permissions have been obtained before submission to us. Every effort has been made to trace copyright holders, but in few cases this proves impossible. The editor and publishers apologize for any unwitting cases of copyright transgressions and would like to hear from any copyright holders not acknowledged. Articles and the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the editor and/or publishers. Advertising in Ancient History magazine does not necessarily imply endorsement.

Ancient History is published every two months by Karwansaray B.V., Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

PO Box 1110, 3000 BC Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

ISSN: 2451-8700

Printed in the European Union.



THE END OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

This issue focuses on the changes that occurred in Late Antiquity (including the fall of Rome), during which the ancient world transitioned into the Middle Ages.

- 5 The end of Antiquity**
Historical introduction
- 9 Crossing the Milvian Bridge**
Constantine and Christian Rome
- 15 Julian the Apostate**
The last non-Christian emperor
- 20 Christian advice**
How St Ambrose influenced rulers
- 24 Attack of the Visigoths**
Fall of the Western Roman Empire
- 32 Augustine of Hippo**
Link between ancient & medieval
- 36 Plato's second death?**
Closure of the Academy at Athens
- 38 Beyond the magazine**
Recommended books

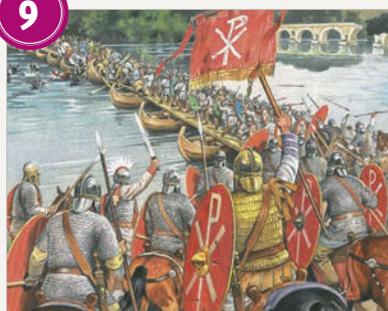
SPECIAL FEATURES

- 40 Rejected or revered?**
Vultures in the ancient world
- 45 Forever alive**
Quest for immortality in China

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Editorial**
Commentary
- 53 Hollywood Romans**
Pontius Pilate
- 58 On the cover**
Praying away the Plague

9



ROME AND CHRISTIANITY

Constantine supported the Christian faith and converted to Christianity on his deathbed.

45



AN EMPEROR'S MAGNIFICENT TOMB

The first emperor of China was interred in an exquisite tomb that featured lakes of mercury.



This painting by Karl Bryullov (1799–1852) depicts, in a dramatic fashion, what the sack of Rome by Genseric in AD 455 might have looked like. Genseric (also rendered as Geiseric) was king of the Vandals and Alans (r. 428–477). He managed to carve out a kingdom of his own on the edge of the Mediterranean. He captured Carthage and Sicily, before sacking Rome itself. The rise of Genseric fits a broader pattern: as the Western half of the Roman Empire was dying, various barbarian kingdoms, including that of Genseric, rose to prominence and laid the foundations for what we now refer to as the Early Middle Ages.

© Public domain

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

How does one define the end of a particular era and the beginning of a new one? Just how do we refer to our own time? Do we call it 'modern' or even 'post-modern'? In what way does our world today differ from that of, say, fifty years ago? What criteria do we use to distinguish our own time period from an earlier one? Do we focus on social aspects, on technological advancement, or on something else entirely, or a mixture of all of the above?

For intellectuals of the Renaissance, the ancient world ended when Rome fell in AD 476, and the span of time between that cataclysm and their own day was referred to, rather disparagingly, as the Middle Ages. Lumping together about a thousand years of history is, while perhaps convenient, not entirely useful from an analytical point of view. Modern scholarship has rightly devoted a lot of time and effort into dividing these periods into smaller chunks, and no scholar worth his or her salt today would ever ignore local and regional systems of periodization.

This has led, for example, to a subdivision of the Middle Ages into an Early and a Late period, with the latter also referred to as the 'High Middle Ages'. Similarly, scholars have created a period dubbed Late Antiquity to cover the age during which the ancient world transformed into the medieval one.

This instalment of *Ancient History* focuses on Late Antiquity. The key event is the fall of Rome, even though the Roman Empire continued to exist and change, as it had always done, in the East, with Constantinople as its new focal point. But the fall of Rome wasn't something that just happened: it was one event in a string of different occurrences; it was part of a wider process of transformation. Aspects of that transformation, the beginnings of which can be traced to at least the late second century AD, is what we will explore in this issue.

—Josho Brouwers
Editor, *Ancient History*

THE END OF ANTIQUITY

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

If one were to picture the ancient world, one would probably imagine togas and marble temples, marching legions and ancient gods. With regard to the medieval world, the mind's eye pictures stone castles and feudal lords, ironclad knights and tournaments. But when and how did the ancient world give way to the medieval?

By *Joshua Brouwers*

The end of the ancient world is bound up inextricably with the fall of the Roman Empire (for which, see also *Ancient Warfare* issue IX.1). In truth, the 'fall of Rome' pertains only to the western half of the realm, since the east flourished and became what we now refer to as the Byzantine Empire. However that may be, in AD 476, the last official emperor of the western half of the Roman Empire, Romulus Augustulus ('Little Augustus'), was deposed. But the fall of Rome cannot be simplified to a single event. Rome – and by extension the ancient world – did not come to a sudden end overnight. The year 476 is nothing more than a historical convention, a particular moment in time deemed significant by later historians.

A historian or archaeologist interested in the end of the ancient world basically studies change over time. Change, in general, is seldom sudden, but instead part of a process that unfolds over a longer or shorter period of time. Events in and of themselves crucially do not explain change. When we seek to explain change, we need to understand it. As Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn put it in the seventh edition of their *Archaeology: Theory, Methods and Practice* (2016), "if the 'explanation' adds nothing to our understanding it is not

(for us) an explanation" (p. 489). Historians and archaeologists have devised a number of different approaches and methods to explain change, but these need not concern us here.

What is important is that when we try to explain change, we usually reason in terms of cause and effect. Effects are usually obvious: in this particular case, we wish to understand how the western half of the Roman Empire fell, and with that we wish to understand the possibly more complex issue of how the ancient world came to an end. When seeking causes, it was long customary to explain a particular effect as the result of one main cause. This is often, and certainly in the case of this issue's theme, no longer considered satisfactory: widespread change is generally considered to be so complex that it cannot be explained or understood in terms of a single, driving cause.

In the remainder of this article, we will have a look at some of the possible catalysts for change that have been put forward to explain the fall of Rome and, by extension, how the end of the ancient world may have come about. There are three main aspects that I want to focus on here: religion, migrations, and disease. It's impossible to point to one of these and claim that it was decisive in bringing about the end of Rome and the ancient world, but all are likely to have been contributing factors.

500 AD

ROMAN EMPIRE: AD 100 – 500

1 AD

500 BC

1000 BC