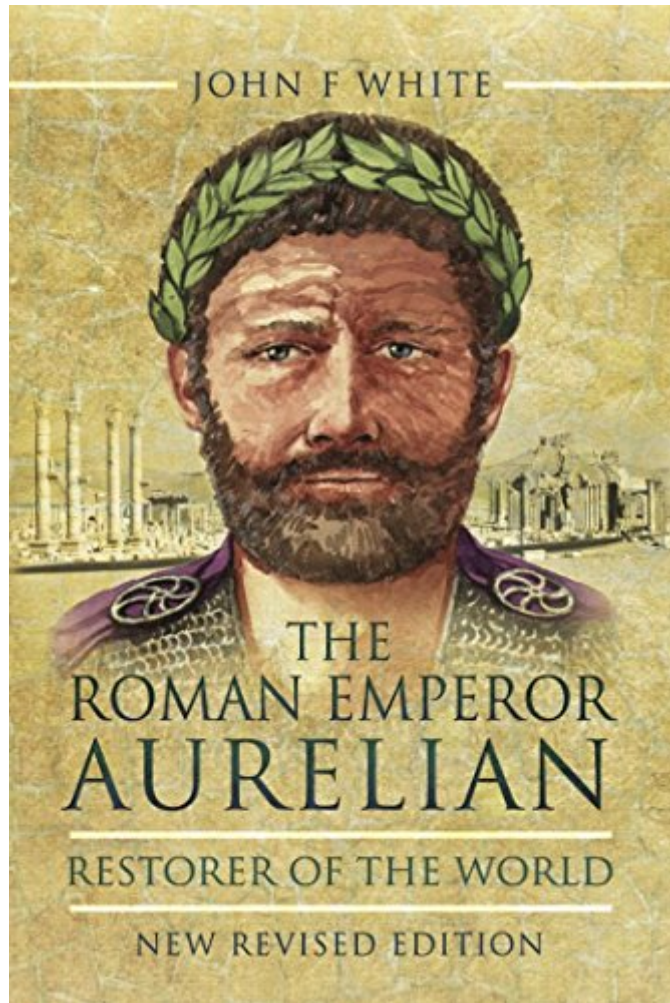


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The Roman Emperor Aurelian : Restorer Of The World



Synopsis

The ancient Sibylline prophecies had foretold that the Roman Empire would last for 1000 years. As the time for the expected dissolution approached in the middle of the third century AD, the empire was lapsing into chaos, with seemingly interminable civil wars over the imperial succession. The western empire had seceded under a rebel emperor and the eastern empire was controlled by another usurper. Barbarians took advantage of the anarchy to kill and plunder all over the provinces. Yet within the space of just five years, the general, later emperor Aurelian had expelled all the barbarians from within the Roman frontiers, re-united the entire empire and inaugurated major reforms of the currency, pagan religion and civil administration. His accomplishments have been hailed by classical scholars as those of a 'superman', yet Aurelian himself remains little known to a wider audience. His achievements enabled the Roman Empire to survive for another two centuries, ensuring a lasting legacy of Roman civilization for the successor European states. Without Aurelian, the 'Dark Ages' would probably have lasted centuries longer. This is a new, revised edition.

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Customer Reviews

THE ROMAN EMPEROR AURELIAN- Restorer of the World, by John F White.Mike Duncan the

celebrated podcaster of 'The History of Rome' series, named Aurelian as his favorite emperor, the one who he would most like to meet in person. When I listened to HOR, I did not particularly register Aurelian, so I was quite interested to read this book, to understand why Mike Duncan was so impressed. Aurelian was a low born Danubian, who joined the Roman army as a common soldier in the tumultuous 3rd century CE. Rome had just celebrated its 1000th anniversary, and was apprehensively expecting the Sybillene prophesies to eventuate, resulting in the end of Rome. Indeed, Rome had lost 2/3 of its territories to Barbarian invasions and internal strife, so the doomsday prophesies did not seem unrealistic. Aurelian was intelligent, ruthless, and brave. Like many successful strongmen, he rewarded his soldiers and allies, and killed his enemies without compunction and usually without mercy. He rose through the ranks of the army to become a general, and his successes brought him to the attention of the emperor. Through sheer ability and results, he was named as the emperor's successor, and he became emperor in 275ce. Most of his 5 year reign was spent regaining all of the territories which Rome had lost, and he restored peace to the empire, earning him the title 'restorer of the world'. Like most strongmen, he died by the sword, murdered. The subject matter of this book is fascinating. There is a lengthy section which describes the methods and tactics of the Roman army of the era, and it is possibly the best summary on that subject which I have read.

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