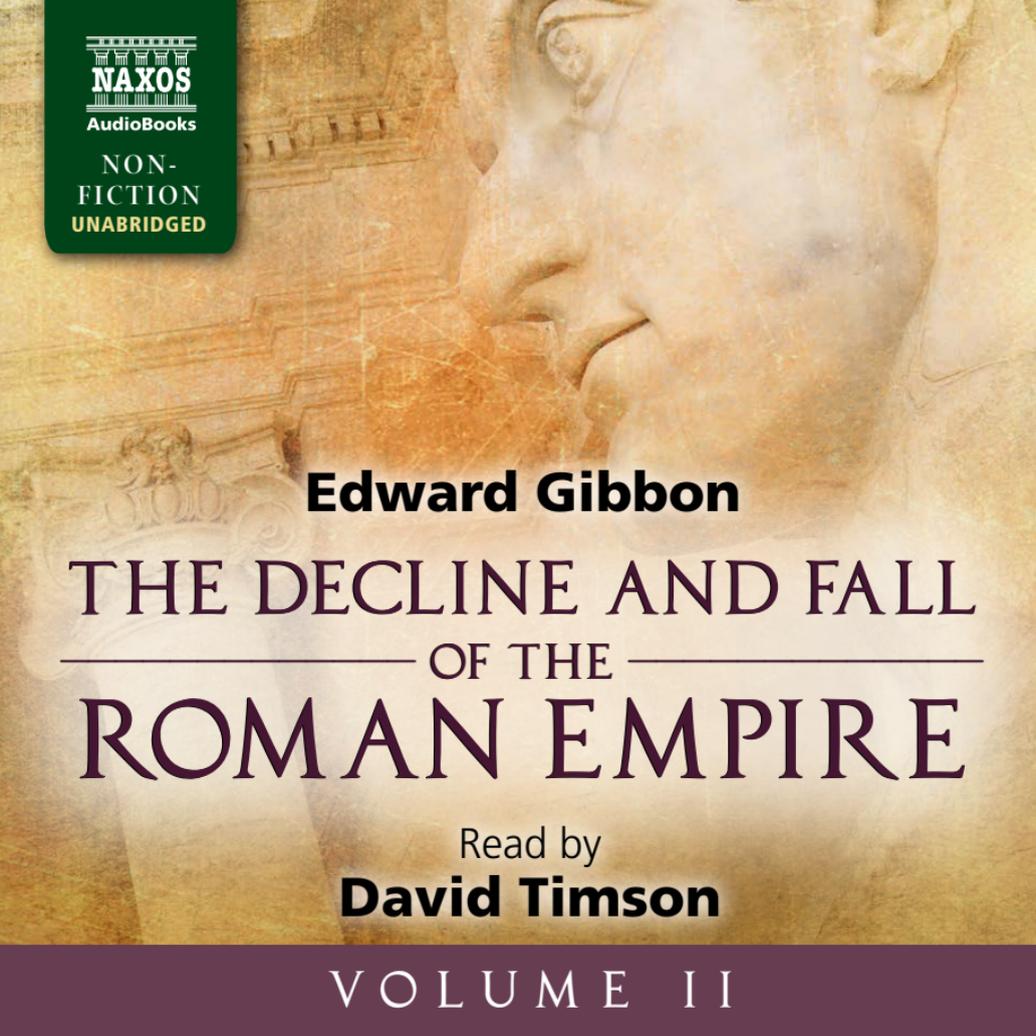




NAXOS

AudioBooks

NON-
FICTION
UNABRIDGED



Edward Gibbon

THE DECLINE AND FALL
— OF THE —
ROMAN EMPIRE

Read by

David Timson

VOLUME II

CD 1

1 Chapter 16	10:13
2 Since the Jews, who rejected with abhorrence...	8:47
3 The personal guilt which every Christian had contracted...	11:21
4 I: By the wise dispensation of Providence...	11:24
5 But it would be improper to dismiss this account...	8:11
6 It is somewhat remarkable that the flames of war...	7:13
7 II: About ten years afterwards, under the reign of Trajan...	8:36
8 III: Punishment was not the inevitable consequence...	5:52
9 Whenever they were invested with a discretionary power...	7:23

Total time on CD 1: 79:07

CD 2

1 The propriety of reserving himself for the future...	11:29
2 The sober discretion of the present age...	9:02
3 IV: Notwithstanding the general rules established...	12:12
4 Notwithstanding the cruel disposition of Maximin...	8:03
5 Notwithstanding these scandalous vices...	10:50
6 Although the policy of Diocletian...	9:54
7 This edict was scarcely exhibited to the public view...	9:38
8 Some slight disturbances...	6:35

Total time on CD 2: 77:48

CD 3

1	The revolt of Maxentius immediately restore peace...	9:33
2	But this treacherous calm was of short duration...	8:22
3	The vague descriptions of exile and imprisonment...	7:09
4	Chapter 17	10:34
5	The harbour of Constantinople, which may be considered...	9:49
6	The prospect of beauty, of safety, and of wealth...	9:24
7	During the seige of Byzantium...	10:56
8	The frequent and regular distributions of wine and oil...	6:02
9	The foundation of a new capital is naturally connected...	6:52

Total time on CD 3: 78:46

CD 4

1	I: As long as the Roman consuls were the first magistrates...	9:49
2	II: The fortunes of the Praetorian praefects...	12:02
3	As the spirit of jealousy and ostentation prevailed...	10:21
4	III: In the system of policy introduced by Augustus...	8:25
5	The same timid policy, of dividing whatever is united...	10:37
6	IV: Besides the magistrates and generals...	8:59
7	4. The extraordinary title of count of the sacred largesses...	8:11
8	The deceitful and dangerous experiment...	10:44

Total time on CD 4: 79:12

CD 5

1	The agriculture of the Roman provinces...	8:03
2	But this tax or capitation on the proprietors of land...	7:14
3	Chapter 18	9:16
4	The same fortune which so invariably followed the standard...	10:42
5	The innocence of Crispus was so universally acknowledged...	11:28
6	Among the different branches of the human race...	8:20
7	He contributed at least to improve this advantage...	8:38
8	But this reign could subsist only in empty pageantry...	7:31
9	While the martial nations of Europe...	7:35

Total time on CD 5: 78:53

CD 6

1	During the long period of the reign of Constantius...	9:52
2	After the partition of the empire...	9:23
3	The intelligence of these important events...	7:58
4	The behaviour of Constantius on this memorable occasion...	9:01
5	The approach of winter supplied the indolence of Constantius...	8:19
6	Chapter 19	8:20
7	The writers the most indulgent to the memory of Gallus...	7:48
8	After such a deed...	8:52
9	By the intercession of his patroness...	8:43

Total time on CD 6: 78:21

CD 7

1	The two princes returned to the palace in the same chariot...	8:13
2	The satisfaction which Constantius had received...	10:53
3	While the Roman emperor and the Persian monarch...	9:19
4	The ancient city of Amid or Amida...	8:19
5	The defence of the East against the arms of Sapor...	11:03
6	Immediately after Julian had received the purple...	11:56
7	After Julian had repulsed the Alemanni from the provinces...	11:43
8	A tender regard for the peace and happiness...	7:54

Total time on CD 7: 79:26

CD 8

1	Chapter 20	8:35
2	As long as Constantine exercised a limited sovereignty...	10:53
3	In the general order of Providence, princes and tyrants...	8:02
4	I: An instrument of the tortures which were inflicted...	5:24
5	II: In all occasions of danger or distress...	5:31
6	III: The philosopher, who with calm suspicion...	11:19
7	The awful mysteries of the Christian faith and worship...	8:34
8	The gratitude of the church has exalted the virtues...	8:34
9	But the distinction of the spiritual and temporal powers...	7:02
10	I: The freedom of elections subsisted long after...	4:51

Total time on CD 8: 78:52

CD 9

1	II: The bishops alone possessed the faculty...	5:24
2	III: The edict of Milan secured the revenue as well as...	7:03
3	IV: The Latin clergy, who erected their tribunal...	9:59
4	VI: Every popular government has experienced the effects...	8:08
5	Chapter 21	9:06
6	But this incident, so inconsiderable...	10:36
7	The eloquence of Plato, the name of Solomon...	7:56
8	I: A chosen society of philosophers...	11:02
9	When the mysteries of the Christian faith...	10:02

Total time on CD 9: 79:23

CD 10

1	This pure and distinct equality was tempered...	11:18
2	The provinces of Egypt and Asia, which cultivated...	9:51
3	But, as if the conduct of the emperor had been guided...	8:34
4	Our more intimate knowledge of the ecclesiastical...	10:36
5	In his youth, the primate of Egypt resisted...	11:15
6	During his second exile in the West...	9:12
7	The friends of Athanasius were not, however...	8:00
8	The disgrace and exile of the orthodox bishops of the West...	10:39

Total time on CD 10: 79:31

CD 11

1	The retirement of Athanasius, which ended only...	9:10
2	I: The Roman pontiff, as long as he maintained...	8:59
3	The cruel and arbitrary disposition of Constantius...	9:02
4	Such disorders are the natural effects of religious tyranny...	8:28
5	The sons of Constantine trod in the footsteps...	8:53
6	Chapter 22	10:15
7	After a painful conflict, Julian was compelled...	10:57
8	To moderate the zeal of his party...	12:59

Total time on CD 11: 78:48

CD 12

1	The situation of Julian required a vigorous...	9:58
2	The homage which Julian obtained from the fears...	10:47
3	A few days afterwards, when the remains...	8:48
4	The reformation of the Imperial court...	9:31
5	Before the end of the year in which...	9:57
6	From Constantinople, the attention of the monarch...	9:17
7	Chapter 23	9:00
8	As soon as Gallus was invested with the honours...	12:12

Total time on CD 12: 79:35

CD 13

1	In every age the absence of genuine inspiration...	10:02
2	The dissimulation of Julian lasted about ten years...	7:45
3	As soon as he ascended the throne...	10:28
4	The enthusiasm of Julian prompted him to embrace...	10:44
5	In the midst of a rocky and barren country...	10:11
6	Yet on this occasion, the joint efforts of power...	10:54
7	It was undoubtedly the wish and design of Julian...	6:22
8	At the distance of five miles from Antioch...	11:42

Total time on CD 13: 78:14

CD 14

1	George, from his parents or his education, surnamed...	9:07
2	After the tumult of Alexandria had subsided...	11:43
3	Chapter 24	9:32
4	If Julian had flattered himself...	8:45
5	Yet Antioch possessed one citizen, whose genius...	8:23
6	Hierapolis, situated almost on the banks of the Euphrates...	10:12
7	The country which they traversed from the Chaboras...	8:33
8	The fields of Assyria were devoted by Julian...	6:08
9	The fortifications were razed to the ground...	6:48

Total time on CD 14: 79:17

CD 15

1	As it becomes an emperor who has filled the first rank...	10:51
2	On the second day after the battle the domestic guards...	8:27
3	The cumbersome train of artillery and wagons...	8:11
4	While Julian struggled with the almost insuperable...	10:17
5	The triumph of Christianity, and the calamities...	9:35
6	In this hopeless situation, the fainting spirits...	10:14
7	The friends of Julian had confidently announced...	7:57
8	After Jovian had performed those engagements...	6:38
9	Chapter 25	7:18

Total time on CD 15: 79:35

CD 16

1	The consternation of the Pagan world was dispelled...	11:29
2	The invitation of the ministers and generals at Nice...	8:06
3	The tranquillity of the East was soon disturbed...	12:00
4	Such indeed are the common and natural fruits of despotism...	9:58
5	After he became master of the world...	9:56
6	The friend of toleration was unfortunately placed...	9:59
7	The strict regulations which have been framed...	10:14
8	I: The ambassadors of the Alemanni had been offended...	6:18

Total time on CD 16: 78:05

CD 17

1	While the Alemanni appeared to be humbled...	10:22
2	The rumour of the successful armaments...	4:47
3	II: The fabulous colonies of Egyptians and Trojans...	8:52
4	Six years after the death of Constantine...	7:48
5	III: The prince who refuses to be the judge...	10:45

Total time on CD 17: 42:39

CD 18

1	Africa had been lost by the vices of Romanus...	5:49
2	IV: The ignominious treaty which saved the army of Jovian...	11:58
3	V: During a peaceful interval of thirty years...	7:42
4	The splendour and magnitude of this Gothic war...	10:30
5	The mind of Valentinian, who then resided at Treves...	10:45

Total time on CD 18: 46:48

Total time on CDs 1–18: 22:32:20

Edward Gibbon

THE DECLINE AND FALL
OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE

VOLUME II

SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS

Chapter 16

The conduct of the Roman government towards the Christians, from the reign of Nero to that of Constantine • The toleration of the Jewish nation • The nontoleration of the Christian sect • Nero (54-68) blames the Christians for the burning of Rome and persecutes them • Trajan (98-117) insists on conviction for being Christian, but not persecution • Hadrian (117-138) and Antoninus (138-161) follow suit • The tribulations of Bishop Cyprian of Africa in the reigns of Valerian and Gallienus (253-259) • The attractions of martyrdom for the Christians • Conflicting records over

the number of persecutions and the indulgence of the emperors • Growth in a period of relative peace after Severus (222-235) • Growth of new persecution in the reign of Diocletian (284-305) • The cruelty and violence inflicted against the Christians • The toleration of Constantius (305) in the West • Continued persecution in the Eastern Empire under Galerius and Maximin • Gibbon expresses doubt about the extent of the persecutions

Chapter 17

The Foundation of Constantinople by Constantine • Survey of Byzantium (Constantinople) and its construction • The new Political System of Constantine and his Successors • The denominations

and hierarchy of the officers of state • Military separated from civil administration • Separate distinction of troops of the borders and those of the court • Resultant loss of military discipline as more barbarians are recruited into the Roman army • Revision of laws, taxes and tributes • The state of the finances

Chapter 18

Character of Constantine • His family, conflict with and death of son Crispus • The five acknowledged successors of Constantine • Gothic War • Death of Constantine (337) • Division of the Empire among his three sons, Constantine II, Constantius II and Constans • The Persian War • Tragic deaths of Constantine the Younger and Constans (337-340) • The army supports the usurpation of Magnentius • Civil War • Victory of Constantius II

Chapter 19

Constantius II sole emperor (340-361) • Influence of palace eunuchs on him • Elevation of Gallus, Constantine's nephew, to administration of the East • His

weakness and his death • Dangerous position of Julian, Constantine's nephew, his education in Greece, and elevation by Constantius II to Caesar • Constantius II in Rome • The Limigantes and Sarmatian wars • The Persian Wars • Victories of Julian in Gaul

Chapter 20

The motives, progress, and effects of the conversion of Constantine to Christianity • State of Christianity at this time • Celestial sign of the cross appears to Constantine • Significance of the Cross • Edict of toleration and mass conversions • The legal establishment and constitution of the Christian or Catholic Church • The distinction of spiritual and temporal powers, the election of ecclesiastical officers • The power of the bishops • The exemption of clergy from public duties and taxes • Financial support of the church by government • Church law independent of state • Preaching • The establishment of synods

Chapter 21

Christian persecution of Heresy • The Schism of the Donatists • Disagreement over the nature of the Trinity leads to the Arian Controversy • The Homoousions and the Homoiousians • The spread of Arianism in the East • Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, and his defence of orthodoxy • His persecution • Theological disputes cause violence in the Church and Empire under Constantine and his Sons • Toleration of Paganism

Chapter 22

Julian's success in Gaul regarded jealously by Constantius II • Julian is declared emperor by the legions of Gaul • His challenge and threat to Constantius II • Julian's march into Italy and its successful occupation • The death of Constantius II in the East • Julian becomes emperor (361-363) • His character and daily routine • Reform of the Imperial court and civil administration by Julian

Chapter 23

The Religion of Julian • Greek philosophy and religious beliefs are a stronger

influence on him than the Gospels • Universal Toleration granted on his accession • He attempts to restore and reform the Pagan worship and rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem • His artful persecution of the Christians • He seeks to diminish their power and reduce them to an inconsiderable sect • The zeal and injustice of the pagans' retaliation against the Christians • The Christians respond • George of Cappadocia (St. George)

Chapter 24

Julian at Antioch • The writer • His lack of popularity as an apostate in Antioch • Awkwardness of Julian's position in a city of luxury • Libanius, a sophist, becomes his friend and chronicler • Julian's successful expedition against the Persians • Description of Persia • The valour, modesty and temperance of Julian at war • Passage of the Tigris to besiege Ctesiphon, Persia's capital • He ventures inland • He is misled by a Persian trap • The retreat from Persia • The attack of the Persian army • The death of Julian • The army elects Jovian, the first of the domestics, as emperor (363-364) •

Surrounded by Persian army, Jovian agrees to a humiliating Treaty to save the Roman Army • The funeral of Julian

The sudden death of Valentinian • His two Sons, Gratian and Valentinian II (a child), succeed to the Western Empire (375–383 and 375–392)

Chapter 25

Jovian restores orthodox Christianity as the official religion of the Empire • The death of Jovian (364) • The election of Valentinian (364–375), a military officer who invests his brother Valens as Augustus • Valentinian reforms the administration of the Empire, including the final division of the Empire, making Valens Emperor of the East and himself ruler of the West • Revolt of Procopius, a former associate of Julian, and his defeat • The brothers Civil Administration, with the inflicting of rigorous punishment on transgressors and Ecclesiastical Administration, which resulted in persecutions of non-orthodox Christians by Valens • The state of the East - Persia and Armenia • The province of Britain, saved from Saxon attack, and the revolt in Africa crushed by the general Theodosius • After the death of Julian, the Barbarians of Germany rally to attack the Empire • The treaty on the Danube •

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AVITUS: 455–456
MAJORIAN: 457–461
LIBIUS SEVERUS: 461–465
(No Emperor: 465–467)
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OLYBRIUS: 472
GLYCERIUS: 473–474
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ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS: 475–476

End of the Western Empire: Odoacer, King of Italy

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JOVIAN: 363–364 (sole emperor)
VALENS: 364–378

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(sole emperor after 392)
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regent: 408–414)
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Pulcheria, daughter of Arcadius)

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LEO II: 474
ZENO: 474–491
ANASTASIUS I, Dicorus: 491–518

Dynasty of Justinian

JUSTIN I: 518–527
JUSTINIAN I: 527–565
JUSTIN II: 565–574 (Sophia, regent)
TIBERIUS II, Constantine: 574–582
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Dynasty of Heraclius

HERACLIUS: 610–641
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CONSTANS II: 641–668
CONSTANTINE IV: 668–685
JUSTINIAN II: 685–695 (banished)
LEONTIUS: 695–698
TIBERIUS III: 698–705
JUSTINIAN II (restored): 705–711
PHILIPPICUS: 711–713
ANASTASIUS II: 713–715
THEODOSIUS III: 715–717

Syrian or Isaurian Dynasty (the Iconoclasts)

LEO III, the Isaurian: 717–741
CONSTANTINE V, Copronymus: 741–775
LEO IV, the Khazar: 775–780
CONSTANTINE VI: 780–797 (blinded and
murdered by mother Irene, wife of Leo IV)
IRENE: 797–802
NIKEPHOROS I: 802–811
STAUACIUS: 811
MICHAEL I, Rhangabe: 811–813
LEO V, the Armenian: 813–820

Phrygian or Amorian Dynasty

MICHAEL II, the Amorian: 820–829

THEOPHILUS: 829–842

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913–959

 With Romanus I, Lekapenos: 920–944

ROMANUS II: 959–963

BASIL II: 963–1025

 With Nikephoros II: 963–969

 With John I Zimiskes: 969–976

CONSTANTINE VIII: 1025–28

ROMANUS III, Argyros: 1028–1034

MICHAEL IV, the Paphlagonian:
1034–1041

MICHAEL V, Kalaphates: 1041–1042

CONSTANTINE IX, Monomachus:
1042–1055

THEODORA: 1055–1056

MICHAEL VI, Bringas: 1056–1057

ISAAC I, Comnenus: 1057–1059
(abdicated)

CONSTANTINE X, Doukas: 1059–1067

ROMANUS IV, Diogenes: 1068–1071

MICHAEL VII, Doukas: 1071–1078

NIKEPHOROS III, Botaneiates: 1078–1081

Dynasty of the Comneni

ALEXIOS I, Komnenos: 1081–1118

JOHN II, Komnenos: 1118–1143

MANUEL I, Komnenos: 1143–1180

ALEXIUS II, Komnenos: 1180–1183

ANDRONICUS I, Komnenos: 1183–1185

Dynasty of the Angeli

ISAAC II, Angelos: 1185–1195
(dethroned)

ALEXIOS III, Angelos: 1195–1203

ISAAC II (restored): 1203–1204

 With Alexios IV, Angelos: 1203–1204

ALEXIOS V, Doukas: 1204

Capture of Constantinople by the Fourth
Crusade and establishment of Latin
emperors in the city

Latin Emperors of the East

BALDWIN I: 1204–1205

HENRY: 1206–1216

PETER OF COURTENAY: 1216–1217

ROBERT: 1221–1228

BALDWIN II: 1228–1261

With John of Brienne: 1229–1237

Eastern Emperors in Nicaea

THEODORE I, Laskaris: 1204–1222

JOHN III, Doukas Vatatzes: 1222–1254

THEODORE II, Laskaris: 1254–1258

JOHN IV, Laskaris: 1258–1261

With Michael VIII, Palaiologos:

1259–1261

Recapture of Constantinople and re-establishment of the Eastern emperors there

Dynasty of the Palaiologi

(Seven-year civil war: 1390, 1391–1425, 1425–1448, 1449–1453, 1453)

MICHAEL VIII, Palaiologos: 1261–1282

ANDRONIKOS II, Palaiologos: 1282–1328

With Michael IX: 1294–1320

ANDRONICUS III, Palaiologos: 1328–1341

JOHN V, Palaiologos: 1341–1376

With John VI, Kantakouzenos:

1347–1354

With Andronikos IV, Palaiologos:

1354–1373

ANDRONIKOS IV, Palaiologos: 1376–1379

JOHN V, Palaiologos (restored):

1379–1390

JOHN VII, Palaiologos: 1390

JOHN V, Palaiologos (restored): 1391

MANUEL II, Palaiologos: 1391–1425

JOHN VIII, Palaiologos: 1425–1448

CONSTANTINE XI, Palaiologos:

1449–1453

Capture of Constantinople by Mahomet II

End of the Roman Empire

THE LIFE OF EDWARD GIBBON

It was at Rome, on the 15th of October, 1764, as I sat musing amidst the ruins of the Capitol, while the barefoot friars were singing vespers in the Temple of Jupiter, that the idea of writing the decline and fall of the city first started to my mind.

Memoirs of My Life and Writings, 1796

Gibbon was born at Putney, Surrey, on 8 May 1737, into a comfortable, though not particularly wealthy, family. At the age of ten, his mother died and he was brought up by an aunt. During childhood he was always sick and of a weak disposition. This interrupted any regular attendance at school and led to his being privately educated at home, where he had access to his father's extensive library. This developed the natural scholar in Gibbon at an early age.

At age 15, he went to Magdalen College, Oxford, and he 'arrived with a stock of erudition that might have puzzled a doctor' (Gibbon, *Memoirs*).

Ever curious, Gibbon challenged the Anglican clergymen who were his tutors

as to the true faith. His inclination was towards the Roman Catholic faith, and after consultation with a Roman Catholic student, he converted to Catholicism. It was a rash decision, for by English law, Roman Catholics were excluded from public office and ostracised from many rights available to their Anglo-Catholic brethren.

When Gibbon's father learnt of his son's actions he was furious and insisted that his son should be sent to Lausanne, Switzerland, which was a centre of Calvinism, to be re-indoctrinated to the Protestant faith.

Gibbon studied there under the Calvinist minister Daniel Pavilliard for nearly five years (1753–1758). During this time he renounced his conversion, became fluent in French and Latin, had a meeting with Voltaire, and for the one and only time in his life, fell in love, with a beautiful and highly intelligent girl, Suzanne Curchod. Once again, Gibbon was thwarted by his father who would not countenance 'this strange alliance', and Gibbon reluctantly returned to England. Reflecting on this in his *Memoirs*, Gibbon wrote:

'I sighed as a lover, I obeyed as a son.'

With the advent of the Seven Years War in 1760, Gibbon dutifully joined, with his father, the local militia, which was assembled in response to the possibility of a French invasion. He does not seem to have shone as an officer. At the end of his term of service he embarked on a grand tour of Europe, an obligatory experience for educated young men in the 18th century. Arriving in Rome early in October 1764, he was overwhelmed by its magnificence and antiquities, and as he said in his memoirs it was here he first began to conceive his *magnum opus*, but it would be nine years before he began to write it. The first volume of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, shortened here to *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, was published in 1776. It was an instant success and quickly ran into three editions. Volumes II and III appeared in 1781, with equivalent success. In the same year, Gibbon was elected as an MP for Lymington, but despite a dead end job in the board of trade in Lord North's declining government, his parliamentary career was uneventful.

Resorting to his true vocation, he moved back to Lausanne and shared accommodation with an old student friend, George Deyverdun, and completed the last three volumes of his *Decline and Fall*, which were all published in 1788, to coincide with his 51st birthday.

In 1793, when the effects of the French Revolution began to intrude on his Swiss idyll, he returned to England. His health had begun to fail, an enlarged scrotum caused him considerable pain and despite several unsuccessful operations, he died in his sleep on 16 January 1794, at the age of 56.

A NOTE ON THE TEXT

The text used in this recording of Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* is the standard Everyman edition of 1910. It is a clean text unabridged and unedited, and in six volumes it reflects the division of chapters of the original edition of the 1780s.

Notes by David Timson



David Timson has made over 1,000 broadcasts for BBC Radio Drama. For Naxos AudioBooks he wrote *The History of Theatre*, which won an award for most original production from the Spoken Word Publishers Association in 2001. He has also directed five Shakespeare plays for Naxos AudioBooks, including *King Richard III* (with Kenneth Branagh), which won Best Drama award from the SWPA in 2001. In 2002 he won the Audio of the Year award for his reading of *A Study in Scarlet*. He has read the entire *Sherlock Holmes* canon for Naxos AudioBooks.

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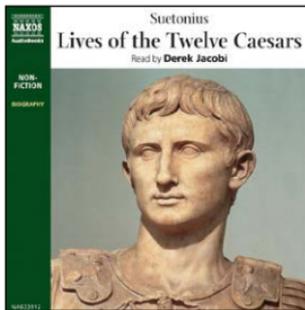
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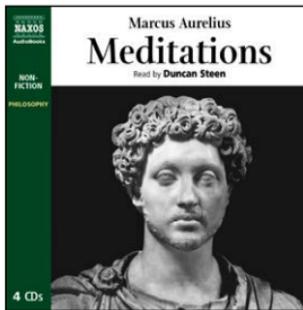
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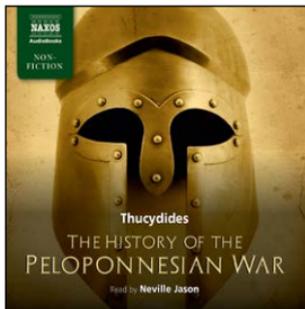
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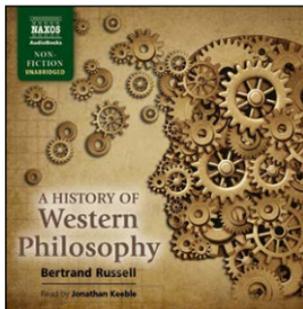
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