



NAXOS
AudioBooks

NON-
FICTION
UNABRIDGED



Edward Gibbon

THE DECLINE AND FALL
— OF THE —
ROMAN EMPIRE

Read by
David Timson

VOLUME III

CD 1

1	Chapter 26	11:05
2	The supply is multiplied and prolonged...	10:32
3	The political society of the ancient Germans...	11:46
4	The annals of China illustrate the state and revolutions...	8:18
5	The conquest of China has been twice achieved...	11:50
6	It is impossible to fill the dark interval of time...	10:38
7	After Valens had terminated the Gothic war...	8:36
8	The Goths, with arms in their hands...	6:42

Total time on CD 1: 79:33

CD 2

1	Lupicinus had invited the Gothic chiefs...	8:37
2	The imprudence of Valens and his ministers...	9:29
3	One of the most dangerous inconveniences...	11:15
4	On the ninth of August, a day which has deserved...	10:50
5	A Gothic soldier was slain by the dagger of an Arab...	8:17
6	The emperor Gratian was far advanced on his march...	9:29
7	It is not without the most sincere regret...	9:42
8	In the hands of a skilful politician...	11:47

Total time on CD 2: 79:32

CD 3

1	The calamities of the war were painted in the most lively...	5:31
2	Chapter 27	11:11
3	But there was danger likewise in refusing the empire...	9:50
4	Before he again took the field against the Goths...	9:43
5	Gregory submitted with reluctance to this humiliating exile...	10:10
6	The hope, that truth and wisdom would be found...	12:10
7	The theory of persecution was established by Theodosius...	10:00
8	The government of Italy, and of the young emperor...	10:31

Total time on CD 3: 79:11

CD 4

1	The reason of the present age may possibly approve...	10:01
2	The veterans, who still remembered the long resistance...	9:30
3	Yet the piercing eye of the founder of the republic...	11:19
4	The sedition of Thessalonica is ascribed...	9:10
5	The emperor was deeply affected by his own reproaches...	11:57
6	The prudence of Arbogastes had prepared the success...	10:18
7	His victory was decisive...	9:33
8	Chapter 28	7:33

Total time on CD 4: 79:27

CD 5

1	But the emperor yet spared the statues of the gods...	11:24
2	The filial piety of the emperors themselves...	9:21
3	In this wide and various prospect of devastation...	10:04
4	He aimed a vigorous stroke against the cheek of Serapis...	9:44
5	A nation of slaves is always prepared to applaud...	10:58
6	I: The satisfactory experience...	6:28
7	III: The innumerable miracles...	9:05
8	Chapter 29	12:09

Total time on CD 5: 79:20

CD 6

1	But the absence, and, soon afterwards, the death...	10:13
2	The celestial gift, which Achilles obtained...	8:04
3	The impartiality which Stilicho affected...	10:10
4	The prudent Stilicho, instead of persisting to force...	10:45
5	Gildo was prepared to resist the invasion with all the forces...	9:38
6	Chapter 30	9:54
7	Corinth, Argos, Sparta yielded without resistance...	9:54
8	The court of Arcadius indulged the zeal...	10:40

Total time on CD 6: 79:23

CD 7

1	Without losing a moment (while each moment was so important...)	10:32
2	The eloquence of Claudian has celebrated...	9:47
3	The recent danger, to which the person of the emperor...	12:09
4	The correspondence of nations was, in that age...	10:56
5	The fame of the victory, and more especially...	10:48
6	In the early part of the reign of Honorius...	9:20
7	The poet, whose flattery has ascribed to the Roman eagle...	7:10
8	But the reign of Stilicho drew towards its end...	8:27

Total time on CD 7: 79:16

CD 8

1	The servile crowd of the palace...	12:22
2	Chapter 31	8:40
3	During a period of six hundred and nineteen years...	10:45
4	'The marbles of the Anician palace,' were used...	9:46
5	'The greatness of Rome' – such is the language...	8:31
6	In the same manner as the cavalry and infantry...	11:17
7	In populous cities, which are the seat of commerce...	9:27
8	But the most lively and splendid amusement...	8:20

Total time on CD 8: 79:13

CD 9

1	The two classes of domus and of insuloe...	10:31
2	But the public treasury was exhausted...	12:15
3	While the emperor and his court enjoyed, with sullen pride...	9:02
4	But there is a Providence (such at least was the opinion...)	9:40
5	In the sack of Rome, some rare and extraordinary examples...	8:23
6	Whatever might be the numbers of equestrian...	9:57
7	The retreat of the victorious Goths who evacuated Rome...	10:21
8	With these pacific views, the successor of Alaric...	8:58

Total time on CD 9: 79:12

CD 10

1	One of the successors of Torismond...	12:01
2	The general, (Constantius was his name)...	9:28
3	The situation of Spain, separated, on all sides...	10:12
4	The Spanish war was obstinately supported...	12:10
5	This revolution dissolved the artificial fabric...	10:21
6	Chapter 32	12:10
7	As long as he despoiled the oppressors...	12:19

Total time on CD 10: 78:45

CD 11

1	A soft and wealthy province, in the heart of the empire...	10:58
2	While this domestic revolution was transacted...	8:52
3	After the death of the indolent Nectarius...	11:01
4	This ecclesiastical conspiracy was managed by Theophilus...	11:41
5	Yet a reasonable doubt may be entertained...	8:57
6	But the Romans had so long been accustomed...	9:58
7	The story of a fair and virtuous maiden...	9:10
8	The gentle mind of Theodosius was never inflamed...	8:31

Total time on CD 11: 79:13

CD 12

1	Exasperated by the firmness of Isaac...	1:39
2	Chapter 33	10:00
3	The emperor of the East acquired the useful dominion...	11:58
4	Our fancy, so long accustomed to exaggerate...	10:04
5	The long and narrow tract of the African coast...	11:25
6	It might naturally be expected, after the retreat...	10:00
7	Among the insipid legends of ecclesiastical history...	8:11
8	Chapter 34	7:16
9	Attila, the son of Mundzuk, deduced his noble...	8:54

Total time on CD 12: 79:32

CD 13

1	In the proud review of the nations...	11:41
2	In all their invasions of the civilized empires of the South...	10:00
3	The Huns might be provoked to insult...	10:29
4	It would have been strange, indeed, if Theodosius...	9:05
5	At length, by the intercession of Scotta...	9:58
6	His anger gradually subsided...	8:19
7	After some previous conversation, and a mutual oath...	9:05
8	Chapter 35	10:29

Total time on CD 13: 79:12

CD 14

1	The kingdom, established by the Visigoths...	9:48
2	From the report of his spies...	8:53
3	A native of Gaul, and a contemporary...	10:59
4	On their approach, the king of the Huns immediately raised...	10:33
5	But his enemies had passed the night...	12:10
6	It is a saying worthy of the ferocious pride of Attila...	9:09
7	The Roman ambassadors were introduced...	9:33
8	Such an event might contribute to the safety...	8:00

Total time on CD 14: 79:12

CD 15

1	As early as the time of Cicero and Varro...	3:30
2	Chapter 36	10:06
3	On the third day after the tumult...	12:02
4	Theodoric, to whom Avitus was indebted for the purple...	10:37
5	The pressing solicitations of the senate and people...	11:49
6	The private and public actions of Majorian...	8:58
7	While the emperor Majorian assiduously laboured...	9:37
8	It was not, perhaps, without some regret...	10:35

Total time on CD 15: 77:19

CD 16

1	Since the death of the younger Theodosius...	9:27
2	The Greeks ambitiously commend the piety...	10:05
3	Experience has shown, that the success of an invader...	9:34
4	One of the last acts of jurisdiction...	9:33
5	Their recommendation was approved...	9:07
6	Whilst the vacant throne of Italy was abandoned...	9:13
7	Their gallant leader, who did not survive...	10:50
8	Odoacer was the first Barbarian who reigned in Italy...	9:30

Total time on CD 16: 77:24

Total time on CDs 1–16: 21:04:44

Edward Gibbon

THE DECLINE AND FALL
OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE

VOLUME III

SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS

Chapter 26

Natural phenomena interpreted by superstition • The tribes of Scythia and Tartary • Their diet, habitation and exercise • The structure of Tartar and Scythian government and society • Progress of the Huns, from China to Europe • They attack the Goths who flee to seek the protection of the Roman Empire in the East • The entire nation is transported across the Danube and settled in Thrace by Valens • Abuse by Romans provokes a Gothic war, involving Gratian and the Western Empire • Defeat and death of Valens • Gratian invests Theodosius, son of Theodosius the general, with the Eastern Empire (379) •

His character • His success in subduing the Goths in the provinces • Peace with the Goths and their settlement in colonies under the Roman jurisdiction • General distrust nevertheless of the Goths by Romans

Chapter 27

Character of Gratian • Revolt of Maximus in Britain against Gratian • Assassination of Gratian (383) • Maximus challenges Theodosius for the Empire of the world • Theodosius chooses a prudent alliance with Maximus • Theodosius defeats Arianism • St. Gregory • Martin of Tours • St. Ambrose • Young Valentinian and his mother Justina are threatened by Maximus and seek help from Theodosius •

First civil war – against the tyrant Maximus

- His defeat and death
- Character and administration of Theodosius, and, under the influence of Ambrose, his public penance
- Valentinian II falls under the influence of Arbogastes, commander of the Army
- The death of Valentinian II (392)
- Arbogastes elevates Eugenius, a rhetorician
- Second civil war – against Eugenius and Arbogastes
- Their defeat
- Death of Theodosius (395)
- The lapse of the Romans into effeminacy and luxury during his reign
- Its effects on the army

Chapter 28

Final destruction of Paganism throughout the Empire: the statues, the temples, the sacerdotal order, paganism in the senate, sacrifices and all the ancient fabric of superstition

- Christian violence against idolatry
- The Christians convert temples to sepulchres and replace pagan statues with relics of Christian martyrs
- Introduction among the Christians of the worship of saints, their miracles and relics

Chapter 29

Final division of the Roman Empire between the sons of Theodosius

- Arcadius becomes Emperor of the East (395–408) and Honorius the Emperor of the West (394–423)
- Their calamitous reign
- Arcadius undermined by the ambition of Rufinus to rule
- The character and achievements of Stilicho, general of the West
- His influence over Honorius
- Stilicho defeats his rival Rufinus
- The administration of the East by Stilicho
- The revolt of the Moor Gildo in Africa and his defeat by Stilicho
- Honorius's weakness leaves Stilicho master of the West

Chapter 30

Revolt of the Goths, led by Alaric

- The weakness of the Eastern Empire
- They over-run and plunder Greece
- The invasion of Italy by Alaric
- They are repulsed by Stilicho
- Honorius takes up residence in Ravenna
- A description of this fortified town and palace, the future home of succeeding emperors
- Description of the Chinese and Huns at this time
- Tribes fleeing from the Huns over-run Germany
- The Germans, led

by Radagaisus, approach Rome • Stilicho resists and defeats Radagaisus • Alaric and Goths invade Gaul • Britain revolts and elects Constantine, a private soldier, as emperor in the West • Alaric concludes a treaty with Honorius and becomes master-general of Roman armies • Honorius persuaded of the treachery of Stilicho by his favourites • Disgrace and death of Stilicho

Chapter 31

Invasion of Italy by Alaric and successful passage to the walls of Rome • Weakness of the Roman senate and people, compared to their forbears at the time of Hannibal • Their present luxurious manners, the 'blessings of ease', the reason given for Roman laziness and pusillanimity • Rome suffers famine as a result of Alaric's siege and thousands die • Alaric's clemency and demands • Roman pride and intransigence lead to further sieges by Alaric and at length the pillage of Rome by the Goths • Its devastation • The death of Alaric • Adolphus, his successor, negotiates a successful peace with the Roman emperor • He marries

Honorius's sister • The Goths evacuate Italy and occupy Gaul • Fall of the usurper Constantine • The state of Spain before the reign of Honorius, and its fall to the Goths • An alliance is made between the Goths inhabiting Gaul and Spain, and the Romans • Withdrawal of troops from Britain leads to its independence • Reorganisation of Britain after the Romans depart

Chapter 32

Arcadius, Emperor of the Eastern Empire (395–408) • Its gradual decay • The influence of Eutropius, the eunuch • His rise to power and his control of the law • His resentment and avarice • Gainas the Goth leads a revolt of the Ostrogoths against Eutropius and Arcadius • Eutropius sacrificed by Arcadius to appease Gainas • His defeat and death • The life and persecution of St. John Chrysostom • The death of Arcadius and the reign of his young son Theodosius II (408–450) with his Sister Pulcheria • Her pious and charitable acts • Her care of government • The character of Theodosius II • His wife Eudocia • Her piety and her worldly

ambitions • An inconclusive war with Persia and the division of Armenia

Chapter 33

Death of Honorius, Emperor of the West (423) • Usurper, John, vies for the throne • Theodosius II sends an Eastern army to repel the usurper • Their success under the general Ardaburius in subduing Italy • Valentinian III, Emperor of the West (423–455) • Administration of his Mother Placidia during her son's minority • Aetius and Boniface, generals of Placidia's army • Their discord and rivalry result in revolt in Africa • Boniface encourages the conquest of Africa by Genseric and the Vandals • St. Augustin • The fable of the Seven Sleepers

Chapter 34

The character, conquests, and court of Attila, king of the Huns • Eastern Empire falls to Attila • An ignominious treaty secures peace • Ambassadors from Constantinople view Attila's 'capital' and 'palace' • Death of Theodosius the Younger (450) • His sister Pulcheria

declared empress, the first female sovereign of the Romans • Elevation of Marcian, as Pulcheria's husband, to the Empire of the East (450–457)

Chapter 35

Placidia and Valentinian III under the protection of the general Aetius • His character and relationship with the Huns and Goths • The Franks • The adventures of Honoria, sister of Valentinian III • Invasion of Gaul by Attila • He is repulsed by Aetius with the aid of Theodoric and the Visigoths • Attila invades Italy • The republic of Venice evolves from the conflict • The ambassador Avienus arranges a treaty for the retreat of the Huns • The death of Attila, the murder of Aetius, and the assassination of Valentinian III

Chapter 36

Genseric and the Vandals invade Italy and threaten Rome • Elevation of Maximus to the Western throne (455) • His character and brief reign • Avitus in Gaul is elevated by the Visigoths to the throne of the West (455–456) • Theodoric, king of the Visigoths • Count Ricimer opposes Avitus

• Majorian elected Emperor (457–461) • His character and reign • Sack of Rome by Genseric, king of the Vandals • His naval attacks • Majorian successfully resists Genseric but is betrayed by Ricimer • Elevation of Libius Severus (461–465) and Anthemius, a Greek (467–472) • Genseric continues his attacks by sea • Ricimer appeals to Leo I (457–474), Emperor of the East, for help • The combined forces attack Genseric and the vandals at sea • They are vanquished by Genseric, which heralds the total extinction of the Western Empire • Uprising of Gaul • Succession of the last emperors of the West: the senator Olybrius (472); the soldier, Glycerius (473–474); the king of Dalmatia, Nepos (474–475); and the last emperor Romulus Augustulus (475–476) • Reign of Odoacer, the first Barbarian King of Italy

EMPERORS OF ROME

AUGUSTUS: 27 BC–14 AD

TIBERIUS: 14–37

CALIGULA: 37–41

CLAUDIUS I: 41–54

NERO: 54–68

GALBA: 68–69

OTHO: 69

VITELLIUS: 69

VESPASIAN: 69–79

TITUS: 79–81

DOMITIAN: 81–96

NERVA: 96–98

TRAJAN: 98–117

HADRIAN: 117–138

ANTONINIUS PIUS: 138–161

MARCUS AURELIUS: 161–180

 With Lucius Verus: 161–169

 With Commodus: 177–180

COMMODUS: 180–192

PERTINAX: 193

DIDIUS JULIANUS: 193

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS: 193–211

 With Caracalla: 198–209

 With Caracalla and Geta: 209–211

CARACALLA: 211–217

 With Geta: 211

MACRINUS: 217–218

ELAGABALUS: 218–222

ALEXANDER SEVERUS: 222–235

MAXIMINUS THRAX : 235–238

GORDIAN I & GORDIAN II: 238

PUPIENUS & BALBINUS: 238

GORDIAN III: 238–244

PHILIP: 244–249

DECIUS: 249–251

TREBONIANUS GALLUS: 251–253

AEMILIANUS: 253

VALERIAN: 253–260

 With Gallienus: 253–260

GALLIENUS: 260–268

CLAUDIUS II: 268–270

QUINTILLUS: 270

AURELIAN: 270–275

TACITUS: 275–276

FLORIANUS: 276

PROBUS: 276–282

CARUS: 282–283

CARINUS: 283–285

 With Numerian: 283–284

DIOCLETIAN: 284–305

 With Maximian: 286–305

 With Galerius 293–305

GALERIUS: 305–311

 With Constantius I: 305–306

With Constantine I: 306–311
With Maxentius: 306–311
With Licinius: 307–311
With Maximinus II: 308–311
CONSTANTINE I: 311–337
With Maxentius: 311–312
With Licinius: 311–324
CONSTANTINE II, CONSTANTIUS II &
CONSTANS: 337–340
CONSTANTIUS II: 340–361
With Constans: 340–350
JULIAN: 361–363
JOVIAN: 363–364
VALENTINIAN I: 364–375
With Valens: 364–375
With Gratian: 367–375
VALENS: 364–378
With Gratian and Valentinian II:
375–378
THEODOSIUS I: 379–395
With Gratian: 379–383
With Valentinian II: 379–392
With Arcadius: 383–395
With Honorius: 392–395

Emperors of the Western Empire after Theodosius I

HONORIUS: 394–423
VALENTINIAN III: 423–455
PETRONIUS MAXIMUS: 455
AVITUS: 455–456
MAJORIAN: 457–461
LIBIUS SEVERUS: 461–465
(No Emperor: 465–467)
ANTHEMIUS: 467–472
OLYBRIUS: 472
GLYCERIUS: 473–474
JULIUS NEPOS: 474–475
ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS: 475–476

End of the Western Empire: Odoacer, King of Italy

EMPERORS OF THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

CONSTANTINE I: 306–337
CONSTANTIUS II: 337–361 (sole emperor after 350)
JULIAN: 361–363 (sole emperor)

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

Dynasty of Theodosius

THEODOSIUS I, the Great: 379–395
(sole emperor after 392)
ARCADIUS: 395–408
THEODOSIUS II: 408–450 (Anthemius,
regent: 408–414)
MARCIAN: 450–457 (married to
Pulcheria, daughter of Arcadius)

Dynasty of Leo

LEO I, the Thracian: 457–474
LEO II: 474
ZENO: 474–491
ANASTASIUS I, Dicomus: 491–518

Dynasty of Justinian

JUSTIN I: 518–527
JUSTINIAN I: 527–565
JUSTIN II: 565–574 (Sophia, regent)
TIBERIUS II, Constantine: 574–582
MAURICE: 582–602
PHOCAS: 602–610

Dynasty of Heraclius

HERACLIUS: 610–641
CONSTANTINE III: 641
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
STAURACIUS: 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

MICHAEL III: 842–867

Macedonian Dynasty

BASIL I, the Macedonian: 867–886

LEO VI, the Wise: 886–912

ALEXANDER: 912–913

CONSTANTINE VII, Porphyrogenitus:
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.

Credits

Produced by David Timson

Edited and mastered by Sarah Butcher

© Booklet: Naxos AudioBooks Ltd 2014

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE,
BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THESE COMPACT DISCS PROHIBITED.

Booklet and cover design: Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts,
using images from Shutterstock

View our catalogue online at

n-ab.com/cat

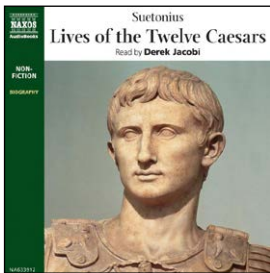
For further assistance, please contact:

In the UK: Naxos AudioBooks, Select Music & Video Distribution,
3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3SL.
Tel: 01737 645600.

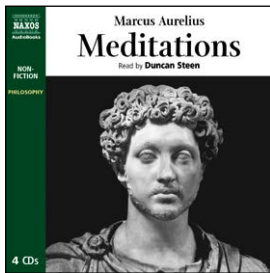
In the USA: Naxos of America Inc.,
1810 Columbia Ave., Suite 28, Franklin, TN 37064.
Tel: +1 615 771 9393

In Australia: Select Audio/Visual Distribution Pty. Ltd.,
PO Box 691, Brookvale, NSW 2100.
Tel: +61 299481811

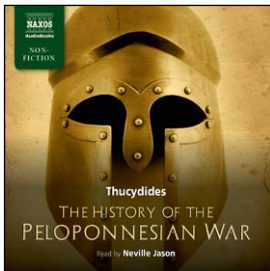
Other works on Naxos AudioBooks



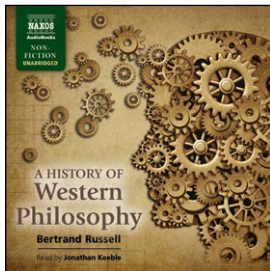
Lives of the Twelve Caesars
(Suetonius) ISBN: 9789626343395
Read by Derek Jacobi



Meditations
(Aurelius) ISBN: 9781843793601
Read by Duncan Steen



The History of the Peloponnesian War
(Thucydides) ISBN: 9781843795513
Read by Neville Jason



A History of Western Philosophy
(Russell) ISBN: 9781843797395
Read by Jonathan Keeble