



**NAXOS**  
AudioBooks

NON-  
FICTION  
UNABRIDGED

**Edward Gibbon**

THE DECLINE AND FALL  
OF THE  
ROMAN EMPIRE

Read by

**David Timson**

VOLUME V

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## CD 1

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 47</b>	7:38
<b>2</b>	Yet in the insufficient creed of the Nazarenes...	12:03
<b>3</b>	III. Such were the fleeting shadows of the Docetes.	9:28
<b>4</b>	V. The grovelling Ebionite and the fantastic Docetes...	10:36
<b>5</b>	Such honours might incite the faithful to combat and die...	9:46
<b>6</b>	It was the duty of Cyril to enlighten the zeal and ignorance...	9:48
<b>7</b>	His throne was distant and inaccessible...	9:46
<b>8</b>	Secluded from the church and from the world...	9:59

**Total time on CD 1: 79:09**

## CD 2

<b>1</b>	A quarter of a mile from the Thracian Bosphorus...	11:17
<b>2</b>	The disorders of thirty years at length produced...	11:36
<b>3</b>	Justinian has been already seen in the various lights...	10:03
<b>4</b>	With these sentiments, it was incumbent on him...	9:44
<b>5</b>	The faculties of sense and reason are least capable...	10:38
<b>6</b>	Armenia and Abyssinia were infected by the speech...	10:47
<b>7</b>	The desire of gaining souls for God...	7:34
<b>8</b>	When the Portuguese first opened the navigation...	7:12

**Total time on CD 2: 78:57**

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### CD 3

1	In this spiritual distress the expiring faction...	9:58
2	IV. Since the age of Constantine...	9:54
3	A more important conquest still remained...	8:33
4	Christianity was more deeply rooted in the Abyssinian empire...	10:29
5	<b>Chapter 48</b>	9:23
6	After this foundation of Byzantine history...	11:30
7	We shall imagine ourselves transported...	10:42
8	On the edge of the Scythian wilderness...	8:05

**Total time on CD 3: 78:40**

### CD 4

1	Between the fall of the Heraclian and the rise...	10:11
2	Leo the Fourth, the son of the fifth and the father...	10:19
3	Many tyrants have reigned undoubtedly more criminal...	10:34
4	The character of Theophilus is a rare example...	10:11
5	The unnatural lusts which had degraded even the manhood...	9:58
6	Yet under his reign the Roman arms were again formidable...	9:43
7	The succeeding years of the minority of Constantine...	9:18
8	Yet he imposed on a holy patriarch...	9:14

**Total time on CD 4: 79:33**

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## CD 5

1	Of such a character, in such an age...	10:23
2	The soldiers had served with reluctant loyalty...	9:44
3	John Comnenus, the brother of the emperor Isaac...	9:31
4	It was the wish of Irene to supplant the eldest...	8:40
5	The story of his exploits, which appear as a model...	9:13
6	At length he found the moment and the means...	9:00
7	The patriarch laboured with honest zeal to heal the wounds...	8:29
8	With the dawn of day the city burst into a general sedition...	9:34
9	<b>Chapter 49</b>	4:25

**Total time on CD 5: 79:05**

## CD 6

1	But a memorial more interesting than the skull...	11:22
2	The worship of images had stolen into the church...	11:16
3	The scandal of an abstract heresy...	9:24
4	Two original epistles, from Gregory the Second...	10:20
5	To punish this flagitious deed...	11:43
6	In his distress the first Gregory had implored the aid...	10:53
7	II. In the change of manners and language...	7:13
8	But in the rigid interpretation of the laws...	6:56

**Total time on CD 6: 79:12**

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## CD 7

1	The emperors and the Romans were incapable...	10:08
2	After the death of Theophilus the final victory...	10:04
3	From his prison he escaped to the Vatican...	9:41
4	The union and stability of his empire...	9:56
5	V. He retaliated on the Avars, or Huns of Pannonia...	10:29
6	Otho was of the noble race of the dukes of Saxony...	10:10
7	Otho the First imposed a treaty on the senate...	9:46
8	The alarum-bell rang to arms in every quarter...	9:15

**Total time on CD 7: 79:34**

## CD 8

1	Ambitious of restoring the splendour of the purple...	11:04
2	It is in the fourteenth century that we may view...	8:18
3	<b>Chapter 50</b>	10:54
4	Arabia, in the opinion of the naturalist, is the genuine...	9:01
5	The perpetual independence of the Arabs has been the theme...	11:28
6	In the study of nations and men we may observe...	10:12
7	The ferocious Bedoweens, the terror of the desert...	8:48
8	From Japan to Peru, the use of sacrifice has universally...	9:40

**Total time on CD 8: 79:30**

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## CD 9

1	The base and plebeian origin of Mohammed...	9:50
2	He compares the nations and the religions of the earth...	9:34
3	The God of nature has written his existence on all his works...	12:04
4	The mission of the ancient prophets, of Moses and of Jesus...	9:58
5	II. The voluntary penance of the ascetics...	9:25
6	With the two simple elements of darkness and fire...	10:33
7	The people of Mecca were hardened in their unbelief...	10:03
8	From his establishment at Medina, Mohammed assumed...	8:00

**Total time on CD 9: 79:33**

## CD 10

1	From all sides the roving Arabs were allured...	9:26
2	The choice of Jerusalem for the first kebla of prayer...	10:39
3	The conquest of Mecca determined the faith and obedience...	10:40
4	Till the age of sixty-three years, the strength of Mohammed...	10:53
5	The injustice of Mecca and the choice of Medina...	10:44
6	In the largest indulgence of polygamy...	9:36
7	The mischiefs that flow from the contests of ambition...	8:22
8	After this victory, which was styled the Day of the Camel...	8:56

**Total time on CD 10: 79:21**

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## CD 11

1	He traversed the desert of Arabia...	10:41
2	The talents of Mohammed are entitled to our applause...	8:26
3	<b>Chapter 51</b>	10:02
4	In the victorious days of the Roman republic...	8:49
5	The indignation and fears of the Persians...	10:35
6	In every age the foundation and ruin...	10:19
7	After the fall of the Persian kingdom...	8:26
8	One of the fifteen provinces of Syria, the cultivated lands...	12:02

**Total time on CD 11: 79:25**

## CD 12

1	In the presence of both armies a venerable Greek advanced...	10:48
2	The hungry and cruel Arabs would have obeyed...	1:57
3	Syria, one of the countries that have been improved...	9:36
4	The exhortation of the generals was brief and forcible.	9:46
5	To achieve what yet remained of the Syrian war...	10:58
6	The sieges and battles of six campaigns...	8:42
7	III. The conquest of Egypt may be explained...	10:16
8	Yet the Arabs, after a glorious and profitable enterprise...	7:17

**Total time on CD 12: 79:26**

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## CD 13

1	The efforts of the Arabs were not inadequate...	10:04
2	A more destructive zeal may perhaps be attributed...	11:13
3	Our reason must be startled by these extravagant assertions...	9:59
4	On a sudden the charge was sounded...	9:58
5	It had been the frequent practice of the Moorish tribes...	9:50
6	Such is the tale of the modern Arabians.	11:12
7	Before Musa would trust an army of the faithful...	7:36
8	Count Julian had plunged so deep into guilt and infamy...	8:39

**Total time on CD 13: 78:34**

## CD 14

1	In the midway between Merida and Toledo...	9:34
2	The resentment of the caliph might have been satiated...	7:45
3	The wars of the Moslems were sanctified by the prophet...	9:57
4	The Northern coast of Africa is the only land...	12:56
5	<b>Chapter 52</b>	8:11
6	The event of the siege revived, both in the East and West...	10:45
7	The brother of Moslemah was succeeded by a kinsman...	11:36
8	Constantinople and the Greek fire might exclude the Arabs...	7:32

**Total time on CD 14: 78:22**



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## CD 15

1	A victorious line of march had been prolonged...	9:03
2	The loss of an army, or a province...	8:49
3	Yet the thousands who were swept away by the sword...	11:57
4	In a private condition our desires are perpetually repressed...	10:16
5	In the libraries of the Arabians, as in those of Europe...	10:22
6	But the Moslems deprived themselves of the principal benefits...	11:28
7	Under the reign of Almamon at Bagdad...	8:08
8	In the sufferings of prostrate Italy...	9:25

**Total time on CD 15: 79:33**

## CD 16

1	The emperor Theophilus, son of Michael the Stammerer...	8:20
2	With Motassem, the eighth of the Abbassides...	10:59
3	The third and most obvious cause was the weight and magnitude...	10:02
4	Under the mask of piety, the rigid followers of Hanbal...	7:23
5	The sieges of Mopsuestia and Tarsus, In Cilicia...	8:12
6	<b>Chapter 53</b>	10:18
7	After the final division between the sons of Theodosius...	10:22
8	In the time of Constantine Porphyrogenitus they had acquired...	13:54

**Total time on CD 16: 79:35**

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## CD 17

1	But the toil and treasure of so many ages...	9:25
2	But in every monarchy the substantial powers of government...	10:25
3	In his regular or extraordinary processions...	9:17
4	The example of maternal incontinence was copied...	11:15
5	The principles of maritime tactics had not undergone...	8:32
6	These scruples of the Greeks have been compared...	10:00
7	A nation endowed with such high and intrepid spirit...	10:18
8	In the ninth century we trace the first dawns...	9:14

**Total time on CD 17: 78:31**

## CD 18

1	In the revolution of ten centuries, not a single discovery...	6:17
2	<b>Chapter 54</b>	9:23
3	Of the ecclesiastical chain, many links had been broken...	11:50
4	The most furious and desperate of rebels...	10:16
5	Alexius dissembled till the moment of revenge...	9:33
6	A philosopher, who calculates the degree of their merit...	11:22
7	<b>Chapter 55</b>	10:45
8	The glory of the Bulgarians was confined...	9:49

**Total time on CD 18: 79:20**

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## CD 19

1	From this primitive country they were driven to the West...	11:32
2	After a long pilgrimage of flight or victory...	10:07
3	The Hungarians were expected in the front...	10:18
4	In the tenth century the geography of Scythia...	9:40
5	The Greek appellation of monoxyla, or single canoes...	11:32
6	Nicephorus could no longer expel the mischief...	7:02
7	In the sacrament of baptism she received the venerable name...	10:04
8	<b>Chapter 56</b>	9:14

**Total time on CD 19: 79:34**

## CD 20

1	On that day the scale of war was turned against the Franks...	8:51
2	The establishment of the Normans in the kingdoms of Naples...	10:23
3	Above twenty years after the first emigration...	9:54
4	A harder trial was reserved for the valour of Count Humphrey...	9:26
5	As the genius of Robert expanded with his fortune...	10:15
6	Roger, the twelfth and last of the sons of Tancred...	12:12
7	At the mouth of the Adriatic Gulf...	7:00
8	The enumeration of provinces recalls a sad comparison...	8:25

**Total time on CD 20: 76:31**

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## CD 21

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|---|---|-------|
| 1 | It is more than probable that Guiscard was not afflicted... | 9:51  |
| 2 | The ruins of the Septizonium were still defended...         | 10:22 |
| 3 | Of human life, the most glorious or humble prospects...     | 10:28 |
| 4 | Since the decease of Robert Guiscard...                     | 9:26  |
| 5 | The pride of Manuel disdained and rejected...               | 10:15 |
| 6 | The youth, innocence, and beauty of William the Second...   | 9:21  |

**Total time on CD 21: 59:47**

**Total time on CDs 1–21: 27:21:12**

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**Edward Gibbon**

THE DECLINE AND FALL  
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VOLUME V

**SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS**

**Chapter 47**

The doctrines of the primitive church • The schism of the Oriental sects over the incarnation of Christ; his human and divine nature • The position and influence of Cyril, patriarch of Alexandria • The opposition to him of Nestorius, patriarch of Constantinople • Contentious Synod of Ephesus • position of Emperor Theodosius • Eutyches supports Cyril • Interposition of Roman pontiff • Council of Chalcedon • Civil and ecclesiastical discord put down by Vitalian in first Christian religious war • Emperor Justinian as a theologian • His intolerance • The Monothelite controversy • Move towards Catholic unity by the end

of the 7th century • The opposition and fortunes in the East of: I. The Nestorians — II. The Jacobites — III. The Maronites — IV. The Armenians — V. The Copts and Abyssinians.

**Chapter 48**

Gibbon's plan for the remainder of his project is to continue with the history of the decline of the Eastern Empire to the fall of Constantinople in 1453 • An assessment of the Greek emperors of the East, from Heraclius to the conquest of Constantinople by the Latins • Heraclius (610–641) • Constantine III (641) • Constans II (641–668) • Constantine IV (668–685) • Justinian II (685–695, *banished*) • Leontius (695–698) • Tiberius

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III (698–705) • Justinian II (*restored*, 705–711) • Philippicus (711–713) • Anastasius II (713–715) • Theodosius III (715–717) • Leo the Isaurian (717–741) • Constantine V (Copronymus) (741–775) • Leo IV the Khazar (775–780) • Constantine VI (780–797) • Irene (797–802) • Nicephorus I (802–811) • Michael I (811–813) • Leo V the Armenian (813–820) • Theophilus (829–842) • Michael III (842–867) • Basil I the Macedonian (867–886) • Leo VI the Philosopher (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 Nicephorus II 963–969 and John I Zimisces 969–976) • Constantine VIII (1035–28) • Romanus III (1028–1034) • Michael IV the Paphlagonian (1034–1041) • Michael V Kalaphates (1041–1042) • Constantine IX Monomachus (1042–1055) • Theodora (1055–1056) • Michael VI (1056–1057) • Isaac I Comnenus (1057–1059) • Constantine X Doukas (1059–1067) • Romanus IV Diogenes (1068–1071) • Michael VII Doukas (1071–1078) • Nicephorus III Botaneiates (1078–1081) •

Alexius I Komnenos (1081–1118) • John II (1118–1143) • Manuel I (1143–1180) • Alexius II (1180–1183) • Andronicus I (1183–1185)

## **Chapter 49**

Influence of Christianity on the fall of the Roman Empire • The growth of the worship of Christian images, and the resulting persecution by Leo III, emperor of the East • Images defended by Italian Pope • Conflict and split between Eastern and Western churches • State of Rome in the 8th century • Temporal rule of Popes • Weakness of Rome encourages attacks from Lombardy • Relief and occupation of Roma and Italy by the Franks • Worship of images restored • The reign of the emperor Charlemagne • His character • Establishment of the Holy Roman Empire in the West • Weakness of his successors • The state of the German provinces • Invasion and conquest of Italy by the German confederates • Uniting of German interests, formation of Hanseatic League and establishment of government by monarch, church and third estate

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## Chapter 50

Description of Arabia, its inhabitants, their character and nature • Their religion before Mohammed • The birth, character and doctrine of Mohammed • Comparison of Jewish, Christian and Moslem religions • The Koran • Legends of Mohammed • Aspects of the Mohammedan religion • Early history of Mohammed, his conversions etc. • Mohammed adopts an aggressive policy • Conversion by the sword • The taking of Mecca • Last days and death of Mohammed • Assessment of Mohammed, the pros and cons • Abubeker becomes Mohammed's successor • Disputes and conflicts over subsequent successors • The claims and fortunes of Ali and his descendants • Mohammed's achievement and lasting influence

## Chapter 51

Strife among the Moslems after the death of Mohammed • His successors assume the title of Caliph and inspire a Holy War • Moslem fanaticism and zeal over a period of 100 years subdues Persia, Syria, Egypt, Africa and Spain to the rule of Moslem religion

## Chapter 52

The Arabs twice besiege Constantinople and are repelled • The Greeks powerful weapon: 'Greek fire' • Some provinces of Gaul successfully attacked by the Arabs • Gaul and the future of Christendom ensured by the arms of Charles Martell • Rivalry among the Moslems, civil war of the Ommiades and Abbassides • Unity of Moslem cause weakened by factions and pursuit of pleasure • The spread of Arabic learning • Harun al-Rashid exacts tribute from Constantinople • Subduing of Crete, Sicily and Rome by the Moslems • Rome relieved by Caesarius and his fleet • Decay and division of the Caliphs • Nicephorus Phocas, general of the East, recovers Crete from the Arabs • More victories for the Greek emperors

## Chapter 53

The state of the Eastern Empire in the 10th century • Its weakness and vulnerability • The importance of the manufacture of silk to the East's economy • The decadence of the emperors • Their ostentatious architecture, ceremonies and offices • The defensive and offensive systems of the

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Greeks, Muslims and Franks • Loss of the Latin language in the East, and separation of Western and Eastern cultures • Growth in the Eastern Empire of the study of the learning of Classical Greece • The insularity of the Byzantine Greeks

### **Chapter 54**

The state of Christianity in the 7th century • A new sect, the Paulicians, a branch of the Manichaeans, formed in the East • Its nature and radical beliefs • The spread of the Paulician doctrine by Constantine-Silvanus • Opposition of the emperors and conflict • Revolt in Armenia • Transplantation of sect, by Constantine Copronymus, into Thrace • Subsequent propagation of Paulician doctrine in the West • Seeds of the Reformation sown by Paulicians in 11th and 12th centuries • Their influence on Luther, Calvin and Zuinglius, and on the progress and consequences of the Reformation

### **Chapter 55**

Barbarian attacks on the Empire between the 7th and 12th centuries • The Bulgarians cross the Danube and attack the Eastern

Empire • Their origin • The Hungarians attack • Their origin, their nature, culture and customs • Inroads of the Hungarians into the East and West • Their progress checked by the Saxons • The emergence of the Russians as a power • Their origins, customs, culture and trade • Their attack on Constantinople by sea and land • Their defeat by John Zimisce • Conversion of the Russians to Christianity • Conversion of the barbarians to Christianity during the 9th, 10th and 11th centuries

### **Chapter 56**

Attacks on Italy by the Saracens and Franks • United forces of Eastern and Western Empires temporarily hold off the attacks • The rise of the Normans • Their origins and early military successes, their settlement • Robert Guiscard • His character and success as a leader of the Normans • His Italian conquests, Apulia and Calabria • Deliverance of Sicily from the Saracens by Roger, his brother • Robert determines to conquer the Eastern Empire • He attacks Constantinople • Defended by Alexius Comnenus, with mercenary support from the West – Robert's victories



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over the emperors of the East and West •  
Death of Robert • Robert's nephew Roger  
creates the Kingdom of Sicily • He attacks  
Africa and renews the Norman attack on  
the Eastern Empire • His adversary, the  
Emperor Manuel Comnenus, negotiates a  
truce • The decline and extinction of the  
Norman race

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## 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

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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

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CARUS: 282–283

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    With Numerian: 283–284

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    With Maximian: 286–305

    With Galerius 293–305

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    With Constantius I: 305–306

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

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## **EMPERORS OF THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE**

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

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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

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## **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

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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**

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## 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:

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'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**





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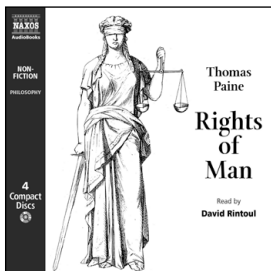
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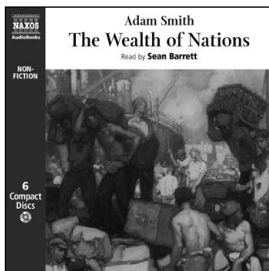
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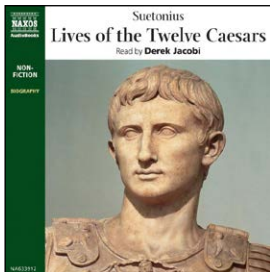
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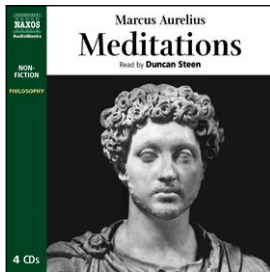
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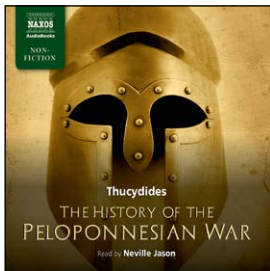
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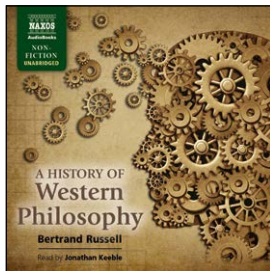
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