



NAXOS

AudioBooks

NON-
FICTION
UNABRIDGED



Edward Gibbon

THE DECLINE AND FALL
OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE

Read by

David Timson

VOLUME VI

CD 1

| | | |
|----------|--|-------|
| 1 | Chapter 57 | 10:49 |
| 2 | From the paths of blood, and such is the history of nations... | 9:14 |
| 3 | The apprehension of such formidable friendship... | 10:16 |
| 4 | With the belief of the Koran, the son of Seljuk... | 10:13 |
| 5 | The false or genuine magnanimity of Mahmud the Gaznevide... | 8:54 |
| 6 | As long as a hope survived, Romanus attempted to rally... | 9:59 |
| 7 | During the life of Alp Arslan... | 9:45 |
| 8 | The greatness and unity of the Turkish Empire expired... | 9:31 |

Total time on CD 1: 78:46

CD 2

| | | |
|----------|--|-------|
| 1 | On the hard conditions of tribute and servitude... | 10:26 |
| 2 | The revolution which transferred the sceptre... | 11:42 |
| 3 | Chapter 58 | 10:13 |
| 4 | It may occasion some surprise that the Roman pontiff... | 10:23 |
| 5 | I. The right of a just defence may fairly include... | 10:19 |
| 6 | These compensations of the purse and the person... | 11:00 |
| 7 | The fifteenth of August had been fixed in the council... | 8:26 |
| 8 | None of the great sovereigns of Europe embarked their persons... | 6:43 |

Total time on CD 2: 79:18

CD 3

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | III. In the south of France, the command was assumed... | 9:57 |
| 2 | Abroad in enterprise and pilgrimage... | 11:24 |
| 3 | In some Oriental tale I have read the fable... | 9:23 |
| 4 | A private letter of Stephen of Chartres... | 10:57 |
| 5 | Had not superstition condemned the sacrilegious prudence... | 10:23 |
| 6 | As long as the horses were fresh... | 9:32 |
| 7 | At the end of seven months, after the ruin of their cavalry... | 9:28 |
| 8 | For their salvation and victory... | 8:22 |

Total time on CD 3: 79:32

CD 4

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | The prudence or fortune of the Franks... | 10:01 |
| 2 | On the fifth day, the crusaders made a general assault... | 10:56 |
| 3 | Without this indulgence, the conqueror would have almost... | 11:20 |
| 4 | The justice and freedom of the constitution were maintained... | 10:04 |
| 5 | Chapter 59 | 9:13 |
| 6 | I. Of the swarms that so closely trod in the footsteps... | 11:17 |
| 7 | III. The swarms that followed the first crusade... | 7:24 |
| 8 | The enthusiasm of the first crusade... | 9:13 |

Total time on CD 4: 79:34

CD 5

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | Ascansar, a valiant Turk, had been the favourite... | 10:09 |
| 2 | The Franks were already at the gates of Cairo... | 11:50 |
| 3 | During its short existence, the kingdom of Jerusalem... | 10:35 |
| 4 | After Jerusalem had been delivered from the presence... | 10:21 |
| 5 | Philip Augustus and Richard the First are the only kings... | 9:10 |
| 6 | The health both of Richard and Saladin appeared... | 9:30 |
| 7 | The persons, the families, and estates of the pilgrims... | 10:22 |
| 8 | In complete armour, the oriflamme waving before him... | 7:24 |

Total time on CD 5: 79:25

CD 6

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | They produce the great charter of their liberties... | 7:24 |
| 2 | Chapter 60 | 8:43 |
| 3 | Bigotry and national aversion are powerful magnifiers... | 10:00 |
| 4 | The two wives of Manuel Comnenus... | 10:33 |
| 5 | The Bulgarians were malicious enough to pray... | 11:59 |
| 6 | In the invasion of Italy by Attila... | 11:39 |
| 7 | The execution of the treaty was still opposed... | 8:08 |
| 8 | A double alliance, and the dignity of Caesar... | 10:22 |

Total time on CD 6: 78:53

CD 7

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | In relating the invasion of a great empire... | 9:10 |
| 2 | In the choice of the attack, the French and Venetians... | 9:45 |
| 3 | The mixture of two discordant nations in the same capital... | 9:08 |
| 4 | Among the Greeks, all authority and wisdom were overborne... | 11:55 |
| 5 | Constantinople had been taken by storm... | 9:30 |
| 6 | In the meanwhile, his desolate churches were profaned... | 12:25 |
| 7 | Chapter 61 | 7:40 |
| 8 | In the division of the Greek provinces... | 9:01 |

Total time on CD 7: 78:40

CD 8

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | As the tyrant, pursued by fear or remorse... | 9:02 |
| 2 | The Latin conquerors had been saluted... | 10:12 |
| 3 | In all civilised hostility, a treaty is established... | 10:25 |
| 4 | The Venetians had engaged to transport Peter... | 10:26 |
| 5 | In the double victory of John of Brienne... | 10:14 |
| 6 | The Latins of Constantinople were on all sides... | 12:00 |
| 7 | After this narrative of the expeditions of the Latins... | 11:04 |
| 8 | Digression on the Family of Courtenay | 6:01 |

Total time on CD 8: 79:29

CD 9

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | II. While Joscelin reigned beyond the Euphrates... | 9:21 |
| 2 | III. According to the old register of Ford Abbey... | 9:16 |
| 3 | Chapter 62 | 10:20 |
| 4 | A matron of the family of the Palaeologi... | 8:24 |
| 5 | But his innocence had been too unworthily treated... | 10:43 |
| 6 | So eager was the impatience of the prince and people... | 8:25 |
| 7 | Arsenius was involved in a vague rumour of conspiracy... | 11:57 |
| 8 | But they found a country without a friend... | 10:15 |

Total time on CD 9: 78:46

CD 10

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | The hostile league against the Greeks... | 9:21 |
| 2 | I shall not, I trust, be accused of superstition... | 11:24 |
| 3 | After some ages of oblivion, Greece was awakened... | 8:31 |
| 4 | Chapter 63 | 9:34 |
| 5 | But the younger Andronicus was speedily corrupted... | 9:57 |
| 6 | His calamities were embittered by the gradual extinction... | 10:11 |
| 7 | Had the regent found a suitable return... | 9:19 |
| 8 | The introduction of barbarians and savages... | 11:00 |

Total time on CD 10: 79:23

CD 11

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | While the regent grasped the sceptre... | 9:15 |
| 2 | For the conclusion of this chapter... | 11:30 |
| 3 | But the emperor was soon solicited to violate the treaty... | 5:58 |
| 4 | Chapter 64 | 9:31 |
| 5 | The reason of Zingis was not informed by books... | 9:12 |
| 6 | In the West, he touched the dominions of Mohammed... | 9:37 |
| 7 | In the attack and defence of places... | 10:10 |
| 8 | In his rapid progress, he overran the kingdoms... | 13:38 |

Total time on CD 11: 78:57

CD 12

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | One hundred and forty years after the death of Zingis... | 11:50 |
| 2 | From the conquest of Prusa, we may date the true era... | 10:31 |
| 3 | Before his death, he generously recommended another ally... | 10:10 |
| 4 | Such was the origin of these haughty troops... | 8:11 |
| 5 | Such is the general idea of the Hungarian war... | 8:46 |
| 6 | After his enfranchisement from an oppressive guardian... | 9:01 |
| 7 | Chapter 65 | 12:00 |
| 8 | I. For every war, a motive of safety or revenge... | 8:46 |

Total time on CD 12: 79:20

CD 13

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | On the banks of the Don, or Tanais, he received... | 9:26 |
| 2 | Between two jealous and haughty neighbours... | 10:06 |
| 3 | The true succession of the caliphs was a controversy... | 10:21 |
| 4 | In that day Bajazet displayed the qualities of a soldier... | 9:40 |
| 5 | II. The name of Poggius the Italian is deservedly famous... | 10:51 |
| 6 | The recent expulsion of the house of Zingis was an insult... | 10:24 |
| 7 | The four following observations will serve to appreciate... | 11:53 |
| 8 | In these conflicts, the wisest Turks... | 6:43 |

Total time on CD 13: 79:30

CD 14

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | But the execution of his last testament... | 8:30 |
| 2 | From the time of Orchan and the first Amurath... | 8:28 |
| 3 | Chapter 66 | 10:12 |
| 4 | If Clement was ill endowed with the virtues of a priest... | 10:52 |
| 5 | A special licence was granted to negotiate with the outlaw... | 10:07 |
| 6 | During the period of the crusades, the Greeks beheld... | 9:03 |
| 7 | After his return, and the victory of Timour, Manuel reigned... | 11:09 |
| 8 | To heal the wounds, and restore the monarchy... | 11:04 |

Total time on CD 14: 79:31

CD 15

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | The resolution of Palaeologus was decided... | 9:19 |
| 2 | But as soon as festivity and form had given place... | 11:00 |
| 3 | While they were lost in a cloud of dust and darkness... | 10:52 |
| 4 | The success of the first trial encouraged Eugenius... | 10:49 |
| 5 | The most learned Italians of the fifteenth century... | 9:22 |
| 6 | The first steps of learning are slow and laborious... | 9:48 |
| 7 | I shall not attempt to enumerate the restorers of Grecian... | 9:41 |
| 8 | Nicholas the fifth had been the friend of the most eminent... | 7:17 |

Total time on CD 15: 78:15

CD 16

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | Before the revival of classic literature... | 4:15 |
| 2 | Chapter 67 | 8:36 |
| 3 | The last hope of the falling city and empire... | 9:15 |
| 4 | 'Sultan Murad, or Amurath, lived forty-nine...' | 11:02 |
| 5 | Yet, on this side, the designs of the Roman pontiff... | 10:59 |
| 6 | It was on this fatal spot that, instead of finding... | 12:15 |
| 7 | In the list of heroes, John Huniades and Scanderberg... | 11:45 |
| 8 | Without disparagement to his fame... | 10:20 |

Total time on CD 16: 78:33

CD 17

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | On the return of Phranza, the treaty was ratified... | 3:24 |
| 2 | Chapter 68 | 10:31 |
| 3 | The Mohammedan, and more especially the Turkish casuists... | 9:01 |
| 4 | Mohammed himself pressed and directed the work... | 8:46 |
| 5 | Among the implements of destruction, he studied... | 10:36 |
| 6 | In her last decay, Constantinople was still peopled... | 10:06 |
| 7 | Of the triangle which composes the figure of Constantinople... | 11:14 |
| 8 | Except eighteen galleys of some force... | 14:37 |

Total time on CD 17: 78:20

CD 18

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | The greatest part of Mohammed's bashaws and Janizaries... | 9:56 |
| 2 | The immediate loss of Constantinople may be ascribed... | 9:56 |
| 3 | While they expected the descent of the tardy angel... | 10:25 |
| 4 | From the first hour of the memorable twenty-ninth of May | 10:35 |
| 5 | Constantinople no longer appertains to the Roman historian... | 9:50 |
| 6 | It is not easy to pronounce whether the servitude of Demetrius.. | 10:58 |
| 7 | Chapter 69 | 8:07 |
| 8 | Of her two sovereigns, the emperor had precariously reigned... | 8:54 |

Total time on CD 18: 78:46

CD 19

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | The motives of the Pope's election... | 9:39 |
| 2 | The Jews had rejected the Christ when he appeared... | 10:30 |
| 3 | The love of ancient freedom has encouraged a belief... | 12:12 |
| 4 | The union and vigour of a public council was dissolved... | 8:34 |
| 5 | In the first moments of rebellion... | 9:45 |
| 6 | Under the reign of Hadrian, when the empire extended... | 9:33 |
| 7 | A vacancy of almost three years had preceded... | 8:49 |
| 8 | After Benedict's decease, the tedious and equal suspense... | 10:24 |

Total time on CD 19: 79:30

CD 20

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | Clement's summons was obeyed... | 11:41 |
| 2 | Boniface proclaimed a crusade against his personal enemies... | 6:40 |
| 3 | Chapter 70 | 9:34 |
| 4 | In the act or diploma which was presented to Petrarch... | 12:07 |
| 5 | But such voluntary obedience evaporates... | 10:13 |
| 6 | The deliverance of his country inspired Rienzi... | 9:15 |
| 7 | With equal presumption the tribune watched or reposed... | 10:31 |
| 8 | The vision and prophecies of St. Martin and Pope Boniface... | 8:09 |

Total time on CD 20: 78:17

CD 21

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | After an exile of seven years, the first deliverer... | 9:18 |
| 2 | The first and most generous wish of Petrarch... | 10:26 |
| 3 | If superstition will interpret an untimely death... | 8:59 |
| 4 | I have not undertaken the ecclesiastical history of the schism.. | 10:35 |
| 5 | The royal prerogative of coining money... | 9:00 |
| 6 | It is an obvious truth, that the times must be suited... | 9:33 |
| 7 | In the first period of their conquests... | 9:15 |
| 8 | Chapter 71 | 12:11 |

Total time on CD 21: 79:25

CD 22

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | Innumerable buildings, crowded in close and crooked streets... | 9:55 |
| 2 | III. The value of any object that supplies the wants... | 9:51 |
| 3 | With some slight alterations, a theatre, an amphitheatre... | 7:40 |
| 4 | The abolition at Rome of the ancient games... | 9:07 |
| 5 | When Petrarch first gratified his eyes with a view... | 12:13 |

Total time on CD 22: 48:50

Total time on CDs 1–22: 28:29:00

Edward Gibbon

THE DECLINE AND FALL
OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE

VOLUME VI

SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS

Chapter 57

The spread of the Turks • Mahmud I, the first sultan • He encourages the immigration of the Turkmans into his provinces of Persia • Conflict leads to the establishing of the house of Seljuk as leaders • Togrul expands the Turkish empire, adopts the Islamic religion and protects the caliphs, the successors of Mohammed • Alp Arslan attacks the Eastern Empire • Resisted by the Emperor Romanus • Capture of Romanus by the Turks, and his subjection to Arslan • Death of Arslan • Reign of Malek Shah and his conquests • Dispute over the Turkish throne upon the death of Malek • The

holy war of Soliman against the Eastern Empire and the West • The weakness and vulnerability of Constantinople and the East • The Turks capture Jerusalem • Conquest of Asia Minor and Syria • Perilous position of Christians and Pilgrims in Jerusalem

Chapter 58

Peter the Hermit rouses Europe to achieve by arms the restitution of the sepulchre of Christ in Jerusalem to the Christians • Pope Urban II inaugurates the first crusade to restore Jerusalem and protect Constantinople • The characters of the Latin Princes called upon to fight • Motives behind the first crusade • The hordes of popular supporters for Peter the

Hermit, their precipitate departure and lack of discipline • The principal leaders of the first crusade: Godfrey of Bouillon, Duke of Lorraine, Count of Blois, Robert of Normandy, Raymond Count of St Giles and Toulouse, Bohemond • The institution of the honour of knighthood and the rise of chivalry • Hardships of the journey to the Holy Land • The duplicitous policy of the Emperor Alexius Comnenus towards the crusaders • First campaign against Soliman and the Turks • The conquest of Nicea, Antioch and Jerusalem by the Franks • Courage and chivalry of Tancred • Martial skill and fanaticism of the Crusaders • Godfrey of Bouillon made King of Jerusalem • Founding of Knights Templar and of Hospital of St John • Feudal institutions introduced into the Holy Land • Trial by battle and other feudal laws

Chapter 59

The conflict between the first crusaders and the Emperor Alexius • The formation and progress of the second crusade • The third crusade led by Frederic Barbarossa • The numbers and events of the second and third crusade • The duplicity and treachery

of the Emperors Manuel Comnenus and Isaac Angelus • Misfortunes of the crusaders against the Turks • St. Bernard of Clairvaux • Discord amongst the Mohammedan powers • Rallied by Mosul and Nouredin to fight the Turks and Franks • Saladin • His character and achievements • His conquest of Jerusalem, his mercy and virtue • He reigns over Egypt and Syria • Richard I of England and his campaigns in the Holy Land • His character and reputation • Death of Saladin • Pope Innocent III raises the fourth and fifth crusades • Led by Frederic II • He recovers Jerusalem and other key cities • Louis IX and the last two unsuccessful crusades • The rise and spread of the Mamalukes of Tartary • The fall of Acre, the Latins' final stronghold, and their expulsion by the Mamalukes

Chapter 60

Schism between the Greek and Latin churches • The duplicity of the Greek Emperors against the Latins • The rise of Isaac Angelus as Greek Emperor (1185–1195 and 1203–1204) • The revolt of the Bulgarians against the Eastern Empire •

The dethroning of Isaac Angelus and the elevation of his brother Alexius Angelus (1195–1203) • The origins of the Fourth Crusade • The ambitions of the Venetian Republic • The Crusaders adopt the cause of the dethroned Isaac and his son, the rightful heir, Alexius • The Crusaders besiege and attack Constantinople • Death of the Emperors and usurpation of Mourzoufle • Latin Crusaders take Constantinople • The plundering of the capital

Chapter 61

Partition of the Eastern Empire by the French and Venetians • Establishing of the Latin Emperors • Resistance of Mourzoufle and Alexius Angelus and the Greek people • The threat of Calo-John and the Bulgarians to Constantinople • The Latin Emperor Henry (1206–1216) overcomes the Bulgarian threat • The rise and fall of the Latin Emperors • The rise of Michael Palaeologus and the defeat of the Latins and re-taking of Constantinople by the Greeks • The division between the Latins and Greeks and the consequence of the Crusades in Europe • Digression

on the different fortunes of the family of Courtenay

Chapter 62

The Greek Emperors of Nicea and Constantinople; Theodore Lascaris (1204–1222) and John Ducas Vataces (1222–1254) • The elevation and reign of Michael Palaeologus (1261–1282) • His hypocrisy in healing the schism between the Latin and Greek churches • He restores the decayed fortifications of Constantinople • Discord in the West • The hostile ambitions of Charles of Anjou • The Sicilian Vespers massacre • The Catalans attack Asia and Greece • Greece occupied and the present state of Athens

Chapter 63

Civil wars in the Eastern Empire • The reign of Andronicus the Elder (1282–1328) • His conflict with the Greek church • The reign of Andronicus the younger (1328–1341) • His young son, John Palaeologus (1341–1376) and the power of the regent John Cantacuzene • His elevation to Emperor • Civil wars of Empire increasingly reliant on barbarian mercenaries • Cantacuzene

retires to a monastic life • The Genoese colony in Constantinople • The Genoese initiate a war against the Greek emperor, who involves the Venetians

Chapter 64

The rise of the Turkish nation • Zingis Khan: his life and his conquests from China to Poland with the Moguls • The escape of Constantinople from the Turkish threat • Decline of Zingis Khan's Mogul successors and the rise of the Sultan Othman • The birth of the Ottoman Empire • The weakness of the Greeks and their alliances with the Turks • The Turkish conquest of Bithynia • Amurath I and his conquests • His son, Bajazet, his conquests and threat to Europe • John Palaeologus's life of collusion with the Turks • The vulnerability of Constantinople to the Turkish threat

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The origins and character of Timour (Tamerlane) • His rise to power • His conquests in Persia, Tartary and India • Timour comes into conflict with the Ottomans in Asia • Bajazet's capture by Timour and death • The historians

of Timour • Turks and Christians unite against Timour and appease him with gifts • The extent of Timour's conquests and his ambition to subdue Egypt and Africa • His indulgence of luxury in his capital, Samarcand • His attempt to subdue China thwarted by his death • Timour's legacy and reputation • The revival of the Ottoman monarchy by Mohammed I • The Ottoman Turks besiege Constantinople led by Amurath II • The origin of the Turkish nation • The role of gunpowder in the first siege of Constantinople

Chapter 66

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Council of Basil • The visits of the Eastern Emperors and their entourages revives Greek learning in Italy • Latin curiosity for Ancient Greek literature led by Petrarch and Boccace • Ancient Greek authors translated into Latin

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Chrysoloras extolls the respective beauties of Rome and Constantinople • The continuing schism between the East and West, as the false 'union' of the Latin and Greek churches collapses • The life and reign of the Turkish sultan Amurath II • Ladislaus, King of Hungary, leads a crusade against the Turkish threat to the West and East • His ignominious treaty with the Turks • Other European crusaders engage Turks in conflict • Death of Ladislaus • The Hungarian general John Huniades • The origins of the warrior Scanderbeg • His rebellion against the Turks • The end of the line of Eastern Emperors • Constantine Palaeologus (1449–1453) the last Emperor of the East

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Chapter 70

The character and poetry of Petrarch • His coronation in the Capitol as poet of Rome • The rise and fall of the tribune Rienzi • He challenges the power of the aristocratic families • His success in restoring the ancient freedoms and government of Rome • The flawed character of Rienzi • His coronation • His expulsion by Count Pepin, ally of the Colonna and Ursini • Rienzi at the papal court at Avignon • His massacre on his return to Rome • Petrarch encourages the return of the Papacy from Avignon to Rome • Schism in the Latin church caused by the election of rival Popes • The instability of Rome and the chaos of the Church • The synod of Constance restores ecclesiastical order

• The peaceful reign of Pope Nicholas V • The principles of Roman government and the decline of the republic • Last unsuccessful attempts to revive the liberty of the people by Porcaro • Rome accepts the temporal powers of the Papacy

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With Galerius 293–305

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(No Emperor: 465–467)
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THEODOSIUS I, the Great: 379–395
(sole emperor after 392)
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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
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

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 Palaiologoi

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

MICHAEL VIII, Palaeologus: 1261–1282

ANDRONIKOS II, Palaeologus: 1282–1328

With Michael IX: 1294–1320

ANDRONICUS III, Palaeologus: 1328–1341

JOHN V, Palaeologus: 1341–1376

With John VI, Kantakouzenos:

1347–1354

With Andronikos IV, Palaeologus:

1354–1373

ANDRONIKOS IV, Palaeologus: 1376–1379

JOHN V, Palaeologus (restored):

1379–1390

JOHN VII, Palaeologus: 1390

JOHN V, Palaeologus (restored): 1391

MANUEL II, Palaeologus: 1391–1425

JOHN VIII, Palaeologus: 1425–1448

CONSTANTINE XI, Palaeologus:

1449–1453

Capture of Constantinople by Mohammed 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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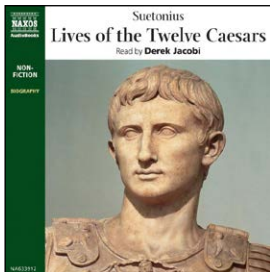
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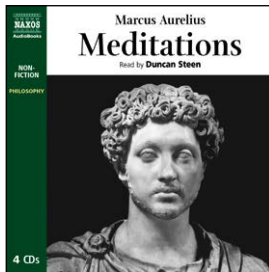
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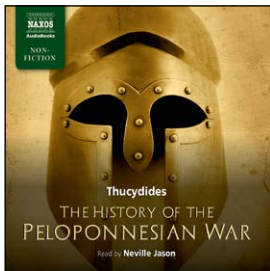
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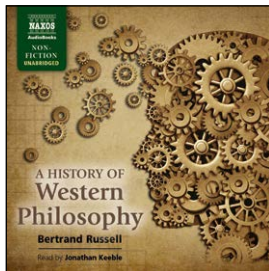
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