



## Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library)

*From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press*

Download now

Read Online 

**Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library)** From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press

The first book of its kind, this richly informative and comprehensive guide to the world of late antiquity offers the latest scholarship to the researcher along with great reading pleasure to the browser. In eleven comprehensive essays and in over 500 encyclopedic entries, an international cast of experts provides essential information and fresh perspectives on the history and culture of an era marked by the rise of two world religions, unprecedented political upheavals that remade the map of the known world, and the creation of art of enduring glory.

By extending the commonly accepted chronological and territorial boundaries of the period--to encompass Roman, Byzantine, Sassanian, and early Islamic cultures, from the middle of the third century to the end of the eighth--this guide makes new connections and permits revealing comparisons. Consult the article on "Angels" and discover their meaning in Islamic as well as classical and Judeo-Christian traditions. Refer to "Children," "Concubinage," and "Divorce" for a fascinating interweaving of information on the family. Read the essay on "Barbarians and Ethnicity" and see how a topic as current as the construction of identity played out in earlier times, from the Greeks and Romans to the Turks, Huns, and Saxons. Turn to "Empire Building" to learn how the empire of Constantine was supported by architecture and ceremony.

Or follow your own path through the broad range of entries on politics, manufacturing and commerce, the arts, philosophy, religion, geography, ethnicity, and domestic life. Each entry introduces readers to another facet of the postclassical world: historic figures and places, institutions, burial customs, food, money, public life, and amusements. A splendid selection of illustrations enhances the portrait.

The intriguing era of late antiquity emerges completely and clearly, viewed in a new light, in a guide that will be relished by scholars and general readers alike.

 [Download Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical Wor ...pdf](#)

# Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library)

*From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press*

## **Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library)**

From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press

The first book of its kind, this richly informative and comprehensive guide to the world of late antiquity offers the latest scholarship to the researcher along with great reading pleasure to the browser. In eleven comprehensive essays and in over 500 encyclopedic entries, an international cast of experts provides essential information and fresh perspectives on the history and culture of an era marked by the rise of two world religions, unprecedented political upheavals that remade the map of the known world, and the creation of art of enduring glory.

By extending the commonly accepted chronological and territorial boundaries of the period--to encompass Roman, Byzantine, Sassanian, and early Islamic cultures, from the middle of the third century to the end of the eighth--this guide makes new connections and permits revealing comparisons. Consult the article on "Angels" and discover their meaning in Islamic as well as classical and Judeo-Christian traditions. Refer to "Children," "Concubinage," and "Divorce" for a fascinating interweaving of information on the family. Read the essay on "Barbarians and Ethnicity" and see how a topic as current as the construction of identity played out in earlier times, from the Greeks and Romans to the Turks, Huns, and Saxons. Turn to "Empire Building" to learn how the empire of Constantine was supported by architecture and ceremony.

Or follow your own path through the broad range of entries on politics, manufacturing and commerce, the arts, philosophy, religion, geography, ethnicity, and domestic life. Each entry introduces readers to another facet of the postclassical world: historic figures and places, institutions, burial customs, food, money, public life, and amusements. A splendid selection of illustrations enhances the portrait.

The intriguing era of late antiquity emerges completely and clearly, viewed in a new light, in a guide that will be relished by scholars and general readers alike.

## **Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library)**

**From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press Bibliography**

- Rank: #166218 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press
- Published on: 1999-11-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.50" h x 1.66" w x 8.34" l, 3.89 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 802 pages

 [Download Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical Wor ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press**

---

## **Editorial Review**

### Amazon.com Review

Late antiquity--that period of history between 250 and 800 C.E.--was a unique and notable era, when the Roman and Sassanian empires spanned a great arc from the Atlantic coasts of Europe and Morocco across the Mediterranean, into the Balkans, and through the Middle East as far as Afghanistan. Historians have tended to dismiss this era as the decline and fall, and little more. In contrast, the editors of *Late Antiquity* (all esteemed professors at Princeton) make a great case for this era as the source from which our modern culture sprung. During that time, Constantinople and Baghdad came into being, and paganism took hold of people's imaginations so strongly that it's still with us today. "Much of what was created in that period still runs in our veins," they say, such as the codification of Roman law, the Jewish Talmud, the basic structure and doctrine of the Christian church, and the birth of Islam.

There are learned essays on topics such as Islam, the Christian triumph, and sacred landscapes; habitat, war, and violence; and empire building; as well as a timely piece on barbarians and ethnicity. But these essays, fine though they are, make up but a small fraction of the volume. The lion's share belongs to the alphabetical guide, an A-to-Z encyclopedia of more than 500 entries on items such as almsgiving, angels, bathing, circus factions, contraception, eunuchs, dendrites, Huns, monks, prayer, and pornography. With erudition and clarity, these editors redefine late antiquity, and provide a remarkable source of information for students, sages, history buffs, and antiquity enthusiasts. --*Stephanie Gold*

### From Library Journal

The editors of this work, all Princeton scholars, have accomplished a worthy goal in broadening our understanding of a significant period of history; through inclusion of the early expansion of Islam, they have extended late antiquity by some 150 years. Their new time line begins around 250 C.E., when the Roman Empire was in crisis and the Sassanians, a militant new dynasty, had arisen in Iran. By 313, the Roman Empire's civil and military institutions had been totally transformed, and a strong central government with imperial aspirations had also altered Iran and Iraq. By the year 800, the Church in Europe drew its organization from the civil institutions of the late Roman Empire, the Islamic Caliphate of the Abbasids had adopted the court ceremonies of the Sassanians to reinforce their authority, and Byzantium was ruled by the direct successors of Caesar Augustus. Making extensive use of new archaeological discoveries, this work challenges old assumptions and should help renew interest in this era. Highly recommended for academic and large public libraries. A Robert James Andrews, Duluth P.L., MN  
Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### Review

Reading *Late Antiquity* one has a sense of the tearing down of barriers which have divided what should be a seamless web of the past. History does not in reality confine itself to neatly separate areas and departments--Greek, Roman, Hebrew, Coptic, Arabic, Germanic--in the way that universities do...*Late Antiquity* keeps to a very high standard of scholarship and it will please a wide range of serious readers. (Jasper Griffin *New York Review of Books*)

The specific objective of this volume, with its distinguished editorship, is to enable students of the Late Roman Empire and the centuries that followed to perceive the period from c.250 AD to c.800 AD as a particular period in its own right, with characteristics, derived from the Roman and Sassanid Empires, that are peculiar to this period...A blockbuster such as this may appear daunting to the student but if it finds its

way to some library shelves, even in a few schools, it is likely to be not so much a guide as a support, stimulus and challenge to the already-guided. (Stephen Kern *Joint Association of Classical Teachers*)

A magnificent *Guide to the post-classical world* in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East. (Rosamond McKitterick *Times Literary Supplement*)

This is a richly informative volume on the history and culture of the postclassical period from about 250 to 800 CE...[this] book is a pleasure for the serious scholar and browser alike. (*Classical Association News*)

To fathom the cross-currents and undertows of the "post-classical" world while throwing out lifelines to the novice is no mean task, and the three editors have risen to this challenge with flair and discrimination...Cross-cutting between the public domain and private lives and drawing on such sources as Egyptian papyri and archaeology, the essays present varieties of experience in a three-dimensional way and make substantive contributions to scholarly debate. (Jonathan Shepard *Times Higher Education Supplement* 2000-12-22)

Some books are like the Grand Bazaar: a maze of twisting byways where every corner promises surprise. *Late Antiquity* is such a book. Modestly calling itself a guide, this sumptuous volume shows the way not only to exotic and often vanished locales, but also to the emperors and caliphs, kingdoms and dynasties, ascetics and voluptuaries, and even the ordinary citizens of that complex and tortuous half-millennium (from 250 to 800 A.D.) in which our own spiritual and intellectual world first took recognizable shape. More than 200 experts have contributed, but the guide displays none of the numbing sameness that so often discourages the reader of scholarly monographs. Alongside succinct articles on Augustine or on ships (with a fine line-drawing of a Byzantine double-oared vessel) or on Jerusalem, there are treatments of bed-chambers, camels, prayer and even pornography, among other topics. (Eric Ormsby *Wall Street Journal*)

[A] *vade mecum* for anybody drawn to what we used to call the Dark Ages, that swirling, little-understood period from the 3rd to the 8th centuries. (Michael Dirda *Washington Post Book World*)

The result of the editors' decision to provide not an encyclopedia but a 'guide' is a brilliant success...The 11 brilliant and provocative essays which constitute the first section of the book discuss with fresh insight and in depth the ways in which the people of these turbulent centuries appropriated and manipulated the past; how the philosophers wrestled with the concept of 'the self,' one for which the Latin and Greek languages had no word; the life of religious (mainly Christian) communities; the formation of the concept of nationality among the new peoples settling in what had been the Roman empire of the West; the nature and dynamics of war in the period; empire building (especially the eastern Roman empire founded by Constantine in 323 A.D.); Christian triumph and controversy; Islam; and finally *The Good Life*, a survey of domestic property drawing on new archaeological material...The rest of the book, over 400 of its 780 pages, offers more than 500 articles in encyclopedic form, covering a wealth of topics not treated, or not treated in detail, in the essays...These entries are endlessly fascinating. (Bernard Knox *Washington Times*)

A proper educational guide cannot tell us what we need to know, but it can provide a map and a direction by which we may progress. *Late Antiquity* is, in this respect, the epitome of educational guides for the earnest student of history...Brown, Bowersock, and Grabar have all contributed seminal works in the figures and institutions that shaped and informed this vibrant, and previously obscured, time. To their credit, they have done for late antiquity what Niels Bohr did for the quantum electron: they discovered, or, more accurately, uncovered it. *Late Antiquity* is half encyclopedia, half textbook, and a whole world of scholarship. With 11 thematic essays and over 500 encyclopedic entries, *Late Antiquity* contains a starting point for the student and a crucial resource for the scholar. (Paul-Jonathan Bensen *Boston Book Review*)

The editors of this handsome and inviting volume have each helped kindle the recent explosion in postclassical studies with important contributions on the creeds and cultures of the first millennium CE. *Late Antiquity* offers casual browsers and learned specialists alike a unique introduction to the summation of current scholarship on the period that has for too long been held as 'the unraveling of a once glorious...civilization' or 'a violent and hurried prelude to better things'...Highly recommended. (B. Juhl *Choice*)

This era is analyzed and illustrated with encyclopedic thoroughness and precision in *Late Antiquity*...The metaphysical tension and clash of cultures of Late Antiquity reminds one of our own; Late Antiquity is, unintentionally, a mirror of the 21st century. Edited by distinguished scholars G. W. Bowersock, Oleg Grabar and Peter Brown, this volume heralds a new discipline and extends a welcome to non-scholars as well. (Tom D'Evelyn *Providence Sunday Journal*)

The editors of this work have accomplished a worthy goal in broadening our understanding of a significant period of history...Making extensive use of new archaeological discoveries, this work challenges old assumptions and should help renew interest in this era. (Robert James Andrews *Library Journal*)

When Arnaldo Momigliano was at the University of Chicago he use to argue that we should teach not 'church history' but just 'history.' This is the implicit view of most of the contributors to this large, well-illustrated volume. The editors urge readers to use this impressive guide 'with enterprise and patience,' especially by choosing the right terms to look up. Eleven well-constructed essays on major themes in the modern study of late antiquity precede the book's brief, solid and up-to-date encyclopedia-style articles...Their book will be of great interest to everyone concerned with the origins of modern religion, politics and culture. (Robert M. Grant *Christian Century*)

Covers the interlocked worlds of Rome, Byzantium, the Persian Empire, and the newly emerging culture and kingdoms connected to the rise of Islam . . . The essays touch not only on big ideas and big movements but also on what the many discrete researches, ranging from literary criticism to anthropology, tell us. (Lawrence S. Cunningham *Commonweal*)

The authors provide an integrated view of the world during this period instead of looking at historical happenings in an isolated context...The themes are broad and expand the reader's perspective. Topics include habitat, war, religious communities, "the good life," and more. (Adrienne Antink *American Reference Books Annual*)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mary Torres:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled *Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World* (Harvard University Press Reference Library)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have different opinion?

**Mark Maney:**

Hey guys, do you really want to find a new book you just read? Maybe the book with the name Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) suitable to you? The actual book was written by a famous writer in this era. The particular book titled Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) is a single of several books that everyone reads now. This specific book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this e-book you will enter the new shape that you ever knew just before. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily understand the core of this book. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So you can see the representation of the world on this book.

**Thomas Schulz:**

This Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) is a great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who else always deal with the world and have to make a decision every minute. This specific book reveals its details accurately using great arrangement of words or we can claim no rambling sentences included. So if you are reading this hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but tough core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no book that offers you the world inside ten or fifteen minutes right but this guide already does that. So, it is a good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt that will?

**Jean Gaitan:**

Do you like reading a publication? Confused to looking for your preferred book? Or your book was rare? Why so many queries for the book? But just about any people feel that they enjoy with regard to reading. Some people like studying, not only science books but additionally novels and Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) as well as other sources were given understanding for you. After you know how good a book is, you feel wish to read more and more. Science guides were created for teachers or even students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to add their knowledge. In additional case, beside science reserves, any other book like Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) to make your spare time much more colorful. Many types of books like this.

**Download and Read Online Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press #LXIY01SKJ2M**



## **Read Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press for online ebook**

Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press books to read online.

## **Online Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press ebook PDF download**

**Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press Doc**

**Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press Mobipocket**

**Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press EPub**

**LXIY01SKJ2M: Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Postclassical World (Harvard University Press Reference Library) From Brand: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press**