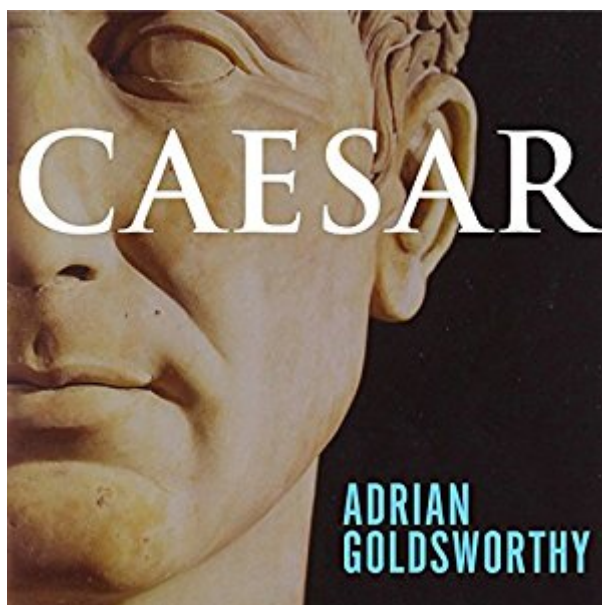


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Caesar: Life Of A Colossus



Synopsis

Tracing the extraordinary trajectory of Julius Caesar's life, Adrian Goldsworthy covers not only the great Roman emperor's accomplishments as charismatic orator, conquering general, and powerful dictator but also lesser-known chapters. Ultimately, Goldsworthy realizes the full complexity of Caesar's character and shows why his political and military leadership continues to resonate some 2,000 years later. In this landmark biography, Goldsworthy examines Caesar as a military leader, as well as his other roles, and places his subject firmly within the context of Roman society in the first century B.C.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Our professor Goldsworthy has, again, offered a valued biographical narrative regarding the preeminent figure between republic and empire. His work expands the narrative offered through the previously preeminent work of Matthias Gelzer. A noble work worthy of a Caesar!

Have both Caesar and Augustus and enjoy them both. Looking forward to Pax Romana. AG is great in addressing the context within which these guys operated. History requires a frame of reference and he really provides it as if he was a walking tour guide taking you on a stroll thru Rome. And then the greats - Pompey, Caesar, Octavian - come strolling down the street with their retinue. No psychotherapy here, just a great read. The active/reactive tension is well explored. PS I liked it.

This was an excellent book for someone like me who knew very little about Julius Caesar. Author

Adrian Goldsworthy, a highly respected historian of Caesar's period, wrote a thorough and very readable biography. He provides good background and context, and takes the reader chronologically through Caesar's life (100 to 44 B.C.). The book's emphasis is Julius Caesar the general, and the book details his campaigns, battles, and strategy. I think Goldsworthy was exactly right in this emphasis, as Caesar might be one of the greatest, most successful, daring, and innovative fighters and leaders of men to ever live. His battlefield exploits are nothing short of amazing. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about the Roman Empire, the Mediterranean world of this period, or Caesar the man. A few cautions: the book is lengthy, there are many characters in the story (hard to keep sorted out), and an older Kindle does not present the maps very well (hard to see). These are minor quibbles and should not deter anyone from tackling this book.

The book by Goldsworthy is comprehensive and detailed, it gives unparalleled analysis. He gives Roman military, political and social customs as background, precise, referenced and well reasoned accounts of battles, actions and ancient historians' bias and interpretations of Caesar and Roman events during that period. He adroitly reasons out the complex relationships and motivations of Caesar and other of his contemporaries. For Caesar's killers, Goldsworthy says "Liberty and the cry of a return to the Republic also meant a return to the dominance of a few well established families, and the opportunity to bribe the electorate and make fortunes by exploiting the inhabitants of the provinces.....the Republic that the conspirators believed in was one that maintained the privilege of the senatorial elite." This book is a must have for any interested in Caesar and his times.

Although there are not many of them, throughout history there have been giants who have strolled the world's stage. There is no doubt that Julius Caesar was one of those "colossus". Adrian Goldsworthy knows his ancient sources and has pieced together a solid biography worthy of his subject. Having finished this biography, I am looking forward to reading the promised Landmark Edition of Caesar's Gallic and Civil Wars. Highly recommended!

Sometimes the author's manner of speaking is confusing, but you get used to it as you go on. I think it may be influenced by the gaps of knowledge we have about this time period and he does not want to add too much of his own color to the story. Nevertheless, it is an excellent read which does pitch Caesar's life on a very dramatic scale. You can sense the magnitude of the events through the pages.

This is certainly one of the best biographies I have read. Goldsworthy is a superb historian and a great writer. I am currently reading his opus on Augustus, and it is also wonderful. I came away from this book with a much better picture of Caius Julius Caesar and his rise to power than I have ever had before. At the same time, I also developed a greater understanding of Rome in the last days of the Republic. The parallels drawn so often between it and the modern American Republic do not hold up as well when studied in greater detail and this book does. I certainly recommend it to anyone interested in learning about this period of ancient history.

I got this book after reading another "Marching with Caesar-Civil War" to which I gave 5 stars and I was not disappointed by this book at all. Like the last book, it is really hard to remember the names of hundreds of characters. However, after a while you got to know a few and learned to ignore all the rest. It is quite difficult to imagine the civilization of 2000 years ago yet Caesar was a progressive who understood the success of an individual must be established on common good. Of course, he was ambitious and he left his footprint. In terms of civilization, Rome was way ahead of its neighbors dominated by the skill of war-fighting of Roman. The debate today would be why Caesar didn't become an emperor. One would understand after reading the book. A good history book with a lot of researched facts. Took me about 4 weeks to finish. But, I am a slow reader.

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