

THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN LATE ANTIQUITY

In this volume, Hugh Elton offers a detailed and up-to-date history of the last centuries of the Roman Empire. Beginning with the crisis of the third century, he covers the rise of Christianity, the key Church Councils, the fall of the West to the barbarians, and the Justinianic reconquest, and concludes with the twin wars against Persians and Arabs in the seventh century AD. Elton isolates two major themes that emerge in this period. He notes that a new form of decision-making was created, whereby committees debated civil, military, and religious matters before the emperor, who was the final arbiter. Elton also highlights the evolution of the relationship between aristocrats and the Empire and provides new insights into the mechanics of administering the Empire, as well as frontier and military policies. Supported by comments on primary sources and anecdotes, *The Roman Empire in Late Antiquity* is designed for use in undergraduate courses on late antiquity and early medieval history.

Hugh Elton is Professor and Program Coordinator in the Program of Greek and Roman Studies at Trent University. A scholar of Late Roman political and military history, he has directed two archaeological projects in Turkey. He is the author of *Warfare in Roman Europe, AD 350–425* and *Frontiers of the Roman Empire*.

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A POLITICAL AND MILITARY
HISTORY

HUGH ELTON

Trent University



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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AE</i>	<i>L'Année Epigraphique</i>
<i>CJ</i>	<i>Codex Justinianus</i>
<i>CT</i>	<i>Codex Theodosianus</i>
<i>Ep.</i>	<i>Epistula</i> = Letter
fr.	fragment
<i>HE</i>	<i>Historia Ecclesiastica</i> = Ecclesiastical History
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i>
<i>IGLS</i>	<i>Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie</i>
<i>IGRR</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas Pertinentes</i>
<i>ILS</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae</i>
<i>OGIS</i>	<i>Orientis Graecae inscriptiones selectae</i>
Or.	<i>Oratio</i> = Speech
<i>P.Ital.</i>	<i>Die nichtliterarischen lateinischen Papyri italiens aus der Zeit 445–700</i> , ed. Tjäder, J.O. (Lund, 1955)
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecarum</i>
<i>Select Papyri</i>	Hunt, A. S. and Edgar, C. C., <i>Select Papyri II: Non-Literary Papyri, Public Documents</i> (Cambridge, MA, 1927)

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NOTES ON NAMES, PLACES, AND TITLES

Names of individuals have normally been presented in the Latin form, following the spelling used in the *Prosopography of the Late Roman Empire* (Cambridge, 1970–1992), though some well-known names like Constantine, Julian, and Justinian have been left in their English forms. Referencing to primary sources is generally restricted to quotations, though with the intent that consulting the *Prosopography* will lead those interested directly to primary sources. City names follow the format of Jones, A. H. M., *Cities of the Eastern Roman Provinces*² (Oxford, 1971). Technical terms are kept as far as possible, though usually in Latin rather than Greek. For ease of reading, the bishop of Rome is used in the fourth century; pope thereafter; the bishops of Constantinople, Antioch, and Alexandria as patriarchs; and the bishop of Jerusalem as patriarch after 451.

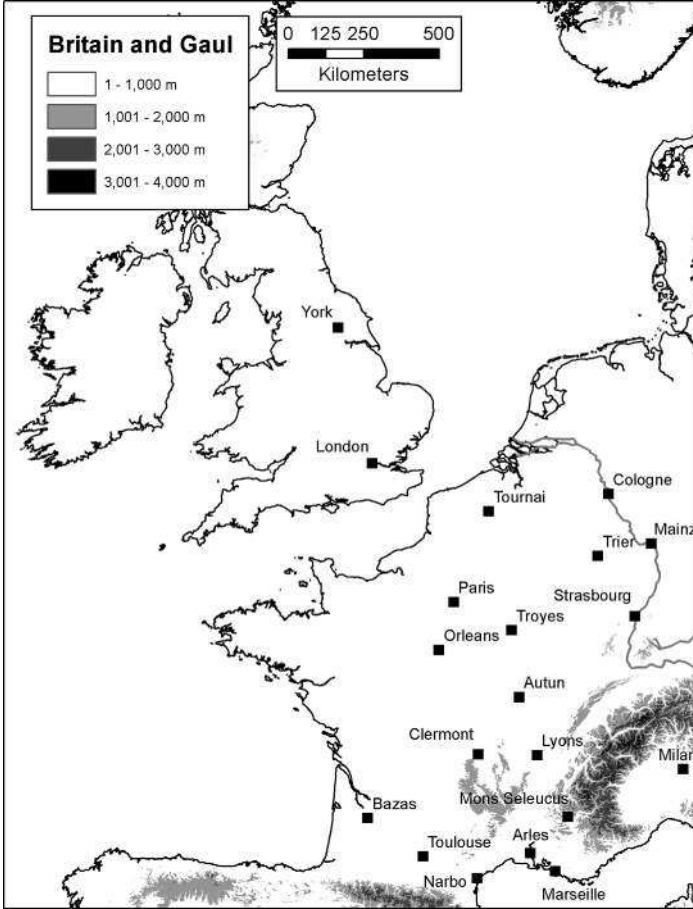
Much of the scholarship on the Later Roman Empire depends on Jones, A. H. M., *The Later Roman Empire* (Oxford, 1964). This is explicitly a social, economic, and administrative study of the Empire, though it does contain a history covering 284–602. In its focus on the primary source material for these areas, it is unsurpassed as a single work and is indispensable to serious study of the Late Empire. Equally indispensable are the three volumes of *The Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire* (Cambridge, 1970, 1980, 1992), covering 260–395, 395–527, and 527–641. These provide biographical entries with primary source references for the majority of secular figures. There are numerous addenda, as would be expected for such a project, as well as the gradual publication of similar volumes dealing with Christian prosopography, currently covering Africa (303–533), Italy (313–604), and the diocese

NOTES ON NAMES, PLACES, AND TITLES

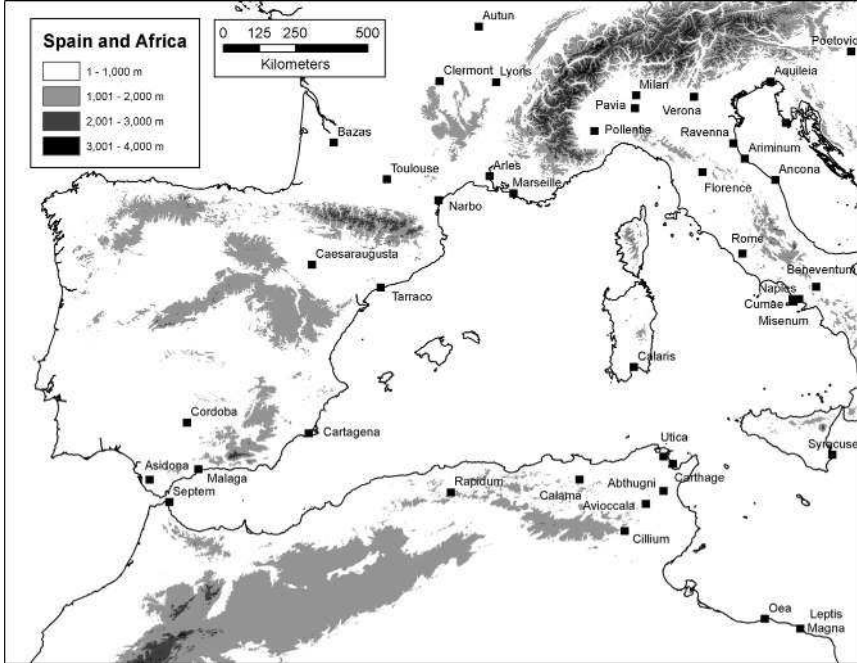
of Asia Minor (313–641). For topography, *The Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World* (Princeton, 2000) is invaluable.

Much of our understanding of the events of these centuries depends on coins, laws, and inscriptions. For the evidence of the coins, the series of *Roman Imperial Coinage* provides a detailed catalogue. For the laws of the *Codex Theodosianus*, Matthews, J. F. *Laying Down the Law* (New Haven, 2000) provides an excellent introduction, while Honoré, A., *Tribonian* (London, 1978) is very good on the reign of Justinian. For the whole topic of how the law worked in the Late Empire, see Harries, J., *Law and Empire in Late Antiquity* (Cambridge, 1999).

Excellent introductions to the events are available in *The Cambridge Ancient History*, Volume 12, eds. Bowman, A., Cameron, A. and Garnsey, P. (Cambridge, 2005) covering 193–337, Volume 13, eds. Bowman, A. and Garnsey, P. (Cambridge, 1998) covering 337–425, and Volume 14, eds. Bowman, A., Ward-Perkins, B. and Whitby, M. (Cambridge, 2000) covering 425–600. Similar broad approaches are provided by Johnson, S., ed., *The Oxford Handbook to Late Antiquity* (Oxford, 2012), Rousseau, P., ed., *A Companion to Late Antiquity* (London, 2009), and Bowersock, G., Brown, P. and Grabar, O., *Late Antiquity: A Guide to the Post-Classical World* (Princeton, 1999). Finally, the three recently published Cambridge Companions provide coverage at a more detailed level. Lenski, N., ed., *Cambridge Companion to the Age of Constantine*² (Cambridge, 2011), Maas, M., ed., *Cambridge Companion to the Age of Attila* (Cambridge, 2014), and Maas, M., ed., *Cambridge Companion to the Age of Justinian* (Cambridge, 2005). In all cases, although the coverage is often similar in depth to the approach followed here, the team-driven approach and the long time periods between the first commissioning of the chapters and the volumes' final publication sometimes means that there is no single interpretive framework.

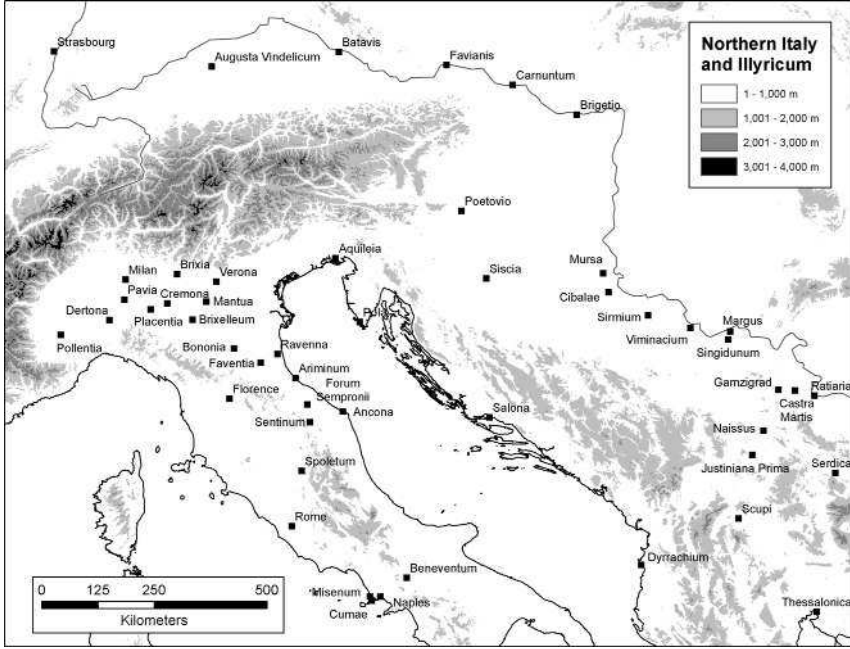


Map 1. Gaul and Britain

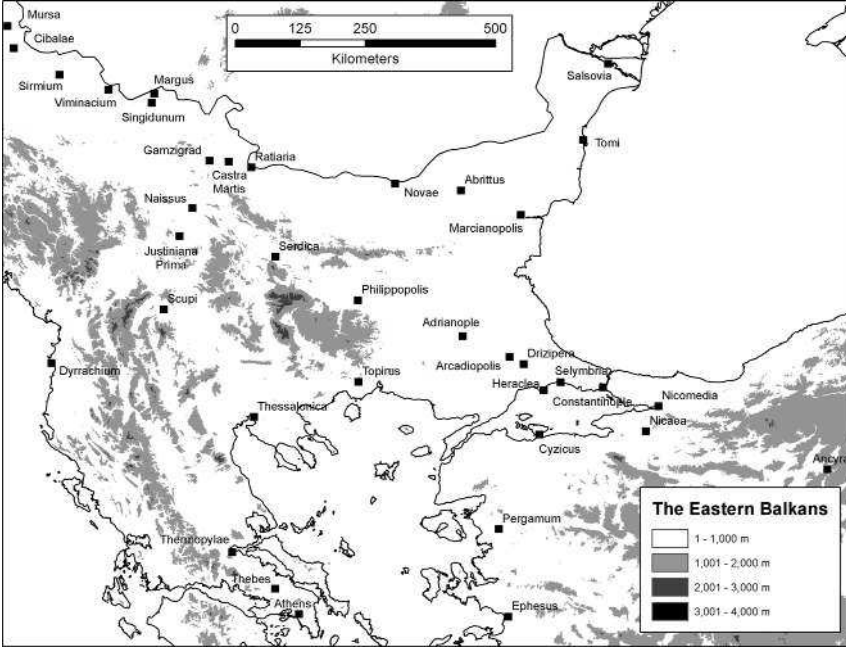


Map 2. Spain and Africa

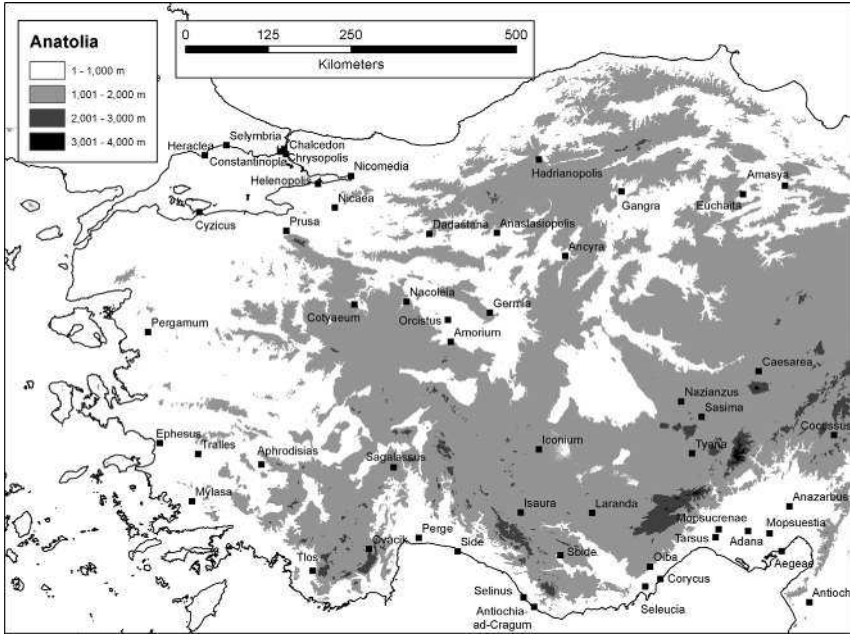
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Map 3. Northern Italy and Illyricum

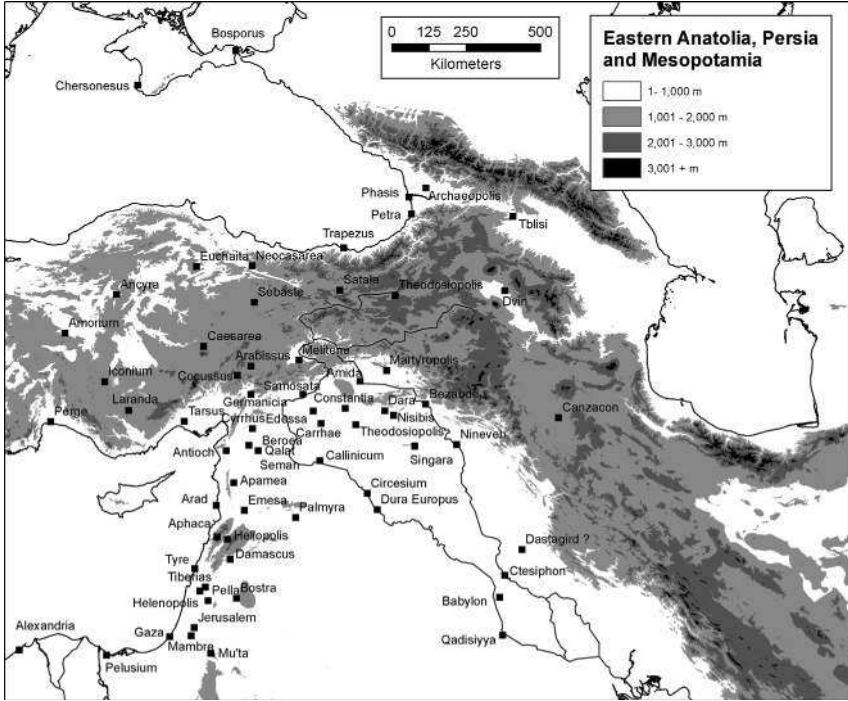


Map 4. The Eastern Balkans

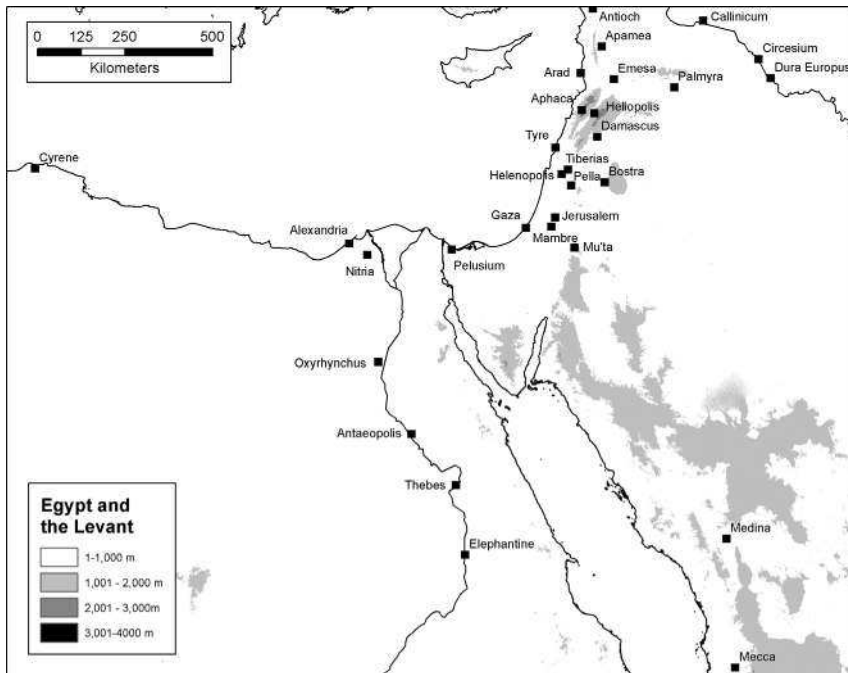


Map 5. Anatolia

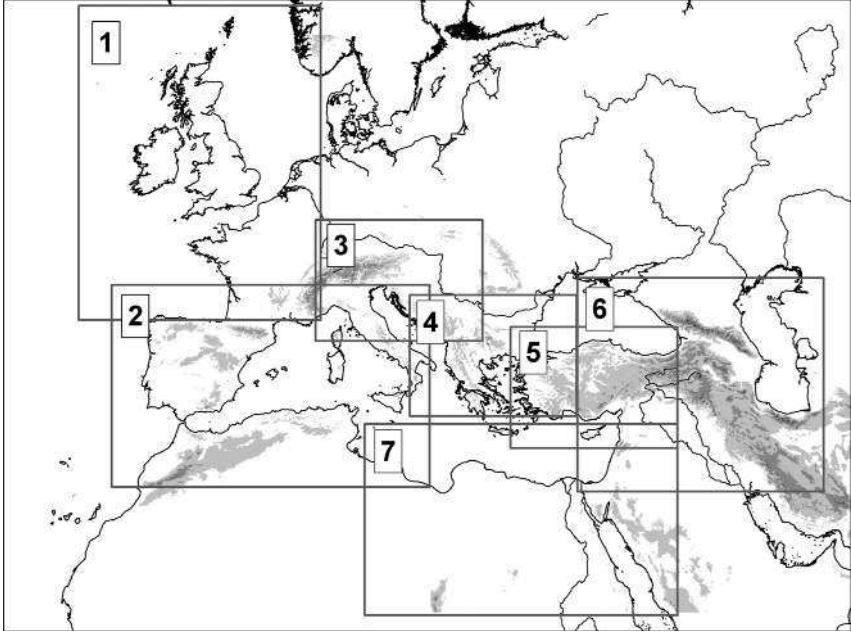
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Map 6. Eastern Anatolia, Persia, and Mesopotamia



Map 7. Egypt and the Levant



Map 8. Location map

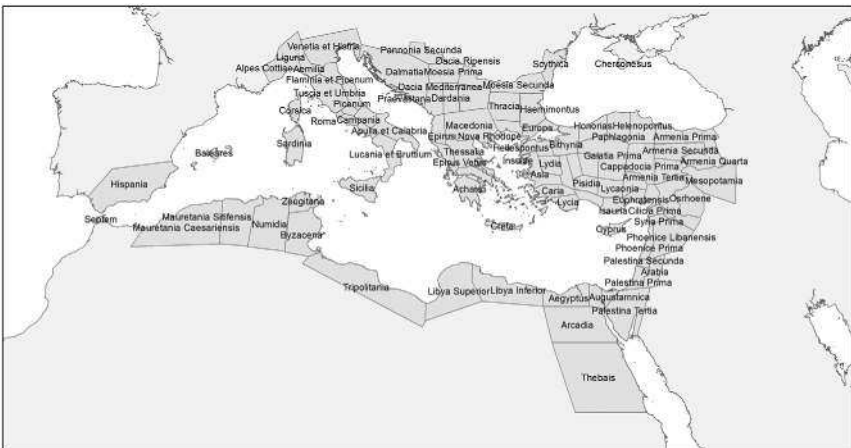


Map 9. The provinces of the Roman Empire, AD 260

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Map 10. The provinces of the Roman Empire, AD 395



Map 11. The provinces of the Roman Empire, AD 565

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