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978-0-521-43491-1 - Barbarian Migrations and the Roman West, 376-568

Guy Halsall

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## Barbarian Migrations and the Roman West, 376–568

This is a major new survey of the barbarian migrations and their role in the fall of the Roman Empire and the creation of early medieval Europe, one of the key events in European history. Unlike previous studies it integrates historical and archaeological evidence and discusses Britain, Ireland, mainland Europe and North Africa, demonstrating that the Roman Empire and its neighbours were inextricably linked. A narrative account of the turbulent fifth and early sixth centuries is followed by a description of society and politics during the migration period and an analysis of the mechanisms of settlement and the changes of identity. Guy Halsall reveals that the creation and maintenance of kingdoms and empires was impossible without the active involvement of people in the communities of Europe and North Africa. He concludes that, contrary to most opinions, the fall of the Roman Empire produced the barbarian migrations, not vice versa.

GUY HALSALL is Professor of History at the University of York. His recent publications include *Settlement and Social Organization* (Cambridge, 1995) and *Humour, History and Politics in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages* (Cambridge, 2002).

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BARBARIAN  
MIGRATIONS  
AND THE ROMAN  
WEST, 376–568

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GUY HALSALL

*University of York*



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For My Friends,  
without whom this book would have been finished sooner

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## A NOTE ON SPELLINGS

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Place-names within the Western Empire (where modern towns often preserve one element or another of their Roman name) have generally been given in their current form. Further east and south, in the Empire's Balkan, Asian and African provinces (where they frequently do not), I have used the ancient form, with the modern place-name given in brackets after the first occurrence. In the West, where there is no significantly different, generally accepted and thus more familiar, English form, I have employed the spelling used in the country within which the town now lies: thus Reims, Lyon, Mainz and Trier rather than Rheims, Lyons, Mayence and Trèves; but Cologne, Seville, Milan and Rome rather than Köln, Sevilla, Milano and Roma.

Roman provinces have always been given their ancient titles, even where a modern region derives its name from the same source: thus 'Aquitania Secunda' rather than 'Second Aquitaine'. Germanic personal names, rarely spelt consistently in contemporary sources, have usually been given in a Germanic rather than Graeco-Latinised form: Wulfila rather than Ulfilas; Theoderic rather than Theodericus. Some names, however, have forms which are too accepted to change. Therefore Radagaisus retains his Latinised name rather than his Germanic original (presumably something like Radegis or Ratchis) and Clovis keeps the later antiquarian, artificial but (in French and English) usual, back-formation from 'Louis' instead of his actual name of Chlodovech.