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978-1-107-03858-5 - Theodosius II: Rethinking the Roman Empire in late Antiquity

Edited by Christopher Kelly

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## Theodosius II

Theodosius II (AD 408–450) is the longest reigning Roman emperor. Ever since Edward Gibbon, he has been dismissed as mediocre and ineffectual. Yet Theodosius ruled an empire which retained its integrity while the West was broken up by barbarian invasions. This book explores Theodosius' challenges and successes. Ten essays by leading scholars of late antiquity provide important new insights into the court at Constantinople, the literary and cultural vitality of the reign, and the presentation of imperial piety and power. Much attention has been directed towards the changes promoted by Constantine at the beginning of the fourth century; much less to their crystallisation under Theodosius II. This volume explores the working out of new conceptions of the Roman empire – its history, its rulers and its God. A substantial introduction offers a new framework for thinking afresh about the long transition from the classical world to Byzantium.

CHRISTOPHER KELLY is a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. His publications include *Ruling the Later Roman Empire* (2004), *The Roman Empire: A Very Short Introduction* (2006), *The End of Empire: Attila the Hun and the Fall of Rome* (2009).

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## PREFACE

This volume has its origins in a conference ‘Theodosius II and the making of late antiquity’ (organised by Richard Flower and Christopher Kelly) held in Cambridge in March 2011. In addition to those published here, papers were also given by Riccardo Bof, Gillian Clark, Atsuko Gotoh, Boudewijn Sirks and Philip Wood. The discussion was both enlivened and sharpened by the valuable comments of Kate Cooper. Particular thanks are due to Gillian Clark for her unstinting enthusiasm for this project; to Richard Flower, conference organiser extraordinaire; to Robin Whelan, who discharged his task as editorial assistant with peerless proficiency; to Mike Humphreys for compiling an accurate and intelligent index; to Judith Nadler (University Librarian, University of Chicago), whose unfailing courtesy and assistance made it possible for this volume to be completed in America; to Robin Osborne, who (always attentive midst a myriad of other pressing responsibilities) ensured that this project kept moving steadily forwards; and to Michael Sharp and Gillian Dadd, who oversaw all with unfailing courtesy. I am also most grateful to Patrick Gautier Delaché for his help with the illustration of the Carolingian map from Santa María de Ripoll.

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## FREQUENTLY CITED TEXTS

There are helpful guides to texts and translations in Millar 2006: xxiii–xxvi and Schor 2011: 275–301. For abbreviations, see Jones 1964: III 394–406. On the complexities of the conciliar *acta*, see the useful ‘The *acta* of the fifth-century Councils: a brief guide for historians’ in Millar 2006: 235–46. The *Acts of the Council of Chalcedon* are translated in Price and Gaddis 2005.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Chron. Pasch.</i>        | <i>Chronicon Paschale</i> , L. Dindorf (ed.), 2 vols., <i>CSHB</i> 4, Bonn, 1832 (trans. Whitby and Whitby 1989).   |
| Const. Porph. <i>Cer.</i>   | Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus, <i>On the ceremonies of the Byzantine court</i> , J. J. Reiske (ed.), <i>CSHB</i> , Bonn, 1829.  |
| Cyr. Scyth. <i>V. Sabae</i> | Cyril of Scythopolis, <i>Life of Sabas</i> , E. Schwartz (ed.), <i>TU</i> 49.2, Leipzig, 1939 (trans. R. M. Price, Cistercian Studies series 114, Kalamazoo, MI, 1991). |
| Eunapius                    | Eunapius, <i>History</i> , Blockley 1983: 1–127 (ed. and trans.).   |
| Eus. <i>V. Const.</i>       | Eusebius, <i>Life of Constantine</i> , F. Winkelmann (ed.), <i>GCS</i> 7/1, <i>Eusebius Werke</i> 1/1, 2nd edn, Berlin, 1991 (trans. Cameron and Hall 1999).            |
| Evagrius                    | Evagrius (Scholasticus), <i>Church History</i> , J. Bidez and L. Parmentier (eds.), London, 1898 (trans. Michael Whitby 2000).  |
| Joh. Lydus, <i>Mag.</i>     | John Lydus, <i>On the Magistracies</i> , A. C. Bandy (ed. and trans.), <i>Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society</i> 149, Philadelphia, PA, 1983.                |

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- John Rufus, *Pler.* John Rufus, *Plerophoriae*, F. Nau (ed. and French trans.), PO 8.1, Paris, 1911.
- Malalas John Malalas, *Chronicle*, H. Thurn (ed.), CFHB (Series Berolinensis) 35, Berlin, 2000 (trans. E. Jeffreys, M. Jeffreys and R. Scott, Australian Association for Byzantine Studies, Byzantina Australiensia 4, Melbourne, 1986).
- Marcell. com. Marcellinus comes, *Chronicle*, T. Mommsen (ed.), MGH (AA) 11: 37–108 (Berlin, 1894) (trans. Croke 1995).
- Nonnus, *Dion.* Nonnus, *Dionysiaca*, F. Vian (ed. and French trans.), 19 vols., Paris, 1976–2006 (English trans. W. H. D. Rouse, Loeb Classical Library, 3 vols., Cambridge, MA, 1940–2).
- Olymp. Olympiodorus, *History*, Blockleys 1983: 151–209 (ed. and trans.).
- Pan. Lat.* *Panegyrici Latini*, R. A. B. Mynors (ed.), Oxford, 1964 (trans. Nixon and Rodgers 1994).
- Philostorgius Philostorgius, *Church History*, J. Bidez and F. Winkelmann (eds.), GCS 21, 3rd edn, Berlin, 1981 (trans. P. R. Amidon, Writings from the Greco-Roman world 23, Leiden, 2007).
- Phot. *Bibl.* Photius, *Bibliotheca*, R. Henry (ed. and French trans.), 9 vols., Paris, 1959–91 (selected English trans. Wilson 1994).
- Priscus Priscus of Panium, *History*, Blockley 1983: 221–377 (ed. and trans.).
- Soc. Socrates, *Church History*, G. C. Hansen (ed.), GCS (n.F.) 1, Berlin, 1995 (trans. A. C. Zenos, NPNF (2nd series) 2, Oxford, 1891).

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- Soz. Sozomen, *Church History*, J. Bidez and G. C. Hansen (eds.), *GCS (n.F.)* 4, 2nd edn, Berlin, 1995 (trans. C. D. Hartranft, *NPNF* (2nd series) 2, Oxford, 1891).
- Theod. *Ep.* I–XLV Theodoret, *Letters (Collectio Patmensis)*, Y. Azéma (ed. and French trans.), *SC* 40, Paris, 1955.
- Theod. *Ep.* I–147 Theodoret, *Letters (Collectio Sirmondiana)*, Y. Azéma (ed. and French trans.), *SC* 98 and 111, Paris, 1964–5.
- Theod. *HE* Theodoret, *Church History*, L. Parmentier and G. C. Hansen (eds.), *GCS (n.F.)* 5, Berlin, 1998 (trans. B. Jackson, *NPNF* (2nd series) 3, Oxford, 1892).
- Theodore Lector Theodorus Anagnostes, *Church History*, G. C. Hansen (ed.), *GCS (n.F.)* 3, 2nd edn, Berlin, 1995.
- Theophanes Theophanes Confessor, *Chronicle*, C. de Boor (ed.), Leipzig, 1883 (trans. Mango and Scott 1997).
- Zonaras Zonaras, *Epitome Historiarum*, L. Dindorf (ed.), 6 vols., Leipzig, 1868–75.
- Zos. Zosimus, *New History*, F. Paschoud (ed. and French trans.), *Zosime, Histoire Nouvelle*, 3 vols. in 5, Paris, 1971–89 (vol. 1, 2nd edn, 2000) (English trans. R. T. Ridley, Australian Association for Byzantine Studies, *Byzantina Australiensia* 2, Sydney, 1982).

## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

395–423	<b>Honorius</b> (western Roman emperor)
395–408	<b>Arcadius</b> (eastern Roman emperor)
399–420	Yazdegerd I (shah of Persia)
401	birth of Theodosius II
402	Theodosius II proclaimed Augustus
406	Vandals invade Gaul
408–450	<b>Theodosius II</b> (eastern Roman emperor)
410	sack of Rome by Goths under Alaric
412–444	Cyril, bishop of Alexandria
413	completion of Theodosian Walls in Constantinople
414	Pulcheria proclaimed Augusta and takes vow of virginity
418	Goths settled in southern Gaul
421	<b>Constantius III</b> (western Roman co-emperor with Honorius); Theodosius marries Aelia Eudocia
421–422	Roman campaign against Persia
425	western usurper John defeated in Ravenna
425–455	<b>Valentinian III</b> (western Roman emperor)
428	withdrawal of Roman protection of Armenia
428–431	Nestorius, bishop of Constantinople
429	Vandal invasion of North Africa
430	death of Augustine of Hippo
431	First Council of Ephesus
431–434	Maximianus, bishop of Constantinople
434–446	Proclus, bishop of Constantinople
437	Valentinian III marries Licinia Eudoxia (daughter of Theodosius II) in Constantinople; <i>Theodosian Code</i> issued
438	Aelia Eudocia makes Holy Land pilgrimage; <i>Theodosian Code</i> received by Senate in Rome; relics of John Chrysostom arrive in Constantinople

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## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

439	Vandals occupy Carthage and provinces of Africa Proconsularis and Byzacena
441–442	Roman expeditionary force to Sicily (to recapture North Africa) withdrawn for defence of Balkans in face of Hun incursions
445–453	Attila sole ruler of Huns
446–449	Flavian, bishop of Constantinople
447	severe earthquake in Constantinople; Huns' most destructive Balkan offensive
449	Second Council of Ephesus
450	death of Theodosius II in riding accident
450–457	<b>Marcian</b> (eastern Roman emperor); marries Pulcheria
451	Council of Chalcedon; Attila invades Gaul and retreats after Battle of Catalaunian Plains
452	Attila invades Italy and withdraws
453	death of Attila; death of Pulcheria
455	murder of Valentinian III; Vandals sack Rome

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ACO</i>	<i>Acta Conciliorum Oecumenicorum</i> , ed. E. Schwartz and J. Straub, Berlin, 1914–71.
<i>CCSG</i>	<i>Corpus Christianum series Graeca</i>
<i>CCSL</i>	<i>Corpus Christianum series Latina</i>
<i>CFHB</i>	<i>Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae</i>
<i>CPG</i>	<i>Clavis Patrum Graecorum</i>
<i>CSEL</i>	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</i>
<i>CSHB</i>	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae</i>
<i>CTh</i>	<i>Codex Theodosianus</i>
<i>GCS</i>	<i>Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller</i>
<i>HE</i>	<i>Historia ecclesiastica</i>
<i>IGLS</i>	<i>Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie</i>
<i>MGH (AA)</i>	<i>Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Auctores Antiquissimi</i>
<i>NPNF</i>	<i>A Select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church</i>
<i>NTh</i>	<i>Novellae of Theodosius II</i>
<i>NVal</i>	<i>Novellae of Valentinian III</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Patrologia Graeca</i> , ed. J.-P. Migne
<i>PLRE</i>	<i>Prosopography of the later Roman empire</i> , vol. 1: AD 260–395 (ed. A. H. M. Jones, J. R. Martindale and J. Morris, Cambridge, 1971); vol. II: AD 395–527 (ed. J. R. Martindale, Cambridge, 1980).
<i>PO</i>	<i>Patrologia Orientalia</i>
<i>SC</i>	<i>Sources chrétiennes</i>
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>
<i>TU</i>	<i>Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristliche Literatur</i>

Journal abbreviations follow *L'Année Philologique*.