THE FALLS OF ROME

Over the course of the fourth through seventh centuries, Rome witnessed a succession of five significant political and military crises, including the Sack of Rome, the Vandal occupation, and the demise of the Senate. Historians have traditionally considered these crises as defining events, and thus critical to our understanding of the “decline and fall of Rome.” In this volume, Michele Renee Salzman offers a fresh interpretation of the tumultuous events that occurred in Rome during Late Antiquity. Focusing on the resilience of successive generations of Roman men and women and their ability to reconstitute their city and society, Salzman demonstrates the central role that the senatorial aristocracy played, and the limited influence of the papacy during this period. Her provocative study provides a new explanation for the longevity of Rome and its ability, not merely to survive, but even to thrive over the last three centuries of the Western Roman Empire.

The Falls of Rome
Crises, Resilience, and Resurgence
in Late Antiquity

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This book covers more than three centuries. I have relied on and learned much from the scholarship of my predecessors and my contemporaries. There has been an explosion of historical and archaeological research, much of it in Italian, French, and German. I have tried to utilize as much of it as was relevant. I have incorporated revised versions of three earlier articles into this book, but I have added to each of these articles. And I reference my other publications in the notes as well.

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