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978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

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The classical historian J.B. Bury (1861–1927) was the author of a history of Greece which was a standard textbook for over a century. He also wrote on later periods, and, in this two-volume work of 1889, examines Byzantine history from 395 to 800. Arguing for the underlying continuity of the Roman empire from the time of Augustus until 1453, Bury nevertheless begins his account in the year in which, on the death of Theodosius I, the empire was divided into eastern and western parts, and Constantinople began to take on the metropolitan role formerly held by Rome. Volume 2, after reviewing Justinian's legacy, takes the history down from the accession of Justin II to the death of Irene in 803. Topics examined include civil strife, including the period of iconoclasm, and the increasing problems of maintaining the imperial borders against incursions from both east and west.

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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

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VOLUME 2

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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A HISTORY
OF THE
LATER ROMAN EMPIRE

FROM ARCADIUS TO IRENE

(395 A.D. TO 800 A.D.)

BY

J. B. BURY, M.A.

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

VOL. II

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Frontmatter

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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LIST OF CALIPHS (632-800 A.D.)

	A. D.
Abu Bekr	632
Omar I	634
Othman	644
Muaviah I }	656
Ali }	
Muaviah I	661
Yezid I	680
Muaviah II	683
Mervan I	683
Abd Almalik	685
Welid I	705
Suleiman	715
Omar II	717
Yezid II	720
Hischam	724
Welid II	743
Yezid III	744
Mervan II	744

End of Omeyyad dynasty in 750.

ABBASID DYNASTY.

Abd Allah (Abu-l-Abbas)	750
Abu Djafar Manssur	754
Mahdi	775
Hadi	785
Harun Arraschid	786

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE FROM THE ACCESSION
OF JUSTIN II, 565, TO THE DEATH OF
IRENE, 802

A.D.	INDICTION.	A.M.	IMPERIAL ACCESSIONS.	EVENTS.	
565	13-14	6057-8	Justin II.	Embassy of Avars arrives at Constantinople.	
567	15-1	6059-60		Lombards and Avars overthrow Gepid kingdom.	
568	1-2	6060-1		Lombards enter Italy.	
569	2-3	6061-2		Embassy of Turks to Constantinople.	
571	4-5	6063-4		Duchy of Beneventum founded.	
572	5-6	6064-5		War with Persia begins. Campaign of Marcian.	
573	6-7	6065-6		Roman victory at Sargathon. Persians invade Syria.	
574	7-8	6066-7		Death of Alboin. Daras taken by Persians. Tiberius defeated by Avars. Tiberius made Caesar and regent.	
575	8-9	6067-8		Peace for three years with Persia (except in Persarmenia).	
576	9-10	6068-9		Chosroes defeated near Melitene.	
577	10-11	6069-70		Slaves invade Illyricum and Thrace, and settle in Roman territory. Maurice invades Arzanene and Cordyene (date uncertain).	
578	11-12	6070-1		Tiberius II.	Death of Chosroes Nushirvan. Sirmium lost to the Avars.
579	12-13	6071-2			
581	14-15	6073-4			
582	15-1	6074-5	Maurice.	Treaty with Avars. Roman victory at Constantina.	

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)viii *CHRONOLOGICAL AND GENEALOGICAL TABLES*

A.D.	INDICTION.	A.M.	IMPERIAL ACCESSIONS.	EVENTS.
583	1-2	6075-6		Avars seize Singidunum, etc. Battle of the Nymphius.
584	2-3	6076-7		Treaty with Avars. Autharis, king of Lombards. Death of Chilperic. Revolt of Hermenigild against Leovi- gild.
585	3-4	6077-8		Birth of the prince Theo- dosius.
586	4-5	6078-9		Victory of Romans (under Philippticus) at Solachon. Avars harry Moesia.
587	5-6	6079-80		Campaign of Comentiolus against Avars.
588	6-7	6080-1		Disaffection in eastern army.
589	7-8	6081-2		Martyropolis taken by Persians. Comentiolus wins a battle near Nisibis.
590	8-9	6082-3		Varahran rebels and becomes king of Persia. Monte Cassino rendered desolate. Agilulf king of Lombards. Gregory (the Great) becomes Pope.
591	9-10	6083-4		Maurice restores Chosroes II to the Persian throne. Peace with Persia. Avars invade Thrace.
592	10-11	6084-5		Expedition of Priscus against the Slaves.
593	11-12	6085-6		Campaign of Peter.
596	14-15	6088-9		Mission of St. Augustine to Britain.
597	15-1	6089-90		Peter's expedition against Slaves. Avars besiege Thes- salonica.
598	1-2	6090-1		Avars besiege Singidunum and invade Dalmatia.
599	2-3	6091-2		Avars invade Moesia. Peace between Lombards and ex- archate.
600	3-4	6092-3		Great victories of Priscus over the Avars.
602	5-6	6094-5	Phocas.	Gudwin's campaign against Slaves. Revolution, and overthrow of Maurice.
603	6-7	6095-6		Revolt of Narses.
604	7-8	6096-7		Death of Pope Gregory. Treaty with Avars.
605	8-9	6097-8		Conspiracy against Phocas.
606	9-10	6098-9		Daras taken by Persians. In- vasion of Syria.
607	10-11	6099-100		Persians invade the Empire.
608	11-12	6100-1		Persians advance to Chalcedon.
609	12-13	6101-2		Revolt of Africa and of Alex- andria.

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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGICAL AND GENEALOGICAL TABLES ix

A.D.	INDICTION.	A.M.	IMPERIAL ACCESSIONS.	EVENTS.
610	13-14	6102-3	Heraclius.	Revolt of Jews in Antioch. Phocas overthrown by Heraclius.
611	14-15	6103-4		Birth of Epiphania.
612	15-1	6104-5		Birth of Constantine.
614	2-3	6106-7		Persians invade Syria and take Damascus. Treaty of Heraclius with Sisibut of Spain.
615	3-4	6107-8		Palestine invaded; Jerusalem taken.
616	4-5	6108-9		Egypt lost to the Persians (date uncertain).
617	5-6	6109-10		Persians take Chalcedon.
618	6-7	6110-11		Heraclius thinks of migrating to Carthage.
619	7-8	6111-12		Heraclius flees from Avars.
620	8-9	6112-13		Peace with Avars.
622	10-11	6114-15		Heraclius sets out for the Persian war. (1) Campaign of Cappadocia and Pontus. (16th July, era of the Hegira.)
623	11-12	6115-16		End of first campaign.
624	12-13	6116-17		(2) First campaign of Azerbiyan. Last imperial towns in Spain taken by Svinthila. (3) Campaign of Albania and Armenia.
625	13-14	6117-18		(4) Campaign of Cilicia.
626	14-15	6118-19		(5) Second campaign of Azerbiyan. Great siege of Constantinople by Avars and Persians.
627	15-1	6119-20		(6) Campaign of Assyria.
628	1-2	6120-1		Mohammed writes to Heraclius.
629	2-3	6121-2		Battle of Muta. Heraclius restores cross to Jerusalem.
632	5-6	6124-5		Death of Mohammed. Abu Bekr first caliph.
634	7-8	6126-7		Battle of Adjnadein (July). Omar becomes caliph.
635	8-9	6127-8		Battle of Yermuk (August). Saracens take Damascus.
636	9-10	6128-9		Capture of Emesa and Heliopolis. "Farewell" of Heraclius. Conquest of Antioch, Chalcis, Beroea, Edessa, etc.
637	10-11	6129-30		Battle of Cadesia. Jerusalem taken. Battle of Yalulah.
638	11-12	6130-1		Ecthesis published. Constantine attempts to recover Syria. Muaviah becomes emir of Syria. Conquest of Mesopotamia.

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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)x *CHRONOLOGICAL AND GENEALOGICAL TABLES*

A.D.	INDICTION.	A.M.	IMPERIAL ACCESSIONS.	EVENTS.
639	12-13	6131-2	Constantine III. Heraclonas.	Amru invades Egypt.
641	14-15	6133-4		Death of Heraclius. Death of Constantine III. Fall of Alexandria. Battle of Nehavend.
642	15-1	6134-5	Constans II.	Fall of Heraclonas and Martina. Battle of Scultenna, and conquest of Liguria by Lombards.
644	2-3	6136-7		Othman becomes caliph.
646	4-5	6138-9		Foundation of Cairo (Fostât). Manifesto of Africa against monotheletism.
647	5-6	6139-40		Revolt in Africa.
648	6-7	6140-1		Type of Constans issued.
649	7-8	6141-2		Saracen expedition against Cyprus. Lateran Council condemns the Type.
650	8-9	6142-3		Aradus conquered.
651	9-10	6143-4		Saracens invade Asia Minor.
652	10-11	6144-5		Armenia lost.
654	12-13	6146-7		Saracens take Rhodes. Pope Martin at New Rome.
655	13-14	6147-8		Naval battle of Phoenix. Pope Martin banished to Cherson.
656	14-15	6148-9		Murder of Caliph Othman. Double caliphate.
658	1-2	6150-1		Expedition of Constans against Slaves.
659	2-3	6151-2		Treaty with Saracens.
660	3-4	6152-3		Sylvanus founds a Paulician community.
661	4-5	6153-4		Death of Ali.
662	5-6	6154-5		Constans sets out for Italy.
663	6-7	6155-6		Saracens invade Romanian in this and following years.
668	11-12	6160-1	Constantine IV.	Constans assassinated. Revolt of Saborios on Armenian frontier.
669	12-13	6161-2		Saracens attack Sicily.
670	13-14	6162-3		Foundation of Kairowan.
673	1-2	6165-6		Expedition of Muavia against Constantinople.
674	2-3	6166-7		Siege of Constantinople continued until 677.
675	3-4	6167-8		Slaves besiege Salonica.
676	4-5	6168-9		Capture of Kairowan by Christians, but soon recovered.
677	5-6	6169-70		Siege of Constantinople raised. Slaves again besiege Salonica.
678	6-7	6170-1		Peace with the caliphate. Embassies of western nations to Constantinople. Slaves besiege Salonica.
679	7-8	6171-2		Foundation of Bulgarian kingdom.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGICAL AND GENEALOGICAL TABLES xi

A.D.	INDICTION.	A.M.	IMPERIAL ACCESSIONS.	EVENTS.
680	8-9	6172-3		Death of Muaviah. Sixth Ecumenical Council begins.
683	11-12	6175-6	Justinian II.	Kairowan taken by Christians.
685	13-14	6177-8		Treaty with Abd Almalik.
				Death of Constantine.
687	15-1	6179-80		Transmigration of Mardaites.
688	1-2	6180-1		Slaves settled in <i>Opsikion</i> .
690	3-4	6182-3		Expedition of Justinian against Bulgarians and Slaves.
692	5-6	6184-5		Quinisext Council.
693	6-7	6185-6		Battle of Sebastopolis. Revolt of Symbatius. Armenia finally subjected to the Arabs.
695	8-9	6187-8	Leontius.	Fall and banishment of Justinian.
697	10-11	6189-90		Lazica revolts. Asia Minor invaded by Saracens. Hassan's expedition against Africa. Takes Carthage and recovers Kairowan. John retakes Carthage. Election of first doge of Venice.
698	11-12	6190-1	Tiberius III.	John driven from Carthage. Leontius overthrown.
700	13-14	6192-3		Romans invade Syria.
701	14-15	6193-4		Mopsuestia taken by Saracens.
702	15-1	6194-5		Loss of Fourth Armenia.
703	1-2	6195-6		Victory of Heraclius over Saracens in Cilicia.
704	2-3	6196-7		Another victory of Heraclius.
705	3-4	6197-8	Justinian (II) Rhinotmetos.	Fall of Tiberius.
709	7-8	6201-2		Tyana destroyed by Saracens.
710	8-9	6202-3		Expeditions against Cherson and Ravenna.
711	9-10	6203-4	Philippicus.	Fall of Justinian. Saracens cross to Spain.
712	10-11	6204-5		Bulgarians invade Thrace. Amasea taken by Saracens.
713	11-12	6205-6	Anastasius II.	Saracens take Pisidian Antioch. Fall of Philippicus.
714	12-13	6206-7		Roman embassy sent to Damascus.
715	13-14	6207-8	Theodosius III.	Fall of Anastasius (near the end of 715). Gregory II becomes Pope.
716	14-15	6208-9		Saracens invade Asia Minor; besiege Amorium. Leo the Isaurian defeats the son of Theodosius.
717	15-1	6209-10	Leo III.	Fall of Theodosius. Saracens besiege Pergamus. Siege of Constantinople begins (August).

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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii CHRONOLOGICAL AND GENEALOGICAL TABLES

A.D.	INDICTION.	A.M.	IMPERIAL ACCESSIONS.	EVENTS.
718	1-2	6210-11		Siege of Constantinople raised (August). Birth of Constantine V.
720	3-4	6212-13		Constantine crowned. Death of King Terbel.
724	7-8	6216-17		Hischam becomes caliph.
726	9-10	6218-19		First decree against image-worship. Cappadocia invaded by Saracens.
727	10-11-12 ¹	6219-20		Revolt in Greece. John of Damascus writes first oration against iconoclasm. Council at Rome against iconoclasm.
728	12-13	6220-1		Revolt in Italy.
729	13-14	6221-2		<i>Silentium</i> against image-worship. Deposition of Germanus.
730	14-15	6222-3		Gregory III becomes Pope. Council at Rome against iconoclasm.
731	15-1	6223-4		Leo separates Churches of Sicily, Calabria, and Illyricum from Rome.
732	1-2	6224-5		Census of births proclaimed. Heavy taxation in Sicily.
734	3-4	6226-7		Saracens invade Asia Minor.
739	8-9	6231-2		Saracen invasion. Battle of Acroinon.
740	9-10	6232-3	Constantine V.	<i>Ecloga</i> published. Death of Leo. Zacharias becomes Pope.
741	10-11	6233-4		Revolt of Artavasdos.
742	11-12	6234-5		Artavasdos suppressed.
743	12-13	6235-6		Death of Liutprand.
744	13-14	6236-7		Great Plague begins, and lasts till 747.
746	15-1	6238-9		Saracens attack Cyprus.
748	2-3	6240-1		Aistulf king of Lombards.
750	4-5	6242-3		Fall of Omeyyad dynasty. Lombards take Ravenna.
751	5-6	6243-4		Constantine takes Melitene and Theodosiopolis. Stephen II Pope.
753	7-8	6245-6		Council at Constantinople in favour of iconoclasm. Pipin invades Italy.
755	9-10	6247-8		Bulgarians invade Thrace. Pipin again in Italy.
756	10-11	6248-9		Paul I. Pope.
758	12-13	6250-1		Constantine's expedition against the Slavonians.
759	13-14	6251-2		Bulgarian victory at Beréga.
760	14-15	6252-3		Eclipse of sun (15th August).
761	15-1	6253-4		Execution of Peter Kalybites and John of Monagria.

¹ For the suppression of an indiction and my revision of the chronology, see Note on Bk. vi cap. ii. (vol. ii. p. 425).

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGICAL AND GENEALOGICAL TABLES xiii

A. D.	INDICTION.	A. M.	IMPERIAL ACCESSIONS.	EVENTS.
762	1-2	6254-5		Roman victory over Bulgarians at Anchialus.
764	3-4	6256-7		"Martyrdom" of Stephanus (date uncertain).
765	4-5	6257-8		Unsuccessful campaign in Bulgaria. Conspiracy against Emperor.
766	5-6	6258-9		Aqueduct of Valens restored. Executions of Paul and Andreas of Crete. Execution of Patriarch Constantinos. Constantine Anti-pope.
767	6-7	6259-60		Stephen III Pope.
771	10-11	6263-4		Hadrian I. becomes Pope.
773	12-12 ¹	6265-6		Victory over Bulgarians at Lithosoria.
774	12-13	6266-7		
775	13-14	6267-8	Leo IV.	Expedition against Bulgaria. Death of Constantine.
778	1-2	6270-1		Successes against Saracens.
780	3-4	6272-3	Constantine VI and Irene.	Harun takes Sêmalfos. Death of Leo IV.
781	4-5	6273-4		Revolt of Elpidius in Sicily.
782	5-6	6274-5		Harun invades Asia Minor.
783	6-7	6275-6		Reduction of Slaves of Macedonia and Greece.
784	7-8	6276-7		Tarasius becomes Patriarch.
786	9-10	6278-9		Harun becomes caliph.
787	10-11	6279-80		Seventh Ecumenical Council (at Nicaea).
788	11-12	6280-1		Bulgarian victory on the Strymon.
789	12-13	6281-2		Romania invaded by Arabs.
790	13-14	6282-3		Struggle of Irene and Constantine begins.
791	14-15	6283-4		Expedition against Bulgarians.
792	15-1	6284-5		Conspiracy in favour of the Caesars. Irene restored to dignity. Second Bulgarian campaign of Constantine VI.
793	1-2	6285-6		Revolt of Armeniac theme.
794	2-3	6286-7		Council of Frankfurt.
795	3-4	6287-8		Constantine divorces Maria, and leads a campaign in Asia. Leo III Pope.
796	4-5	6288-9		Third Bulgarian campaign of Constantine.
797	5-6	6289-90		Constantine blinded and deposed. Conspiracy in favour of the Caesars.
798	6-7	6290-1		Peace with Saracens.
799	7-8	6291-2		Revolt in Hellas.
800	8-9	6292-3		Coronation of Charles the Great.
802	10-11	6294-5		Fall of Irene.

¹ Here one indiction has been extended over two years in order to rectify the chronology.

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[More information](#)

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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BOOK IV

THE HOUSE OF JUSTIN

PART I

THE AGE OF JUSTINIAN

CHAPTER XI

JUSTINIAN'S CAESAROPAPISM

Justinian's ecclesiastical policy—Paganism—Monophysitism—Agapetus—The three articles—Vigilius—Fifth Ecumenical Council—Aphthartodocetism—Prima Justiniana—Conversion of the Nobadae—Jacobitism Pages 1-10

CHAPTER XII

THE SLAVES

Sketch of the geography of Thrace—Mount Haemus—Thrace-Illyrians—Early settlements of the Slaves—Character of the Slaves—Slavonic invasions—Justinian's fortifications 11-24

CHAPTER XIII

CHANGES IN THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Justinian's changes a preparation for the theme system—Combination of civil and military powers—Abolition of diocesan governors—Breaking up of provinces—The four Armenias—Double aspect of Justinian's reforms 25-30

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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XIV

THE GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE AT THE END OF JUSTINIAN'S REIGN

Changes in the map of Europe between 395 A.D. and 565 A.D.—The legend relating to Britain—Lombards and Gepids—Prefecture of Africa—Sardinia—The Vandal kingdom—Stratêgia of Sicily—Exarchate of Italy—Greek character of the Empire Pages 31-39

CHAPTER XV

BYZANTINE ART

Paganism and christian art—Problem of uniting the arch with the column—Ravenna—Parenzo—Thessalonica—Anthemius of Tralles—St. Sophia—Carving—Painting; illumination—Symbolism 40-54

CHAPTER XVI

NOTES ON THE MANNERS, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMERCE IN THE AGE OF JUSTINIAN

Population, dwellings, food, amusements of Byzantium—A scene in the hippodrome—Laws against immorality—Commerce and industries—The Jews—Taugast 55-64

PART II

THE COLLAPSE OF JUSTINIAN'S SYSTEM

CHAPTER I

JUSTIN II AND TIBERIUS II

Collapse of Justinian's system—Ceremonies attending Justin's accession—Sophia—Justin's reactionary policy—Forces of disintegration—Religious persecution—The Emperor's madness—Tiberius regent—Anastasia—Character of Tiberius II—His extravagance—Arians—Death of Tiberius 67-82

CHAPTER II

MAURICE

Character of Maurice—His relations to the Patriarch and the Pope—His unpopularity—Insurrection of the army—Fall of Maurice—Political significance of the demes—The will of Maurice 83-94

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J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xvii

CHAPTER III

THE PERSIAN WAR (572-591 A.D.)

Causes of war—The Turks—Invasion of Syria—Death of two thousand virgins—Truce—Battle of Melitene—Romans invade Persia—Death of Chosroes I.—Battle of Solachon—Mutiny in Roman army—Civil war in Persia—Maurice restores Chosroes II—Peace—Reign of Chosroes I. . . . Pages 95-113

CHAPTER IV

SLAVES AND AVARS IN ILLYRICUM AND THRACÈ

The Avars—Invasions of Slaves—Avars take Sirmium—Slaves in Astica—Monembasia—Campaign of Comentiolus in 587 A.D.—The progress of Maurice—Campaign of Priscus in 591 against the Avars; in 592 against the Slaves—Campaign of Peter, 593—Peter against the Slaves in 597—Siege of Salonica—Relief of Singidunum—Avars invade Dalmatia—Priscus at Tomi—Peace with the Avars—Great victories of Priscus at Viminacium and on the Theiss 114-142

Note on Slavonic settlements in Greece 143-144

CHAPTER V

THE LOMBARDS IN ITALY

The Lombard conquests—Resulting geography of Italy—Pope Gregory the Great—His life—His relations with the Lombards—*Patrimonium Petri*—Gregory's position in western Christendom—His relations with Brunhilda—His relations with Maurice—His reforms and theology—His historical importance 145-158

CHAPTER VI

THE EMPIRE AND THE FRANKS

Relations of the Empire with the sons of Chlotar I.—Embassies—Gundovald the pretender—Franks and Romans combine against the Lombards—Childebert the "son" of Maurice—The Roman Empire recognised as the first power in Europe 159-166

VOL. II

b

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978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D.): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xviii

CONTENTS

CHAPTER VII

THE LANGUAGE OF THE ROMAIOI IN THE SIXTH CENTURY

Disuse of Latin—Three kinds of Greek: (1) the vulgar dialect, (2) the language of the educated, (3) the written language—Use of the words *Roman* and *Latin*—Latin words Graecised: βασιλεύς, *Hellene*, *barbarian*, *pagan*, etc. Pages 167-174

CHAPTER VIII

LITERATURE OF THE SIXTH CENTURY

Last Greek philosophers—John Philoponus—Cosmas Indicopleustes—Historians—Procopius—Agathias—Menander—Writings of Justinian—John the Lydian—Poetry—Agathias—Paul the Silentiary—Latin literature—Cassiodorus—Boethius 175-194

BOOK V

THE HOUSE OF HERACLIUS

CHAPTER I

PHOCAS

Character of the reign of Phocas—Persian invasions—Revolts in Syria and Egypt—Conspiracies of Constantina's party—Africa—Expedition of Heraclius and fall of Phocas 197-206

CHAPTER II

HERACLIUS (610-622 A.D.)

Critical situation of the Empire—Character of Heraclius—His cautious policy—His marriages—Persian invasions—Loss of Palestine and Egypt—Heraclius' policy in regard to the Jews—Embassy to Chosroes—The true cross—Heraclius' project of making Carthage the capital—Sergius the Patriarch—Reforms of Heraclius—Loan from the Church—Treachery of the Avars—Peace with Avars—Preparations for the Persian war 207-226

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D.): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xix

CHAPTER III

THE PERSIAN WAR

- (1) Campaign of Cappadocia and Pontus, 622-623 A.D.—(2) First campaign of Azerbiyan, 623 A.D.—(3) Campaign of Albania and Armenia, 624 A.D.—(4) Campaign of Cilicia, 625 A.D.—Battle of the Sarus—(5) The second campaign of Azerbiyan—The victory of Theodorus—The siege of Constantinople, 626 A.D.—(6) Campaign of Assyria, 627-628 A.D.—Battle of Gaugamela—Overthrow of Chosroes—*Heraclius* of George of Pisidia—Mistakes in policy after the peace with Persia—Shahr Barz Pages 227-248

CHAPTER IV

MONOTHELETISM

Doctrine of One Energy—Sergius—Cyrus of Phasis—Sophronius—Pope Honorius—*Ecthesis* 249-253

CHAPTER V

LITERATURE IN THE REIGN OF HERACLIUS

Theophylactus Simocatta—George of Pisidia 254-257

CHAPTER VI

DISMEMBERMENT OF THE EMPIRE BY THE SARACENS

Arabia before Mohammed—Mohammed—The Koran—Battle of Muta—Al Wakidi—Conquest of Syria—Battles of Adjnadein and the Yermuk—Fall of Antioch, Jerusalem, etc.—Battle of Cadesia and conquest of Persia—Foundation of Bassra and Kufa—Conquest of Egypt by Amru—Foundation of Cairo (Fostât)—Death of Heraclius 258-273

CHAPTER VII

THE SLAVONIC SETTLEMENTS IN ILLYRICUM AND THRACE

Extension of the Slovenes—Origin of the Croatians—Invasion of Dalmatia—Foundation of Spalato, Ragusa, etc.—The Croatians and Serbians—Slaves of Macedonia and Thessaly—Tribes around Salonica—Settlements in Greece
274-280

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xx

CONTENTS

CHAPTER VIII

CONSTANS II

Reign of Constantine III and Heraclonas—Death of Constantine—Martina—Revolt of Valentinus and elevation of Constans II—Flight of Pyrrhus—Fall of Martina and Heraclonas—Speech of Constans—Saracen hostilities—Battle of Phoenix—Contest of Ali and Muaviah—Peace with the Saracens—Expedition against the Slaves—The *Type*—Lateran Synod—Fortunes of Pope Martin—Policy and aims of Constans—His brother Theodosius—Constans goes to the West—Siege of Beneventum and battle of the Calor—Constans at Rome and Syracuse—His death—The tyrant Mizizios—Estimate of Constans and of his policy—Revolt of Saborios—The Saracens at Amorium Pages 281-307

CHAPTER IX

CONSTANTINE IV

Constantine Pogonatos—Anatolic theme—Great siege of Constantinople—“Romaic” fire—Peace with the Saracens—Embassies come to Constantinople from western powers—Ecclesiastical affairs—Sixth Ecumenical Council—Anathema on Pope Honorius 308-319

Note on Greek fire 319

CHAPTER X

JUSTINIAN II

Unpopularity—Removes the Mardaites—“Supernumerary corps” of Slaves—Battle of Sebastopolis—Armenia—Policy of transplanting peoples—The finance ministers Stephanus and Theodotus—History of financial bureaux—Buildings of Justinian—Quinisext Council—Justinian overthrown by Leontius—Conjecture that Justinian II desired to imitate Justinian I. 320-330

CHAPTER XI

FOUNDATION OF THE BULGARIAN KINGDOM

The Bulgarians—Legend of Kokrat and his five sons—The historical Kokrat—Bulgarians revolt against Avars—Bulgarians in Onglos—They defeat Constantine IV and settle in Moesia—Treaty with Constantine—Features of Slavonic history—Bulgarian institutions—Bulgarian war of Justinian II—Great (or Black) Bulgaria—Macedonian Slaves—Siege of Salonica 331-338

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xxi

CHAPTER XII

ORIGIN OF THE SYSTEM OF THEMES

Treatise of Constantine VII—Origin of later *themes*—Justinian's reforms preparatory to the theme system—What we learn from Theophanes and Nicephorus—Theory as to the origin of the Asiatic themes—Armeniacs, Anatolics, etc.—System of Leo III Pages 339-351

CHAPTER XIII

TWENTY YEARS OF ANARCHY

General survey—Reign of Leontius—Loss of Africa—Tiberius III—Armenia—Cyprus—Cherson—Adventures of Justinian Rhinotmetos—Restoration of Justinian—Bulgarian war—Loss of Tyana—Justinian's vengeance on Cherson—His fall—His expedition against Ravenna—Philippicus—Anastasius II—Revolt of the Opsikians—Theodosius III—Adventures of Leo the Isaurian in Alania—His operations against the Saracens—Fall of Theodosius—General reflections 352-386

CHAPTER XIV

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS DECAY IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY

Prevalence of superstition—Ecclesiastical complexion of the Empire—Coronation oath—Decline of culture—Study of Greek in western Europe—Theodore of Tarsus—Morality of the clergy—Survivals of paganism—Paulicianism
387-398

BOOK VI

THE HOUSE OF LEO THE ISAURIAN

CHAPTER I

THE REPULSE OF THE SARACENS

Constantinople besieged by the Saracens—Egyptian Christians desert—Plague in the army of the besiegers—Siege raised—Disasters of the Saracen fleet—Importance of this event—Caliph Hisham—Battle of Acroinon—Successes of Constantine V against the Moslem—Fall of the Omeyyad dynasty
401-407

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D.): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxii

CONTENTS

CHAPTER II

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LEO III

Conspiracy of Artemius—Artavasdos—Birth, coronation, and marriage of Constantine—Revolt in Sicily—Leo's policy of reform—The *Ecloga*—Its ecclesiastical complexion—Tendencies of Roman law—*Ecloga* contrasted with Code of Justinian—Marriage laws—*Patria potestas*—Maritime Code—Agricultural Code—Disappearance of the colonate—Causes thereof—Military and financial reforms of Leo—Aberration in the chronology of the eighth century—Hypothesis to account for it—Taxes—Finance officers Pages 408-424

Note on the chronology of the eighth century 425-427

An explanation and defence of the author's revision of the chronology from 727 to 773 A.D.

CHAPTER III

THE ICONOCLASTIC MOVEMENT

The true significance of the iconoclasm of Leo and Constantine—Rationalism—Connection with Monotheletism, Paulicianism, and Islamism—Decree of Leo—The *Antiphonetes*—Educational policy of Leo—The Ecumenical Doctor—Opposition of Germanus—The *silentium* of 729 A.D.—Revolt of Greece—The *Helladikoi* 428-438

CHAPTER IV

IMPERIAL ITALY IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY

Effects of iconoclasm on the history of Italy—Gregory II and the exarchs—Council of 727 A.D.—Liutprand and the Lombard dukes—Gregory III—Churches of southern Italy and Sicily separated from Roman see—Flight of iconodule Greeks westward—Legend of the Hodêgêtria—Graecisation of southern Italy 439-449

CHAPTER V

CONSTANTINE V

Revolt of Artavasdos—The great plague—Effects thereof in Greece and in Byzantium—The Slaves in Greece—Restoration of the aqueduct of Valens—Economic policy of Constantine—His family 450-458

Genealogical table of the Isaurian dynasty 459

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D.): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

xxiii

CHAPTER VI

ICONOCLASTIC POLICY OF CONSTANTINE

Hostility of Constantine to monasticism—His merry court—Attitude to art—Council of 753 A.D.—Persecution of monks—Stephanus—Michael Lachanodrakon—The population question—Secularising of monastic property—The *charistic* system—The Patriarch Constantinos Pages 460-469

CHAPTER VII

BULGARIA

Succession of Bulgarian kings—Kormisoš—Teletz—Expeditions of Constantine against Bulgaria—*Scamars*—Telerig—Death of Constantine V—Expeditions of Constantine VI 470-476

CHAPTER VIII

LEO IV

Ecclesiastical policy—Creation of the Caesars—Saracen war—Death of Leo 477-479

CHAPTER IX

CONSTANTINE VI AND IRENE

Conspiracies of the Caesars—Revolt of Elpidius—Struggle of Irene and Constantine—The Armeniac theme—Constantine divorces Maria—Constantine blinded—Stauracius and Aetius—Charles the Great—Fall of Irene—Saracen war 480-483

CHAPTER X

THE REACTION AGAINST ICONOCLASM

Paul the Patriarch—Tarasius the Patriarch—Letters of Pope Hadrian—Iconoclasm in the army—Seventh Ecumenical Council 494-498

CHAPTER XI

THE POPES, THE LOMBARDS, AND THE FRANKS

Appeal of the Popes to the mayors of the palace—Their relations with Liutprand—Pipin the Patrician—Desiderius—Charles the Great conquers the Lombard kingdom—Donation of Charles to the Roman see—Charles and Hadrian—Council of Frankfurt—Coronation of Charles and foundation of the Western Roman Empire—Significance of this event 499-509

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08318-8 - A History of the Eastern Roman Empire: From Arcadius to Irene (395 A.D. to 800 A.D): Volume 2

J.B. Bury

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xxiv

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XII

THE GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECT OF EUROPE AT THE END OF
THE EIGHTH CENTURY

The Empires and the caliphates—Comparison of the Roman Empire and the Frank kingdom in eighth century—The Moslem in Gaul; in Spain—Extension of Frank power—The Franks in Italy—*Lombardy*—The *Romagna*—Principality of Beneventum—Venice—Bulgaria—The functions of the rival Empires compared Pages 510-517

CHAPTER XIII

SOCIETY IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY

Literature revived—Theodore Studites—John of Damascus—Superstition—Effects of the iconoclastic reforms—Attractions of monastic life—The abbot Plato and Theoctiste—Life of Theodore—Theophanes—Armenian and Slavonic elements—Metropolitan arrangements of Byzantium—Private life—Saracen civilisation—Bagdad—Orientalism of Byzantium—Romances—Tale of Barlaam and Josaphat 518-534

CHAPTER XIV

CONCLUSION

Function performed by the later Roman Empire—It was the bulwark of Europe against the Asiatic danger—It kept alive Greek and Roman culture—It maintained European commerce—It preserved the idea of the *Roman Empire*—It embodied a principle of permanence 535-540

INDEX 541-579