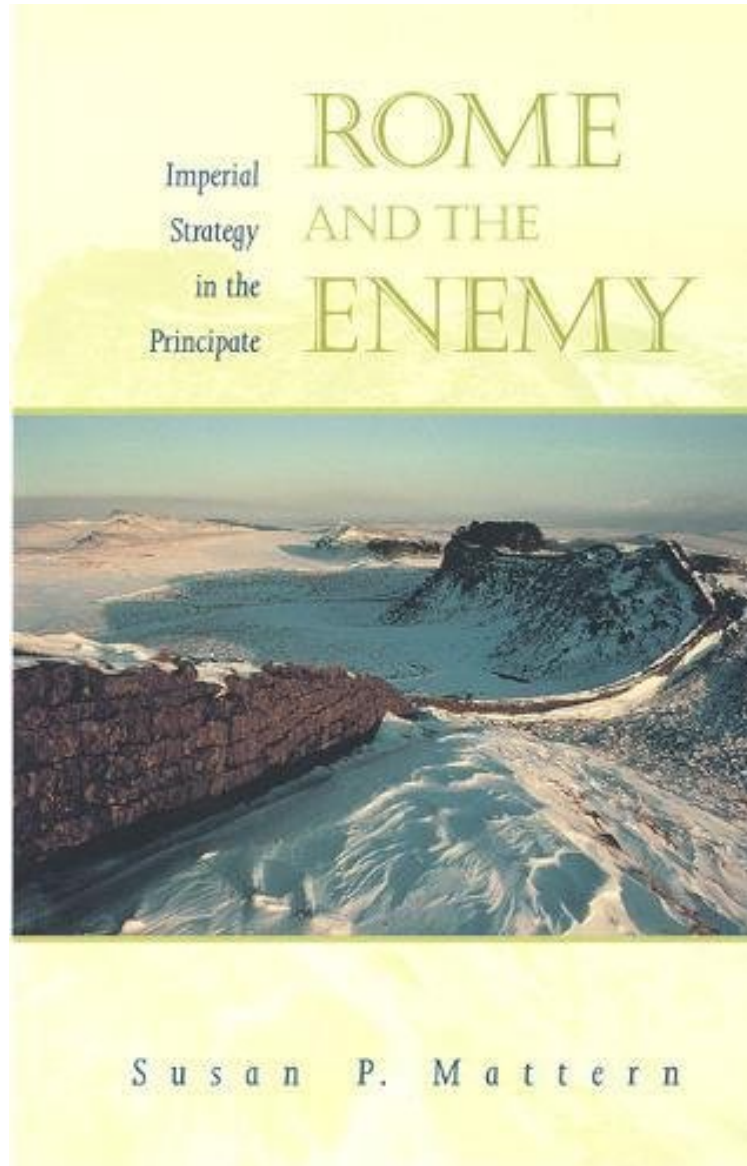


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Rome and the Enemy: Imperial Strategy in the Principate

Susan P. Mattern

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Susan P. Mattern : Rome and the Enemy: Imperial Strategy in the Principate before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rome and the Enemy: Imperial Strategy in the Principate:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Analysis of Roman War "Psychology" By bonnie_bluMattern does an excellent job of revealing the complex reality in which the Romans evolved. Rome was

born and developed in a world in which violent conflict was the norm. However, unlike its neighbors (and the Mediterranean world in general), it did not consider surrender an option. Instead, Rome fought until it forced a surrender from (or annihilated) its enemy, no matter how many years it took or how many lives were lost. If Rome surrendered, it would suffer an unbearable blow to its pride, and a surrender would lessen the fear of Rome in those it had conquered, which would invite rebellion. Where did this attitude originate and how did it become so inextricably woven into the Roman character? Historians continue to debate, but we will probably never know since its origins are in pre-history.⁴ of 4 people found the following review helpful. How did the Romans think of war and peace and strategy? By P. M. This book is not a tale or narrative. Instead, it is an examination of the evidence about how Rome thought of war, peace, and strategy. Through literature, histories, and historical evidence, the author captures a sense of Roman thought. Romans worried about the image of Rome, the way others thought of Rome. They guarded with ferocity the reputation of Rome as a terrible enemy. Romans did not have a sense of mapping, geography, strategic boundaries, or key crops and resources, in a way that modern military and foreign policy specialists take for granted. Instead, Rome had a strong sense of the enemy, those who would try and push at Rome, and who needed to be kept down, subdued, killed, in order to ensure a strong Rome. This book is a bit dry, but it is fascinating in how it weaves its sources to reveal a way of life and of thought, regarding empire. There have been those who feel that America needs to understand this Roman view of power and fear, in order to understand why some in the world go to war with Americans. I think that this is over-stated. It is not as though we lack this Roman perspective in the West... rather I would say that we have layered over it many strategic lessons, and some forgetfulness. This sort of writing augments more narrative histories by capturing the historic sensibility of the times. There should be more histories of this quality written.⁶ of 9 people found the following review helpful. Another side of Rome By Michael Valdivielso Susan P. Mattern wrote a book that is well made, easy to read and has well supported ideas. She breaks down Imperial Strategy, not into where, who and how, but into why and what for. While other books focus on what the Romans are doing, she examines why they do it. She breaks it down into parts, dealing with how the army, the empire's income and the Roman values shape and mold how they respond to threats and outsiders. The hardcover might scare you, but it only took me two days to read and for a person who has a basic knowledge of Roman History, the book should not be a problem.

How did the Romans build and maintain one of the most powerful and stable empires in the history of the world? This illuminating book draws on the literature, especially the historiography, composed by the members of the elite who conducted Roman foreign affairs. From this evidence, Susan P. Mattern reevaluates the roots, motivations, and goals of Roman imperial foreign policy especially as that policy related to warfare. In a major reinterpretation of the sources, *Rome and the Enemy* shows that concepts of national honor, fierce competition for status, and revenge drove Roman foreign policy, and though different from the highly rationalizing strategies often attributed to the Romans, dictated patterns of response that remained consistent over centuries. Mattern reconstructs the world view of the Roman decision-makers, the emperors, and the elite from which they drew their advisers. She discusses Roman conceptions of geography, strategy, economics, and the influence of traditional Roman values on the conduct of military campaigns. She shows that these leaders were more strongly influenced by a traditional, stereotyped perception of the enemy and a drive to avenge insults to their national honor than by concepts of defensible borders. In fact, the desire to enforce an image of Roman power was a major policy goal behind many of their most brutal and aggressive campaigns. *Rome and the Enemy* provides a fascinating look into the Roman mind in addition to a compelling reexamination of Roman conceptions of warfare and national honor. The resulting picture creates a new understanding of Rome's long mastery of the Mediterranean world.

"The book is as well written as it is well informed, and historians who are interested in the nature of imperial power, in any period, will find it valuable."--David Potter, "Journal of Interdisciplinary History" About the Author Susan P. Mattern is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Georgia.