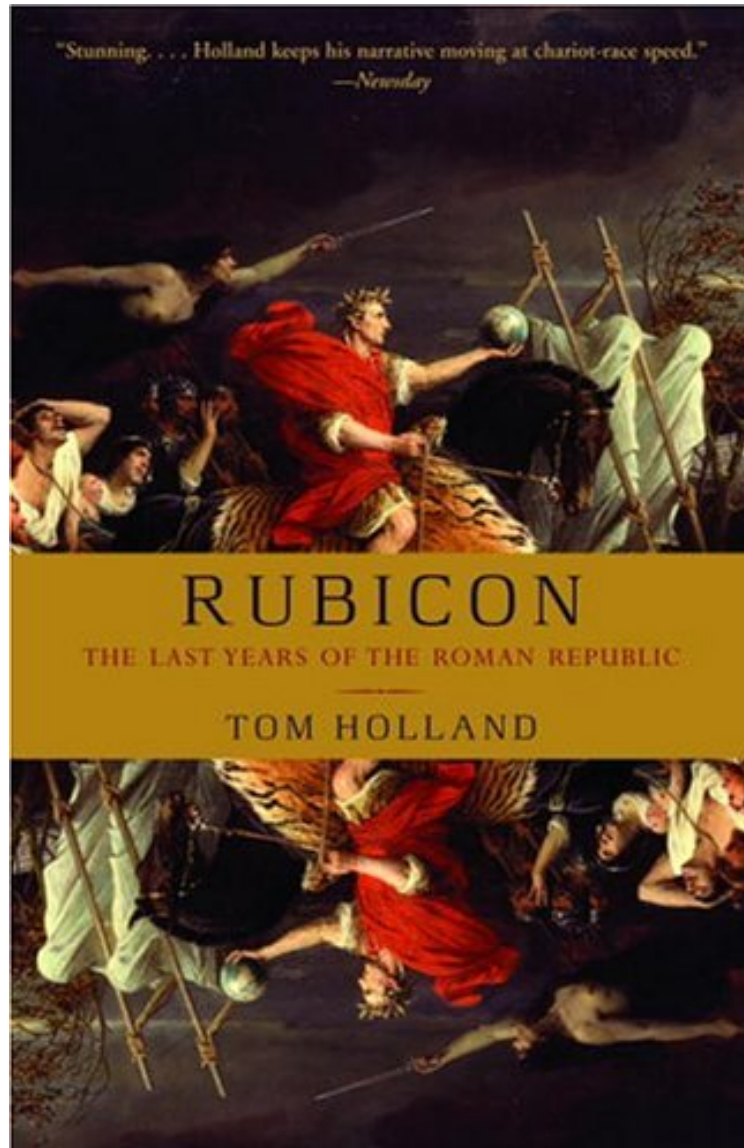


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# Rubicon

*Tom Holland*

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#12897 in Books Tom Holland 2005-03-08 2005-03-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.99 x .88 x 5.191, 1.03 #File Name: 1400078970464 pagesRubicon The Last Years of the Roman Republic | File size: 71.Mb

**Tom Holland : Rubicon** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rubicon:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic, Critical, and EntertainingBy Frank S. ScaliseAn excellent read on the lead up to Julius Caesar's fateful decision to cross the Rubicon, and of the events that immediately followed. Essentially, from Sulla's dictatorship to Augustus' victory. Holland explores the politics, but also the social

elements in play, as well as the personalities of the men and women on this pivotal stage in Roman history. Unlike some historians, Holland's prose is anything but dry. He captures the essence of what it meant to the Romans to be Roman, and what the motivations likely were for all of the involved parties as they played out this real human drama. Very well done!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Rubicon" covers all the key players and events in the ...By Timothy D. Allison "Rubicon" covers all the key players and events in the fall of the Roman Republic. It is written in a very readable and engaging manner, and Tom Holland does an admirable job bringing all of the characters to life. Since there are a lot of written sources of the time period, this is possible, but really what you get are Tom Holland's vividly portrayed perspective of the primary sources. Another historian almost undoubtedly views any number of the characters quite differently. Hopefully, "Rubicon" motivates you to read those sources yourself. I deducted one star because I found his writing a bit too hyperbolic, but then he is describing some of history's strongest characters.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thrillingly written popular history By Robert Hayes I really love history, but I don't think I've read any before that was this well written and engrossing. Tom Holland has a gift for storytelling matched by few that really puts you in the thick of things. Even more impressive is the way he crafted the narrative by exclusively relying on primary sources. It really makes me want to read the classics. Aside from learning so much about Roman history, I also was constantly drawing mental parallels between the book and current political developments, as I'm sure many others have. Highly recommended to people who like history, but also to those less inclined because this book is far from boring.

A vivid historical account of the social world of Rome as it moved from republic to empire. In 49 B.C., the seven hundred fifth year since the founding of Rome, Julius Caesar crossed a small border river called the Rubicon and plunged Rome into cataclysmic civil war. Tom Holland's enthralling account tells the story of Caesar's generation, witness to the twilight of the Republic and its bloody transformation into an empire. From Cicero, Spartacus, and Brutus, to Cleopatra, Virgil, and Augustus, here are some of the most legendary figures in history brought thrillingly to life. Combining verve and freshness with scrupulous scholarship, Rubicon is not only an engrossing history of this pivotal era but a uniquely resonant portrait of a great civilization in all its extremes of self-sacrifice and rivalry, decadence and catastrophe, intrigue, war, and world-shaking ambition.

From Publishers Weekly After a palace coup demolished the reign of King Tarquin of Rome in 509 B.C., a republican government flourished, providing every person an opportunity to participate in political life in the name of liberty. As Holland, a novelist and adapter of Herodotus' Histories for British radio, points out in this lively re-creation of the republic's rise and fall, the seeds of destruction were planted in the very soil in which the early republic flourished. It was more often members of the patrician classes who had the resources to achieve political success. Such implicit class distinctions in an ostensibly classless society also gave rise to a new group of rulers who acted like monarchs. Holland chronicles the rise to power of such leaders as Sulla Felix, Pompey, Cicero and Julius Caesar. Some of these leaders, such as Pompey, appealed to the masses by expanding the republic through military conquest; others, like Cicero, worked to reinforce class distinctions. Holland points to the suppression of the Gracchian revolution—a series of reforms in favor of the poor pushed by the Gracchus brothers in the second century B.C.—as the beginning of the end of the republic, providing the context into which Julius Caesar would step with his own attempts to save the republic. As Holland points out, Caesar actually precipitated civil wars and helped to reestablish an imperial form of government in Rome. With the skill of a good novelist, Holland weaves a rip-roaring tale of political and historical intrigue as he chronicles the lively personalities and problems that led to the end of the Roman republic. Maps. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist \*Starred\* Ancient history lives in this vivid chronicle of the tumultuous events that impelled Julius Caesar across the one small river that separated the Roman Republic from cataclysmic civil war. With the narrative talents that have established him as a prominent radio personality and novelist, Holland pulls readers deep into the treacherous riptide of Roman politics. To show how Caesar eventually masters that tide—if only temporarily—Holland first traces the bloody career of the ruthless dictator Sulla, who rescues an imperiled Republic even as he breaches its founding traditions. Those breaches deeply disturb the moralist Cato, but the indulgent luxury of a post-Sullan world suits Caesar well enough: a popular favorite, he sets the fashion in loose-fitting togas—and waits for his fated opening. Recounting Caesar's eventual seizure of power in pages as irresistibly cadenced as the legionnaires' march, Holland probes the tragic ironies that quickly expose the bold conqueror to idealistic assassins, who themselves soon perish in the rise of the Augustan Empire. Not a work for scrupulous scholars, but a richly resonant history for the general reader. Bryce Christensen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

“Stunning. . . . Holland keeps his narrative moving at chariot-race speed.” —Newsday

“This gripping narrative resurrects some of the half-forgotten personalities and events that shaped who we are. . . . It enables the reader to relive the slow, bloodstained collapse of a system, not only as a fascinating drama in its own right but as a morality tale.” —Anthony Everitt, author of Cicero

“A fascinating picture of Roman city life. . . . In every aspect of this story, Holland expertly makes the Romans, so alien and yet so familiar, relevant to us.” —Los Angeles Times

“Tremendously intelligent, vibrant and witty.” —The Washington

Times“The crispest and most compelling account. . . . A historical thrill ride.” –The Seattle Times“Splendid. . . . Rich. . . . Holland writes history with a sense of immediacy, and with the passion and pacing of a novelist. . . . His absorbing, witty narrative captures the scope and drama of the republic and shapes its labyrinthine elements into a single continuum.” –Houston Chronicle“[A] book that really held me, in fact, obsessed me. . . . Narrative history at its best.” –Ian McEwan, *The Guardian*, Books of the Year“Very readable. . . . Witty, literate. . . . [It] outlines as no other story in history can the perils and misadventures that bring down democratic governments.” –St. Petersburg Times“Gripping and hugely entertaining. . . . It is a story crammed with drama and spectacle, but the real attraction of Holland’s book is the wit and contemporary sensibility that he brings to his often bloody tale.” –The Sunday Times (London), Top 5 History Books of the Year“Lucid, stylish and witty, and interesting in its analysis. . . . Informative, balanced, and accessible, Holland’s compelling brand of narrative history is a praiseworthy rendition of one of the most complex periods in history.” –BookPage“*A lively, popularly written history. . . . Holland’s book is full of memorable characters.*” –World“Explosive stuff. . . . Seriously intelligent history written with élan and gusto.” –BBC History Magazine“Lively, readable, briskly paced. . . . Thoroughly grounded in the relevant source material. . . . Seamless, forward-moving. . . . Not only a gripping account of the Roman past, but an important perspective on the current American moment. . . . Rubicon succeeds brilliantly.” –Claremont of Books“Richly resonant. . . . Ancient history lives in this vivid chronicle.” –Booklist (starred review)“A terrific read and a remarkable piece of scholarship. As an introduction to Roman history, it is unlikely to be bettered.” –Daily Mail“Holland brings a novelist’s eye to the ancient republic’s collapse. . . . [He] also draws a fascinating portrait of the social life of Rome and the republic in the first century B.C. . . . Written with flair, wit and solid historical research, Rubicon is grand history and grandly entertaining.” –Flint Journal“*A vivid social portrait of the Roman world.*” –Sunday Telegraph