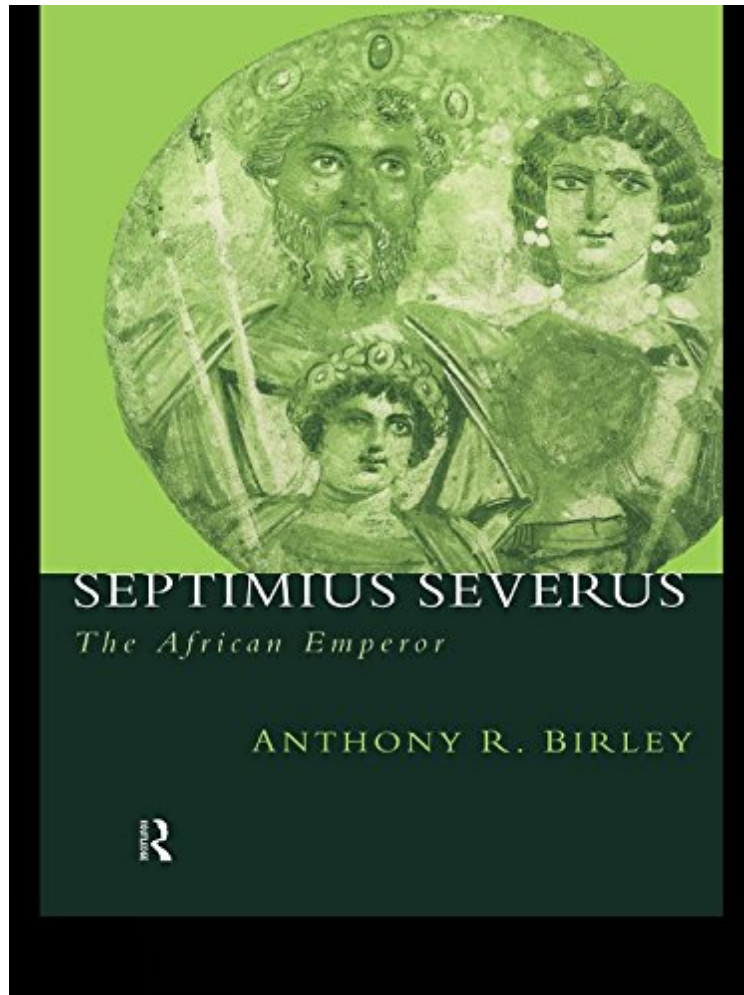


[PDF] Septimius Severus: The African Emperor (Roman Imperial Biographies)

Septimius Severus: The African Emperor (Roman Imperial Biographies)

Von Anthony R. Birley

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Von Anthony R. Birley : Septimius Severus: The African Emperor (Roman Imperial Biographies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Septimius Severus: The African Emperor (Roman Imperial Biographies):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Best scholarly biography of an Roman emperor I've ever readVon P. BartlProf. Birley has written the biographies of three Roman emperors: Marcus Aurelius, Septimius Severus and recently Hadrian. "Septimius Severus: the African Emperor" is his finest work thus far. His fluent narrative and relevant remarks make the life of Severus even more interesting. We follow Severus from his native town of Lepcis Magna (in today's Lybia), the member of a family of

Phoenecian origin but Romanized for generations. Severus starts his career in an unremarkable way during the reign of Marcus Aurelius, giving us a glimpse of what life was for individual members of the senatorial class. We then follow Severus's life throughout the reign of Marcus's insane son Commodus, Birley giving the best treatment of his reign that I have ever seen in English. The events leading to the conspiracy to topple Commodus, resulting in civil war and Severus's accession as first Emperor for whom Latin was a foreign language, read like a first-class thriller, all the more fascinating because true. As emperor Severus shows himself to be competent and ruthless, and apparently somewhat disdainful and resentful of the traditional elites of Italian background, which led to his starting to convert the empire into a military dictatorship. On the other hand, his support of the great jurists Papinian and Paul make his reign one of the great ages of Roman jurisprudence, which was to have so much influence on Western law. Severus's military pursuits in Mesopotamia and Scotland are also vividly described. To be sure, the first chapters on the origins of Lepcis Magna are a bit slow, but all the rest is fascinating. I could not recommend this book more.

Kurzbeschreibung In this, the only biography of Septimius Severus in English, Anthony R. Birley explores how 'Roman' or otherwise this man was and examines his remarkable background and career. Severus was descended from Phoenecian settlers in Tripolitania, and his reign, AD 193-211, represents a key point in Roman history. Birley explores what was African and what was Roman in Septimius' background, given that he came from an African city. He asks whether Septimius was a 'typical cosmopolitan bureaucrat', a 'new Hannibal on the throne of Caesar' or 'principle author of the decline of the Roman Empire'? Pressestimmen "In this excellent book, [Septimius Severus] is rehabilitated as an able if ruthless leader and a remarkable man." - "The Independent" "A Surprisingly rich picture of the emperor's times." - Ramsey Macmillan, "Ancient History" Kurzbeschreibung In this, the only biography of Septimius Severus in English, Anthony R. Birley explores how 'Roman' or otherwise this man was and examines his remarkable background and career. Severus was descended from Phoenecian settlers in Tripolitania, and his reign, AD 193-211, represents a key point in Roman history. Birley explores what was African and what was Roman in Septimius' background, given that he came from an African city. He asks whether Septimius was a 'typical cosmopolitan bureaucrat', a 'new Hannibal on the throne of Caesar' or 'principle author of the decline of the Roman Empire'?