

The Roman Invasion Of Britain Roman Conquest Of Britain

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first published in 2004 routledge is an imprint of taylor francis an informa company

the purpose of this book is to take what we think we know about the roman conquest of britain from historical sources and compare it with the archaeological evidence which is often contradictory archaeologists and historians all too often work in complete isolation from each other and this book hopes to show the dangers of neglecting either form of evidence in the process it challenges much received wisdom about the history of roman britain birgitta hoffmann tackles the subject by taking a number of major events or episodes such as caesar s incursions claudius invasion boudicca s revolt presenting the accepted narrative as derived from historical sources and then presenting the archaeological evidence for the same the result of this innovative approach is a book full of surprising and controversial conclusions that will appeal to the general reader as well as those studying or teaching courses on ancient history or archaeology

why did julius caesar come to britain his own account suggests that he invaded to quell a resistance of gallic sympathizers in the region of modern day kent but there must have been personal and divine aspirations behind the expeditions in 55 and 54 bce to the ancients the ocean was a body of water that circumscribed the known world separating places like britain from terra cognita and no one not even alexander the great had crossed it while caesar came and saw he did not conquer in the words of the historian tacitus he revealed rather than bequeathed britain to rome for the next five hundred years caesar s revelation was rome s remotest imperial bequest conquering the ocean provides a new narrative of the roman conquest of britain from the two campaigns of caesar up until the construction of hadrian s wall across the tyne solway isthmus during the 120s ce much of the ancient literary record portrays this period as a long march of roman progress but recent archaeological discoveries reveal that there existed a strong resistance in britain boudica s short lived revolt being the most celebrated of them and that roman success was by no means inevitable richard hingley here draws upon an impressive array of new information from archaeological research and recent scholarship on the classical texts to provide a balanced picture of the military activities and strategies that led to the conquest and subjugation of britain conquering the ocean is the fullest picture to date of a chapter in roman military history that continues to captivate the public

this book tells the fascinating story of roman britain beginning with the late pre roman iron age and ending with the province s independence from roman rule in ad 409 incorporating for the first time the most recent archaeological discoveries from hadrian s wall london and other sites across the country and richly illustrated throughout with photographs and maps this reliable and up to date new account is essential reading for students non specialists and general readers alike writing in a clear readable and lively

style with a satirical eye to strange features of past times rupert jackson draws on current research and new findings to deepen our understanding of the role played by britain in the roman empire deftly integrating the ancient texts with new archaeological material a key theme of the book is that rome s annexation of britain was an imprudent venture motivated more by political prestige than economic gain such that britain became a trophy province unable to pay its own way however the impact that rome and its provinces had on this distant island was nevertheless profound huge infrastructure projects transformed the countryside and means of travel capital and principal cities emerged and the roman way of life was inseparably absorbed into local traditions many of those transformations continue to resonate to this day as we encounter their traces in both physical remains and in civic life

the story of the claudian conquest of britain was only partly recorded by ancient historians tacitus annals breaks off at the death of tiberius while the narrative of cassius dio survives only as a collection of elected pieces much of the missing knowledge has been recaptured by archaeological research as a result we have a better understanding of the tribal society which then existed in britain and this can help us to appreciate the courses of military action open to plautius the commanding roman general peddie argues that organization and supply problems of the roman task force dictated roman tactics he discusses what these may have been examines the reasons for a seemingly isolated foray into the west country and suggests that the guerrilla campaign of ad 43 52 denied the romans their hope of a speedy conquest

includes pictures includes ancient accounts of britain includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading the romans thinking that it might be some help to the allies britons whom they were forced to abandon constructed a strong stone wall from sea to sea in a straight line between the towns that had been there built for fear of the enemy where severus also had formerly built a rampart bede s description of hadrian s wall in the middle ages the famous conqueror from the european continent came ashore with thousands of men ready to set up a new kingdom in england the britons had resisted the amphibious invasion from the moment his forces landed but he was able to push forward in a large winter battle the britons large army attacked the invaders but was eventually routed and the conqueror was able to set up a new kingdom over 1 100 years before william the conqueror became the king of england after the battle of hastings julius caesar came saw and conquered part of britannia setting up a roman province with a puppet king in 54 bce in the new province the romans eventually constructed a military outpost overlooking a bridge across the river thames the new outpost was named londinium and it covered just over two dozen acres for most of the past 1 000 years london has been the most dominant city in the world ruling over so much land that it was said the sun never set on the british empire with the possible

exception of rome no city has ever been more important or influential than london in human history thus it was only fitting that it was the romans who established london as a prominent city londinium was initially little more than a small military outpost near the northern boundary of the roman province of britannia but its access to the river thames and the north sea made it a valuable location for a port during the middle of the 1st century ce the romans conducted another invasion of the british isles after which londinium began to grow rapidly as the romans stationed legions there to defend against the britons londinium became a thriving international port allowing trade with rome and other cities across the empire by the 2nd century ce londinium was a large roman city with tens of thousands of inhabitants using villas palaces a forum temples and baths the roman governor ruled from the city in a basilica that served as the seat of government what was once a 30 acre outpost now spanned 300 acres and was home to nearly 15 000 people including roman soldiers officials and foreign merchants the romans also built heavy defenses for the city constructing several forts and the massive london wall parts of which are still scattered across the city today ancient roman remains continue to dot london s landscape today reminding everyone that almost a millennium before it became the home of royalty london was already a center of power the romans were master builders and much of what they built has stood the test of time throughout their vast empire they have left grand structures from the forum and pantheon in rome to the theatres and hippodromes of north africa and the triumphal gates in anatolia and france wherever they went the romans built imposing structures to show their power and ability and one of their most impressive constructions was built on the northernmost fringe of the empire shortly after the emperor hadrian came to power in the early 2nd century ce he decided to seal off scotland from roman britain with an ambitious wall stretching from sea to sea to accomplish this the wall had to be built from the mouth of the river tyne where newcastle stands today 80 roman miles 76 miles or 122 kilometers west to bowness on solway the sheer scale of the job still impresses people today and hadrian s wall has the advantage of being systematically studied and partially restored

the book opens with a description of the peoples of italy at around the end of the fourth century b c it describes the early success of roman diplomacy and force in creating client populations among the etruscans the latins and the hellenized populations of the south at the beginning of the period the italian peoples sought to preserve their independence and ethnic traditions by its end those who had not achieved roman citizenship were demanding it

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