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How did a single village community in the Italian peninsula eventually become one of the most powerful imperial powers the world has ever known? In *A Brief History of the Romans, Second Edition*, Mary T. Boatwright, Daniel J. Gargola, Richard J.A. Talbert, and new coauthor Noel Lenski explore this question as they guide students through a comprehensive sweep of Roman history, ranging from the prehistoric settlements to the fall of the empire in 476. Addressing issues that still confront modern states worldwide—including warfare, empire building, consensus forging, and political fragmentation—the authors also provide glimpses into everyday Roman life and perspective, demonstrating how Rome's growth as a state is inseparable from its social and cultural development. Vividly written and accessible, *A Brief History of the Romans, Second Edition*, traces Rome's remarkable evolution from village, to monarchy, to republic, to one-man rule by an emperor—whose power at its peak stretched from Scotland to Iraq and the Nile Valley—to the empire's fall in AD 476. Firmly grounded in ancient literary and material sources, the text describes and analyzes major political and military landmarks, from the Punic Wars, to Caesar's conquest of Gaul and his crossing of the Rubicon, to the victory of Octavian over Mark Antony, and through Constantine's adoption of Christianity. Featuring two new chapters (13 and 14), the second edition extends the book's coverage through the rise of Christianity, the growth of the Barbarian threat, the final years of the empire, its fall in 476, and, finally, to its revival in the East as Byzantium. This edition also combines chapters 1 and 2 into one—Archaic Italy and the Origins of Rome—and integrates more material on women, religion, and cultural history throughout. Ideal for courses in Roman history and Roman civilization, *A Brief History of the Romans, Second Edition*, is enhanced by a new 8-page, 4-color insert and almost 100 extensively captioned illustrations. It also includes almost 30 ancient maps, revised and improved under the supervision of coauthor Richard J. A. Talbert, and textual extracts that provide fascinating cultural observations made by ancient Romans themselves.

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