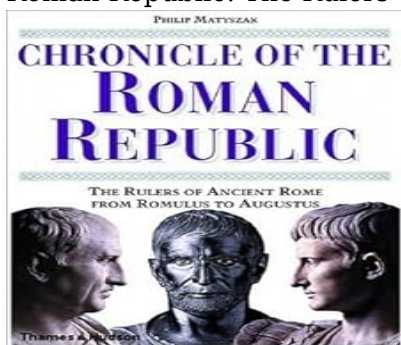


Chronicle of the Roman Republic: The Rulers of Ancient Rome from Romulus to Augustus By Philip Matyszak His employment of a conversational tone; introductory notes on political positions and primary sources; and inclusion in the margin of retrospective art (treating with the material) greatly enhanced a history that already stood on its own. While this works ok as a reference book to the different rulers of the Roman Republic simply sticking to a presentation in strict chronological order the way it is done here breaks up and disrupts the flow of the historical narrative in a very unnecessary and unfortunate way. Because the timelines of so many of these biographies overlap the chronology doesn't quite work out and the result is a chronicle that tends to obscure the larger picture of historical events and developments instead of illuminate them. Philip Matyszak This is a very good quick reference book for those who do not want to wade through huge blocks of history text to get to the stuff you need or are interested in. Starting with the cloudy beginning (Romulus or a bunch of guys who sat on a hill or Aeneas fleeing Troy) until the rise of Octavius every leader of the Roman Republic is provided with a fleshed-out bio along with a ton of maps and paintings and photos of sculptures. Philip Matyszak A bit too glossy at times with a couple or errors but a good Romulus and Remus and their mother the Vestal Virgin Rhea Silvia who lived in Alba Longa where according to tradition Aeneas had settled after fleeing from Troy. Ouch! Also great stories include: 1) The Rape of the Sabine Women (which includes an explanation of carrying brides across the threshold--no kidding) 2) Marcias brought the first water to Rome via aqueducts 3) Jupiter was worshipped for 1000 years and even had a huge temple (built by Tarquin) until Christianity came along 4) More raping: The Rape of Lucretia 5) The Great Sulla Yes it is all here. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! Philip Matyszak The Roman Republic was one of the most civilized societies in the ancient world ruled by elected officials whose power was checked by a constitution so well crafted that it inspired the founding fathers of the United States of America. Here Philip Matyszak describes fifty-seven of the foremost Romans of the Republic spanning the centuries from its birth to its bloody death and including the best and the worst of the Roman elite: Licinius Crassus a kind father and loving husband who crucified slaves by the thousands or Cato the Censor upright and incorruptible xenophobic and misogynistic. Supported by a wealth of pictorial and archaeological detail these personal histories provide an overview of the development and expansion of Rome encompassing foreign and civil wars as well as social strife and key legislation. Chronicle of the Roman Republic: The Rulers of Ancient Rome from Romulus to Augustus



Philip Matyszak is a British non fiction author primarily of historical works relating to ancient Rome,

Well written and well illustrated introduction to the eras of the Roman kingdom and republic. But some of the illustrations and side explanations are helpful and interesting, Philip Matyszak Mayszak's first book and what an excellent reference: He carefully furrows a chronological path through 750 years of tangled politics. Philip Matyszak This book has the clearest retelling of the origin story of Rome: The twins.

This is a desert of textbook dryness presented in a glossy wrapping. This is part due to the format of the Chronicle Series but I still think the author should have been able to make a far better job of it than this: The history of the Roman Republic is made through its people and this book goes about telling roman history through it's consuls and other notables, It has interesting side panels and information bars for explanations of roman traditions sites and events. It is very nicely illustrated

with both drawings and photographs of people (their marble countenances) and places from around the Roman Republic. I would recommend this book for anyone with a general interest in Roman history and for student use for a school project, -HMC Philip Matyszak It is difficult to imagine that Rome was once a backwater of the ancient world, Centuries later the Romans ruled the world but before the famous emperors there were the legendary republicans and they are the stars of this book, There is Cincinnatus and Cato the Elder and Gaius Marius and Sulla. The later emperors may have provided the gossip but the early republicans set the standard for Roman discipline, The amount of information provided here is exceptional as the book has to cover centuries of rulers, Book Season = Autumn (before the winter of empire) Philip Matyszak This was a great book: I teach about the Roman Republic and this gives concise but interesting biographies about all the major players chronologically. You kinda have to talk about Pompey under Caesar's bio and Caesar under Pompey's bio. But anyway enjoyable read and I will save as a reference: Philip Matyszak I have a couple other books in this series - Roman emperors and Chinese emperors - and have read the one on the popes. The Roman Republic is not a good fit for the format though because the two consuls changed annually, If the book had covered the topic that way it would have been awesome: Alas it doesn't only hitting the highlights so really unless you know absolutely nothing about the Republic you are better off getting a general history such as by T. Cornell or possibly starting with one of the well done novel series by Colleen McCullough or Steven Saylor, One thing I have to applaud though is that the photos and illustrations though mostly not in color are profuse and well-explained: It's also nice to have an at least somewhat systematic march through the centuries. A few problems:- Sometimes information is sketchy or skimmed over. For example the office of praetor pre-dated consul but this isn't really explained, - It repeats the old tale about Rome finding a wrecked Punic trireme and using it as the basis for making their own but most historians today doubt this, There were many Greeks living within their empire for example, - It doesn't call attention to the time leaps it's making between chapters: You have to pay close attention to notice that actually not all these events are following immediately one after the other. - Starts the second Punic war with Flaminius jumping right over the start of the war and the Scipio brothers, - Repeats the old story that salt was sown into the earth at Carthage which most historians doubt. - Discusses how under Marius the pilum was weakened but says the purpose was to make targeted shields useless. Actually the purpose was to make the flung pila worthless (because they separated in the middle). This made them good to use on barbarians who thus did not have the ability to fling them back or the manufacturing skills to restore them to working order. - The story of the civil war battle of Pharsalus is greatly oversimplified, States that senators forced Pompey to attack Caesar but in fact Pompey had allowed himself to be surrounded and had little choice, He was a decade older than Pompey but appears in the chapter after him: Likewise Cato the Younger should have come after Caesar rather than before: - Discusses that Clodius changed the spelling of his name and later that he got himself adopted but misses that the two were connected: Doesn't go into too much detail since it covers the whole lifespan of the Republic, In this way the Romans trace their ancestry to Aeneas and the Trojans: Along the way a wolf raises the twins who were thrown in the river, With beautiful pictures easy-to-understand timelines and colorful maps this is the history book for everyone to cherish. The biographies are supplemented by time lines data files and special features that highlight different aspects of Roman culture and society. Matyszak has a doctorate in Roman history from St Johns College Oxford, In addition to being a professional author he also teaches ancient history for Madingley Hall Institute of Continuing Education Cambridge University, Philip Matyszak is a British non fiction author primarily of historical works relating to ancient Rome. Matyszak has a doctorate in Roman history from St John's College Oxford: In addition to being a professional author he also teaches ancient history for Madingley Hall Institute of Continuing Education Cambridge University. Well worth a look to a beginner. Philip Matyszak Good intro book. It really brushes over the history rather quickly. Loved it. Bravo. And the geese who saved Rome are here too. The book has the usual Chronicle Of professionalism. I love these books. My only criticism is that it's a little redundant. Not author's fault really. Ends at Augustus. Good writing style. Not too academic.J. Rome had plenty of

exposure to triremes before this.- Claims Liguria is in northeastern Italy but it's northwestern.- Doesn't really understand Lucullus and what happened to him. Also places him in the wrong chapter. Cicero also appears too late. The adoption led to the name change.- Spells the name of the infamous Catilina as Catiline. Philip Matyszak Good introduction to early Rome. {site_link}.