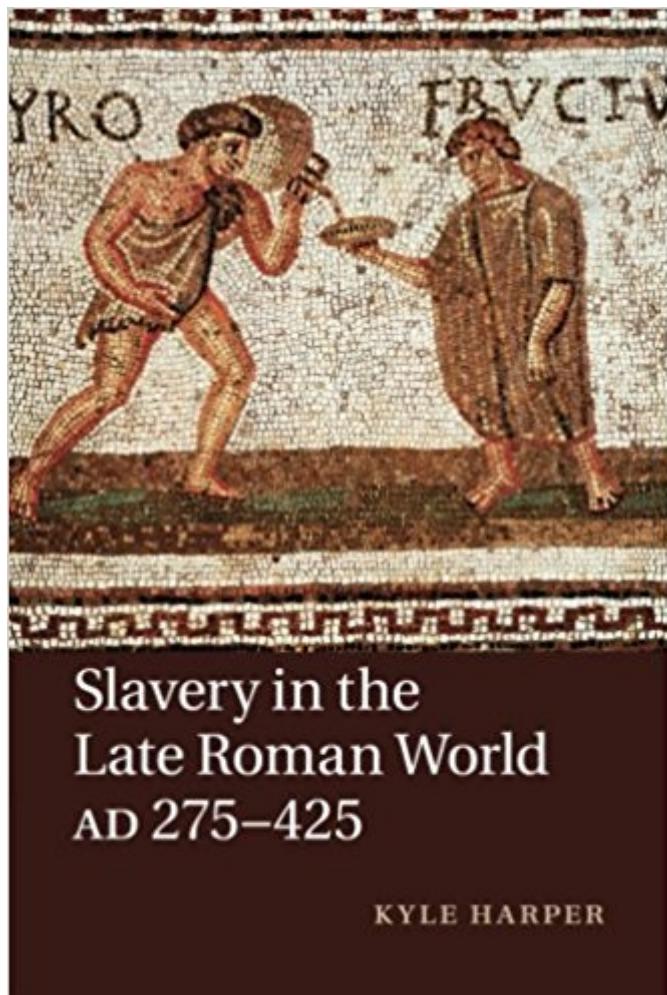


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Slavery In The Late Roman World, AD 275–425



Synopsis

Capitalizing on the rich historical record of late antiquity, and employing sophisticated methodologies from social and economic history, this book reinterprets the end of Roman slavery. Kyle Harper challenges traditional interpretations of a transition from antiquity to the Middle Ages, arguing instead that a deep divide runs through 'late antiquity', separating the Roman slave system from its early medieval successors. In the process, he covers the economic, social and institutional dimensions of ancient slavery and presents the most comprehensive analytical treatment of a pre-modern slave system now available. By scouring the late antique record, he has uncovered a wealth of new material, providing fresh insights into the ancient slave system, including slavery's role in agriculture and textile production, its relation to sexual exploitation, and the dynamics of social honor. By demonstrating the vitality of slavery into the fourth century, the author shows that Christianity triumphed amidst a genuine slave society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the best books on Roman social history that I've ever read. The scope of research and erudition of the author is astounding; plus it is so beautifully written that the eye is drawn across the page effortlessly. Not only does Professor Harper limn the institution of slavery in all its variations and brutality, he also elucidates the social context in which it arose, thrived and ultimately eroded. One comes away from this book with a sense of what life was like for Romans, both slave and free, male and female, Christian and pagan, during the "long fourth century". This is a book I will read and reread for many years.

There are so many areas of early Christianity that have not received due attention and this work by a literary-social historian fills so many gaps.

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