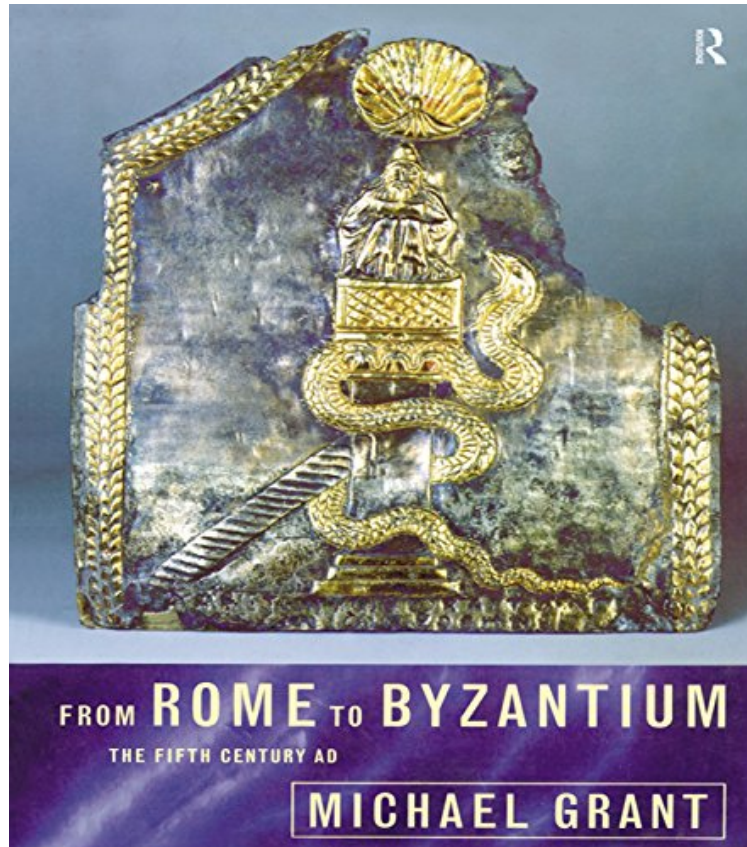


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## From Rome to Byzantium: The Fifth Century AD

Von Michael Grant

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**Von Michael Grant : From Rome to Byzantium: The Fifth Century AD** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Rome to Byzantium: The Fifth Century AD:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. From Rome to Byzantium - Grant does it again Von Scott Darby Another lucid, elegant and accessible text for the lay reader, as well as the more specialized researcher. Grant takes a survey at the salient aspects of life in the Roman world, as dusk crept over the classical world and the roman mind grappled with a reordered world, not in their traditional image. Grant summarises the responses of state and individual well, giving due room to the responses of the religious and artistic minds. A well produced volume, with thorough apparatus. One criticism - is there any point to reproductions of mosaic and architecture in black and white? Come on Routledge - if Taschen, Terrail et al can do it, so can you.

Kurzbeschreibung Byzantium was dismissed by Gibbon, in the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, and his Victorian successors as a decadent, dark, oriental culture, given up to intrigue, forbidden pleasure and refined cruelty.

This great empire, founded by Constantine as the seat of power in the East began to flourish in the fifth century AD, after the fall of Rome, yet its culture and history have been neglected by scholars in comparison to the privileging of interest in the Western and Roman Empire. Michael Grant's latest book aims to compensate for that neglect and to provide an insight into the nature of the Byzantine Empire in the fifth century; the prevalence of Christianity, the enormity and strangeness of the landscape of Asia Minor; and the history of invasion prior to the genesis of the empire. Michael Grant's narrative is lucid and colourful as always, lavishly illustrated with photographs and maps. He successfully provides an examination of a comparatively unexplored area and constructs the history of an empire which rivals the former richness and diversity of a now fallen Rome.

deMichael Grant, the noted classical historian, opens his newest book by observing that while most classicists can name the Roman emperors in chronological order, few can say anything about Byzantium other than that it was founded by Constantine in the aftermath of a vision in which Christianity became the official religion of his empire. Grant does much to educate his colleagues, and his many readers, in this well-written, heavily illustrated book about Byzantium's first century, when Rome fell to German invaders and Constantinople, far to the east, rose. Byzantium, Grant says, was "in many ways a pretty nasty place," thanks to a succession of despotic governments, civil wars, and intrigues. But it would last a thousand years and leave a mark on world history, still commanding our attention today.

--Gregory McNamee *Pressestimmen* "Michael Grant is one of the most respected, and perhaps the most prolific, of historians of the ancient world. . . . [H]e now takes us into . . . the Roman and Byzantine empire of the fifth century, just before the fall of Rome. Grant seems a reliable guide to this world." - *The Globe and Mail*, July 1998 "Few classicists have written as prolifically as Michael Grant . . . As one might expect, Grant possesses a clear, expository style, a fund of wide learning, and a willingness to risk the disdain of his colleagues by aiming at a popular audience." - *The Washington Post* "Grant's study ... is impressively erudite and characteristically well researched, and provides a fresh perspective on a century that was truly the best and worst of times." - *Kirkus* "Michael Grant is one of our finest and most prolific writers on the ancient world." - *Toronto Globe and Mail* "This provides a fine, accessible history of the period . . ." - *The Bookwatch* Grant possesses a clear expository style [and] a fund of wide learning, 31 May 1998