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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface and Acknowledgements -- Introduction. The End of the West Roman Empire: From Decline and Fall to Transformation of the Roman World -- Chapter 1. Gibbon's Secondary Causes: "The Disorders of Military Despotism" and "the Division of Monarchy" -- Chapter 2. Barbarism: "The Invasion and Settlements of the Barbarians of Germany and Scythia" -- Chapter 3. Religion and the Transformation of the Roman World -- Chapter 4. Religion: "The Rise, Establishment, and Sects of Christianity" -- Chapter 5. Religious Reaction to the Fall of Rome -- Chapter 6. Doctrinal Division -- Chapter 7. The Impact of Christianity: A Quantitative Approach -- Chapter 8. Clerics, Soldiers, Bureaucrats -- Chapter 9. Ecclesiastical Endowment -- Chapter 10. Beyond Gibbon and Rostovtzeff -- Appendix. Clerical Ordinations -- Further Reading -- Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	The history of the Late Roman Empire in the West has been divided into two parallel worlds, analysed either as a political and economic transformation or as a religious and cultural one. But how do these

relate one to another? In this concise and effective synthesis, Ian Wood considers some ways in which religion and the Church can be reintegrated into what has become a largely secular discourse. The Church was at the heart of the changes that took place at the end of the Western Empire, not only regarding religion, but indeed every aspect of politics and society. Wood contends that the institutionalisation of the Church on a huge scale was a key factor in the transformation which began in the early fourth century with an incipiently Christian Roman Empire and ended three hundred years later in a world of thoroughly Christianised kingdoms.

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