Record Nr. UNINA9910819096103321 Autore Watts Edward Jay <1975-> Titolo The final pagan generation / / Edward J. Watts Pubbl/distr/stampa Oakland, California:,: University of California Press,, 2015 ©2015 **ISBN** 0-520-37922-5 0-520-95949-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (347 p.) Collana Transformation of the Classical Heritage;; LIII Disciplina 292.07 Soggetti Paganism - Rome Christianity and other religions - Rome Rome Religion Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments --Introduction -- 1. Growing Up in the Cities of the Gods -- 2. Education in an Age of Imagination -- 3. The System -- 4. Moving Up in an Age of Uncertainty -- 5. The Apogee -- 6. The New Pannonian Order -- 7. Christian Youth Culture in the 360s and 370s -- 8. Bishops, Bureaucrats, and Aristocrats under Gratian, Valentinian II, and Theodosius -- 9. Old Age in a Young Man's Empire -- 10. A Generation's Legacy -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index Sommario/riassunto The Final Pagan Generation recounts the fascinating story of the lives and fortunes of the last Romans born before the Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity. Edward J. Watts traces their experiences of living through the fourth century's dramatic religious and political changes, when heated confrontations saw the Christian establishment legislate against pagan practices as mobs attacked pagan holy sites and temples. The emperors who issued these laws, the imperial officials charged with implementing them, and the Christian perpetrators of religious violence were almost exclusively young men

whose attitudes and actions contrasted markedly with those of the earlier generation, who shared neither their juniors' interest in creating sharply defined religious identities nor their propensity for violent

conflict. Watts examines why the "final pagan generation"-born to the old ways and the old world in which it seemed to everyone that religious practices would continue as they had for the past two thousand years-proved both unable to anticipate the changes that imperially sponsored Christianity produced and unwilling to resist them. A compelling and provocative read, suitable for the general reader as well as students and scholars of the ancient world.