Record Nr. UNINA9910821586203321

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Titolo East and West in late antiquity: invasion, settlement, ethnogenesis and

conflicts of religion / / by Wolf Liebeschuetz

Pubbl/distr/stampa Leiden, The Netherlands:,: Koninklijke Brill,, 2015

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ISBN 90-04-28952-6

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (507 p.)

Collana Impact of Empire (Roman Empire, 27 B.C.-A.D. 406) (Series), , 1572-

0500;; Volume 20

Disciplina 937.09

Soggetti Social change - Rome - History

Roman provinces - History Rome History Empire, 284-476

Rome Ethnic relations

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Includes index.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

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Greek and Roman Cities / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 2 Was There a Crisis of the Third Century? / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 3 Transformation and Decline: Are the Two Really Incompatible? / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 4 Unsustainable Development: The Origin of Ruined Landscapes in the Roman Empire / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 5 Warlords and Landlords / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 6 The Debate about the Ethnogenesis of the Germanic Tribes / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 7 Making a Gothic History: Does the Getica of Jordanes Preserve Genuinely Gothic Traditions? / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 8 Why did Jordanes Write the Getica? / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 9 Habitus Barbarus: Did Barbarians Look Different From Romans? / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 10 Barbarians and Taxes / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 11 Violence in the Barbarian Successor Kingdoms / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 12 Goths and Romans in the Leges Visigothorum / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 13 The Impact of the Imposition of Roman Rule on Northern Syria / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 14 Nomads. Phylarchs and Settlement in Syria and Palestine / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 15 Late Late Antiquity (6th and 7th Centuries) in the Cities of the Roman Near East / Wolf Liebeschuetz -- 16 Arab Tribesmen and Desert Frontiers in Late

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Sommario/riassunto

East and West in Late Antiquity combines published and unpublished articles by emeritus professor Wolf Liebeschuetz. The collection concerns aspects of what Gibbon called 'the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'. This interpretation is now much criticized, but the author agrees with Gibbon. Topics discussed are defensive strategies, the settlement inside the Empire of invaders and immigrants, and the modification of identities with the formation of new communities. Liebeschuetz is interested in both the eastern and the western halves of the Empire. In the East he is particularly concerned with Syria, the expansion of settlement up to the edge of the desert, and Christianisation. The book ends with an examination of the role of the Christian Arab Ghassanids in the defense of the Syrian provinces in the century leading up to the conquest of the provinces by the Islamic Arabs.