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In his book *Rome and China: Comparative Perspectives on Ancient World Empires*, Walter Scheidel seeks to present the “global prominence” of both empires “by promoting cross-cultural, comparative, and transdisciplinary perspectives on imperial state formation prior to the European colonial expansion.”¹ Scheidel thoroughly and effectively explores the comparative military, social, political, and economic histories of the Roman and Chinese empires using a collection of fascinating ...

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ROME AND CHINA - The Eye

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The processes of initial convergence and subsequent divergence in Eurasian state formation have never been the object of systematic comparative analysis. This volume, which brings together experts in the

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history of ancient Mediterranean and early China, seeks to make a first step in this direction, by presenting a series of comparative case studies on clearly defined aspects of state formation in early eastern and western Eurasia.

The Chinese and the Romans created the largest empires of the ancient world. Separated by thousands of miles of steppe, mountains and sea, these powerful states developed independently and with very limited awareness of each other's existence. This parallel process of state formation served as a massive natural experiment in social evolution that provides unique insight into the complexities of historical

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causation. Comparisons between the two empires shed new light on the factors that led to particular outcomes and help us understand similarities and differences in ancient state formation. The explicitly comparative perspective adopted in this volume opens up a dialogue between scholars from different areas of specialization, encouraging them to address big questions about the nature of imperial rule. In a series of interlocking case studies, leading experts of early China and the ancient Mediterranean explore the relationship between rulers and elite groups, the organization and funding of government, and the ways in which urban development reflected the interplay between state power and communal civic

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institutions. Bureaucratization, famously associated with Qin and Han China but long less prominent in the Roman world, receives special attention as an index of the ambitions and capabilities of kings and emperors. The volume concludes with a look at the preconditions for the emergence of divine rulership. Taken together, these pioneering contributions lay the foundations for a systematic comparative history of early empires.

Through a series of original essays by leading international scholars, *The Roman Empire in Context: Historical and Comparative Perspectives* offers a comparative historical analysis of the Roman empire's

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role and achievement and, more broadly, establishes Rome's significance within comparative studies. Fills a gap in comparative historical analysis of the Roman empire's role and achievement Features contributions from more than a dozen distinguished scholars from around the world Explores the relevance of important comparativist themes of state, empire, and civilization to ancient Rome

The gripping story of how the end of the Roman Empire was the beginning of the modern world The fall of the Roman Empire has long been considered one of the greatest disasters in history. But in this groundbreaking book, Walter Scheidel argues that

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Rome's dramatic collapse was actually the best thing that ever happened, clearing the path for Europe's economic rise and the creation of the modern age.

Ranging across the entire premodern world, *Escape from Rome* offers new answers to some of the biggest questions in history: Why did the Roman Empire appear? Why did nothing like it ever return to Europe? And, above all, why did Europeans come to dominate the world? In an absorbing narrative that begins with ancient Rome but stretches far beyond it, from Byzantium to China and from Genghis Khan to Napoleon, Scheidel shows how the demise of Rome and the enduring failure of empire-building on European soil launched an economic transformation

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that changed the continent and ultimately the world.

A collection of studies that explore the extractive systems of twelve ancient states and societies from across the ancient world The studies collected in Ancient Taxation explore the extractive systems of twelve ancient states and societies from across the ancient world, ranging from Bronze Age China to Anglo-Saxon Britain. Together, the

This book addresses a largely untouched historical problem: the fourth to fifth centuries AD witnessed remarkably similar patterns of foreign invasion, conquest, and political fragmentation in Rome and

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China. Yet while the western Roman empire was never re-established, China was reunified at the end of the sixth century. Taking a comparative approach to the study of the broader historiographical and ethnographic traditions in the classical Greco-Roman and Chinese worlds, the book turns to the late antique/early medieval period, when the western Roman Empire 'fell' and China was re-constituted as a united empire after centuries of foreign conquest and political division. Analyzing the discourse of ethnic identity in the original texts, with translations by Dr Ford, it explores the extent to which notions of Self and Other, of 'barbarian' and 'civilized', help us understand both the transformation of the Roman

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world as well as the restoration of a unified imperial China.

China in Comparative Perspective provides an overview of China based on empirical observation by field workers, as well as on historical documents, Chinese literary and philosophical texts and core theoretical frameworks in the social sciences. It enables readers to develop ways of putting the modern history, politics, economy and society of China into a framework in which China can be compared and contrasted with other countries. Topics covered include the rise of capitalism, post-socialist transformations, family and gender, nationalism,

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democracy and civil society. Each chapter offers a comparison with other countries in East and South-Asia, Europe and the rest of the world, showing how analytic concepts have to be modified to avoid either Eurocentric or Sinocentric bias, and how ideas derived from Chinese sources and observations must be accommodated for complete understanding of the issues discussed. Written by two well-known anthropologists of China from the London School of Economics, Stephan Feuchtwang and Hans Steinmüller, this book is a comprehensive course for postgraduate students in Chinese and Asian studies, anthropology, sociology, political economy, politics and international relations. Request Inspection Copy

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A comparative and interdisciplinary study of ancient and medieval Eurasian empires using historical, philological and archaeological evidence.

A collection of essays, by a team of experts in Sinology and Classical Studies, exploring the mental images and symbolical representations of 'empire' that developed in the two most powerful political entities of antiquity: China and Rome.

This first book in a six-volume series begins at the creation of an ancient imperial order whose major features would endure for two millennia. It illuminates

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many formative events in China's long history of imperialism, events whose residual influence can still be discerned today.

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