

The Scandalous Life and Legacy of Sulla Dictator Reconsidered Lynda Telford

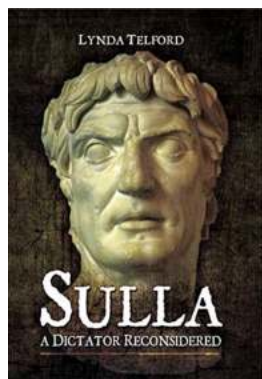
When we think of ancient Rome, names like Julius Caesar and Augustus often come to mind. However, there is one controversial figure from history whose impact cannot be overlooked: Sulla Dictator. In this article, we will dive into the scandalous life and complex legacy of Sulla Dictator, as reconsidered by historian Lynda Telford.

Who Was Sulla Dictator?

Sulla Dictator, formally known as Lucius Cornelius Sulla Felix, was a Roman general and statesman who lived from 138 BC to 78 BC. He played a significant role in the late Roman Republic, particularly during the period of social and political unrest known as the Roman Revolution.

Rise to Power

Sulla Dictator achieved prominence as a military commander, leading successful campaigns in various parts of the Roman Empire. His victories and strategic skills earned him the loyalty of his soldiers and widespread recognition as a capable leader.



Sulla: A Dictator Reconsidered

by Lynda Telford (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

X-Ray : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 440 pages
Lending : Enabled



In 88 BC, Sulla Dictator marched on Rome with his army, an unprecedented move that marked the beginning of a deadly civil war. After defeating his political rival Gaius Marius and his supporters, Sulla Dictator established himself as the sole ruler and was appointed as Dictator of Rome in 82 BC.

The Reign of the Dictator

Sulla Dictator's rule was marked by controversy and brutality. He implemented a series of reforms, aiming to restore the power of the Senate and weaken the influence of the populares, a political faction supporting the rights and interests of the common people.

One of the most controversial acts of Sulla Dictator was his proscription lists, which targeted his enemies and resulted in countless executions and confiscations of property. Sulla Dictator's reign was characterized by violence and retribution, creating a climate of fear and insecurity.

Retirement and Legacy

In a surprising move, Sulla Dictator voluntarily resigned from his position as Dictator in 79 BC, preferring a quiet retirement. However, his legacy continued to shape Roman politics for years to come.

Some historians argue that Sulla Dictator's reforms played a pivotal role in the decline of the Roman Republic, paving the way for the rise of emperors like Julius

Caesar. Others credit him with restoring stability and order during a tumultuous period.

Lynda Telford's Reconsideration

In her groundbreaking book, "Sulla Dictator Reconsidered," historian Lynda Telford sheds new light on the controversial ruler. Telford delves into Sulla Dictator's personal life, exploring his relationships, motivations, and inner struggles.

Telford questions the traditional narrative that portrays Sulla Dictator as a power-hungry tyrant, arguing that there is more complexity to his character. Through meticulous research and analysis of ancient sources, Telford provides a fresh perspective on Sulla Dictator's rule and its implications.

Sulla Dictator's life and legacy continue to intrigue historians and individuals interested in ancient Rome. Lynda Telford's reconsideration of this controversial figure challenges conventional wisdom and invites us to question our assumptions.

Whether you are a history enthusiast or simply eager to explore a captivating period in Roman history, delving into the scandalous life and legacy of Sulla Dictator, as reconsidered by Lynda Telford, promises an enlightening journey into the intricacies of power, ambition, and the human condition.

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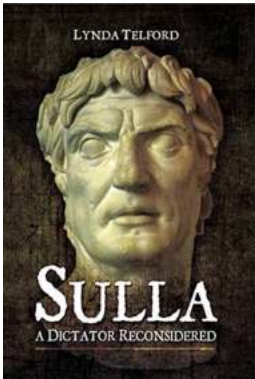
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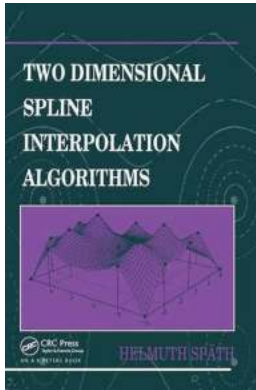
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Lucius Cornelius Sulla is one of the central figures of the late Roman Republic. Indeed, he is often considered a major catalyst in the death of the republican system. The ambitious general whose feud with a rival (Marius) led to his marching on Rome with an army at his back, leading to civil war and the terrible internecine bloodletting of the proscriptions. In these things, and in his appropriation of the title of dictator with absolute power, he set a dangerous precedent to be followed by Julius Caesar a generation later. Lynda Telford believes Sulla's portrayal as a monstrous, brutal tyrant is unjustified. While accepting that he was responsible for much bloodshed, she contends that he was no more brutal than many of his contemporaries who have received a kinder press. Moreover, even his harshest measures were motivated not by selfish ambition but by genuine desire to do what he believed best for Rome. The author believes the bias of the surviving sources, and modern biographers, has exaggerated the ill-feeling towards Sulla in his lifetime. After all, he voluntarily laid aside dictatorial power and enjoyed a peaceful retirement without fear of assassination. The contrast to Caesar is obvious. Lynda Telford gives a long overdue reappraisal of this significant personality, considering such factors as the effect of his disfiguring illness. The portrait that emerges is a subtle and nuanced one; her Sulla is very much a human, not a monster.



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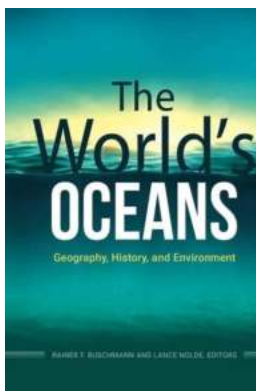
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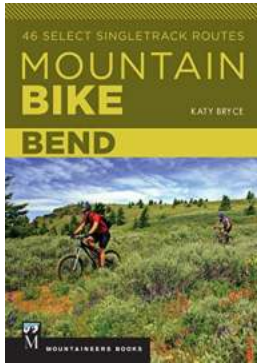
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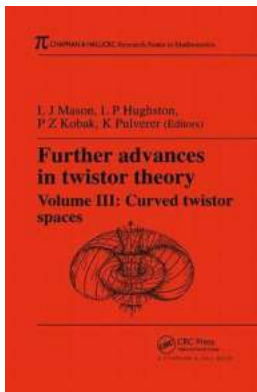
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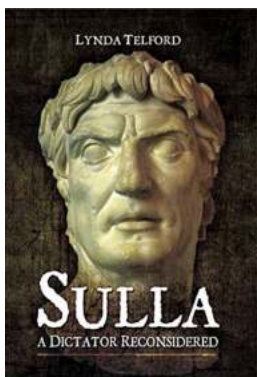
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