

OLLI The Dark Ages! Bibliography / Suggested Readings

Dr. Samuel Cohen

Week I: Introductions

Good introductions to the period can be found in a number of works. Jones' 1964 classic 3 volume *The Later Roman Empire, 284-602: A Social, Economic and Administrative Survey* is excellent and is a good place to start. It is also a great reference if you want to quickly learn anything about the administration of the empire in this period. Other good options include:

Brown, *The rise of Western Christendom: triumph and diversity, A.D. 200-1000*, 2nd Edition. Collins, *Early Medieval Europe 300-1000*;

J. Smith, *Europe after Rome: A New cultural history 500-1000*.

Especially good are two works by Averil Cameron: *The Later Roman Empire: AD 284-430*, and *The Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity, AD 395-600*. Also, two HUGE books by Chris Wickham are worthwhile (and their size will impress your friends) - *Framing the Early Middle Ages: Europe and the Mediterranean, 400-800* and *The Inheritance of Rome: Illuminating the Dark Ages, 400-1000*.

Week II: Barbarian Successor States

Collins, Roger. *Early medieval Spain: Unity in Diversity, 400-1000*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1995.

Heather, Peter. *Empires and Barbarians*. London: Macmillan, 2009.

Geary, Patrick J. *Before France and Germany: the creation and transformation of the Merovingian world*. Oxford University Press, 1988.

Geary, Patrick J. *The myth of nations: the medieval origins of Europe*. Princeton University Press, 2003. APA

Goffart, Walter. *Barbarians and Romans, A.D. 418-584: The Techniques of Accommodation*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1980.

On the Ostrogoths and Ostrogothic Italy, see Arnold, Jonathan J., Michael Shane Bjornlie, and Kristina Sessa. *A Companion to Ostrogothic Italy*. Leiden: Brill, 2016.

Week III: The East Roman Empire

The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Justinian, edited by Michael Maas, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Moorhead, John. *Justinian*. New York: Longman, 1994.

Cameron, Averil. *Procopius and the Sixth century*. London: Duck Worth, 1985.

Haldon, John F. *Byzantium in the seventh century: the transformation of a culture*. Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Kaldellis, Anthony. *The New Roman Empire: A History of Byzantium*. Oxford University Press, 2024.

Week IV: Church and State in the Early Middle Ages

Rule of Saint Benedict (any English translation)

Markus, Robert Austin, and Robert Austin Markus. *The end of ancient Christianity*. Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Markus, R. A. *Gregory the Great and his world*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Noble, Thomas F. X. *The Republic of St. Peter: The Birth of the Papal State, 680-825*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984.

Everett, Nicholas. *Literacy in Lombard Italy, c. 568-774*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Week V: Carolingians

Costambeys, Marios, Matthew Innes, and Simon MacLean. "The Carolingian World." (2011).

McKitterick, Rosamond. *History and Memory in the Carolingian World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

McKitterick, Rosamond. *Carolingian Culture: Emulation and Innovation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

McKitterick, Rosamond. *The Frankish Kingdoms under the Carolingians, 751-987*. London: Longman, 1983.

Janet Nelson, King and Emperor: A New Life of Charlemagne, University of California Press

Week VI: The End of the Early Middle Ages?

Crawford, Sally. *Daily Life in Anglo-Saxon England*. Bloomsbury Publishing USA, 2022. APA

Logan, Donald. *The Vikings in History*

Else Roesdahl, *The Vikings*

John Haywood, *The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings*