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Edward Gibbon

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

Part II

Read by **Philip Madoc** with **Neville Jason**

Edward Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* occupies an immortal place in the pantheon of historical masterpieces. This six-disc recording covers the final three volumes of Gibbon's work, tracing ten centuries in the life of the eastern half of the empire, whose capital city was Constantinople. Among the many figures who stride across Gibbon's stage here are the emperor Justinian I, a noble statesman and successful warrior, brought low by his lascivious wife, the former prostitute Theodora; the murdering Basil I, a peasant who nonetheless proved himself a worthy figure upon which to drape the purple; and the final emperor of all, Constantine XI, who died in 1453, valiantly fighting a losing battle to prevent the Turks from gaining a city they had craved for centuries. It is still the work that sets the standard for all histories of the period.



Philip Madoc's extensive theatre work includes the roles of Othello and Iago, Faust and Macbeth and recently, with the RSC, The Duke in *Measure for Measure* and Professor Raat in *The Blue Angel*. TV roles include Lloyd George, Magua in *The Last of the Mohicans* and the defence lawyer in *Brookside*. He also stars in his own detective series, *A Mind to Kill*. He also reads *The Death of Arthur*, *The Canterbury Tales* and *The Arabian Nights* for Naxos AudioBooks.

Neville Jason also reads Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* and Tolstoy's *War and Peace* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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