The Western Roman Empire began to disintegrate in the early 5th century as Germanic migrations and invasions overwhelmed the capacity of the empire to assimilate the migrants and fight off the invaders. The Romans were successful in fighting off all invaders, most famously Attila,[26] though the empire had assimilated so many Germanic peoples of dubious loyalty to Rome that the empire started to dismember itself.[27] Most chronologies place the end of the Western Roman Empire in 476, when Romulus Augustus was forced to abdicate to the Germanic warlord Odoacer.

Imperial Rome describes the period of the Roman Empire from 27 B.C. to A.D. 476. At its height in A.D. 117, Rome controlled all the land from Western Europe to the Middle East. The first Roman emperor was Augustus Caesar, who came to power after the assassination of Julius Caesar, his great-uncle. Augustus helped restore the city of Rome and secured its frontiers during his reign. He also reformed laws and initiated large building projects within the imperial capital. After his death, his successors continued pushing Rome's frontiers further. However, a period of unrest followed, which caused This book illumines Roman subjects' vital role in creating and critiquing these images, in keeping with the Augustan poets' sustained exploration of audiences' role in constructing verbal and visual meaning. From Vergil to Ovid, these poets publicly interpret, debate, and disrupt Rome's evolving political iconography, reclaiming it as the common property of an imagined republic of readers. The new discovery demonstrates that gold played a significant role within the coin circulation of the early imperial era. The gold and silver coins minted by Augustus for his adoptive sons Caius and Lucius Caesar can be subdivided into several die groups according to the obverse legends, the size of the portrait and the reverse images. By purchasing books through this website, you support our non-profit organization. Ancient History Encyclopedia receives a small commission for each book sold through our affiliate partners. Recommended By. Numerous educational institutions recommend us, including Oxford University and Michigan State University and University of Missouri. We have also been recommended for educational use by the following publications: Our Mission Our mission is to engage people with cultural heritage and to improve history education worldwide. Follow Us. The Early Roman Empire lasted from about 31 BC until 180 AD. It began with the defeat of Antony and Cleopatra, that left Octavian Caesar Augustus standing alone atop the Roman world, alone and unchallenged. It then ended with the ascension to the throne of Emperor Commodus, which ushered in a long period of escalating crisis for the Roman Empire. Though no man is an empire, not even the great Alexander, the nature and government of the Roman Empire were to an astonishing degree the creation of one man.