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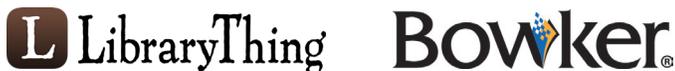
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SPQR : A history of ancient Rome / Mary Beard

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Summary

Ancient Rome was an imposing city even by modern standards, a sprawling imperial metropolis of more than a million inhabitants, a "mixture of luxury and filth, liberty and exploitation, civic pride and murderous civil war" that served as the seat of power for an empire that spanned from Spain to Syria. Yet how did all this emerge from what was once an insignificant village in central Italy? [\(read more\)](#)

About The Author



Mary Beard

Mary Beard was born on January 1, 1955 in Much Wenlock, Shropshire, England. Her alma mater is the University of Cambridge. She is a professor of classics at Newnham College, Cambridge, and the classics editor of the Times Literary Supplement. Her previous books include the bestselling, Wolfson Prize-winning Pompeii, The Roman Triumph, The Parthenon and Confronting the Classics. Her blog [\(read more\)](#)

More by Mary Beard



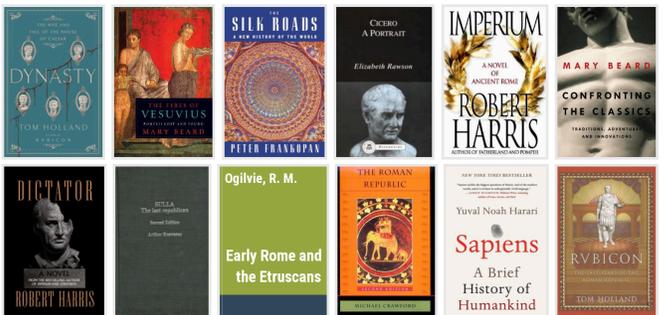
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Professional Reviews



Guardian UK November 28, 2015

What the critics thought of Helen Simpson's Cockfosters, Mary Beard's SPQR and 1966 by John Savage

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Kirkus Reviews December 24, 2015

The acclaimed classicist delivers a massive history of ancient Rome, which "continues to underpin Western culture and politics, what we write and how we see the world, and our place in it." Beard (Classics/Cambridge Univ.; Laughter in Ancient Rome: On Joking, Tickling, and Cracking Up, 2014, etc.) writes fascinatingly about how Rome grew and sustained [\(read more\)](#)

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