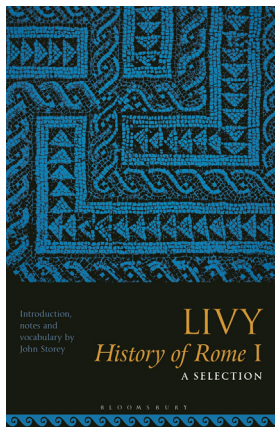


## Livy, History of Rome I: A Selection

Storey (J.) Pp. viii + 95. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020. Paper, £12.99. ISBN: 978-1-350-06038-8.

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Storey's commentary is another of the OCR-endorsed editions for their prescribed texts, of which Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita* Book I will be examined in 2023–24. After a number of cycles, a teacher may have several of these on their shelf; Storey's contribution joins them happily, containing everything necessary for a teacher to introduce the text and its context, or indeed for a student to conduct their own independent preparation.

Storey's introduction is comprehensive, with sections on Livy's life and times (pp.1–6), a detailed summary of the contents of Book I (pp.6–10), and a particular focus on the character of Tarquinius Superbus (pp.11–12). The family tree of the text's 'main players' (p.10) is a good idea, though could have been laid out more clearly to show which are the primary and secondary characters, and not consistently giving *praenomina* and *nomina* (and *cognomina* where relevant) is an unhelpful omission. The section on Livy's style (pp.12–13) is brief but beneficial. Attention is drawn specifically to long sentences and his employment of direct and indirect speech, both staples of Livy's style, while also among the most challenging features for a post-GCSE student to translate. At the end of the book, there is a comprehensive vocabulary list (pp.73–95).

Storey finishes his introduction with a bibliography. Most of the works recommended are general introductions to Livy, historiography, or certain periods of history, and therefore perhaps of less benefit to the student than to the teacher, who will be better equipped to extract the sections relevant to study of Book I. For historical context, Storey recommends books on the regal period, as well as on the age of Augustus. This is in line with the OCR A level specification ('Learners should be able to understand and appreciate, as appropriate, the social, cultural and historical contexts for the set texts, their authors and audiences.') That said, only two books are recommended for Early Rome, while Storey offers six for the Augustan period. Are we to make of this that OCR is seeking more comment and analysis with reference to Augustus and the Principate, rather than the regal period? If this is the case, then Storey's commentary which follows could be considered lacking, as it makes minimal reference to the specific parallels between the text and Livy's own times.

In the main, Storey's commentary is written appropriately for an A level audience, often referring readers on to Morwood's *Latin Grammar* (1999), which is readily available online. He also makes a

point of breaking down the specifics of Livy's style, consistently indicating where he is employing indirect speech, though it would be slightly more useful if Storey didn't refer to indirect speech/*oratio obliqua* interchangeably. Storey also points out almost all of the instances of historic presents, although these are less difficult to spot. Occasionally Storey does give comments which are straightforward, obvious even, such as glossing *stricto gladio* as 'Ablative Absolute, "with his sword drawn"' (p.52), or *inertium querellarum* as 'Genitive Plural – "useless complaints"' (p.62).

As ever, these Bloomsbury commentaries are intended to offer peace of mind to the teacher and student, armed with everything necessary for the A level specification. Storey is conscientious in glossing anything which could catch out an intermediate reader, but rarely ventures to offer interpretation beyond the power of a chiasmus or tricolon. Here the teacher will need to prepare their own resources, particularly with regard to the context of Augustan Rome. Nevertheless, with all other commentaries on Book I rare and/or outdated, this is worth buying.

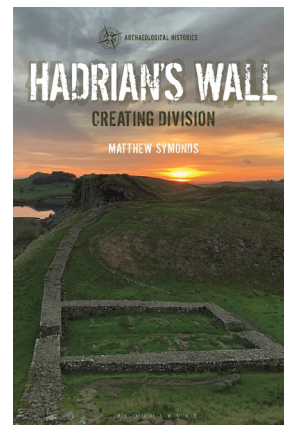
doi: 10.1017/S2058631022000435

## Hadrian's Wall: Creating Division

Symonds (M.) Pp. xvi + 213, ill., maps. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021. Paper, £19.99 (Cased, £65). ISBN: 9781-350105348

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Hadrian's Wall is arguably the most important symbol and relic of the Roman presence in Britain, and this new book by Matthew Symonds provides a thoroughly interesting and different perspective to the scholarship surrounding the impact that the Wall has had, not only during its use by the Romans, but in the subsequent centuries, all the way until the modern day.

As part of the Archaeological Histories series, with other books looking at Ur, Dura-Europos and Troy, there is no doubt that this book is not meant to serve solely as an archaeological examination of Hadrian's Wall. This has already been explored in much more detail in countless other volumes regarding Roman Britain, and those looking for a more straightforward and comprehensive history of Hadrian's Wall are better served elsewhere. However, Matthew Symonds is able to provide the reader with a much more general history of the Wall, linking it into the archaeology, and situating the Wall within the context of its wider surroundings. Not only is the Wall important as a standalone structure, but its interaction with the surrounding land and people cannot be