

# Augustus: The Life of Rome's First Emperor

Augustus was the first emperor of Rome, and his reign marked the beginning of a new era in Roman history. He was a brilliant military leader, a skilled politician, and a generous patron of the arts. Under his rule, Rome became a prosperous and powerful empire.



## Augustus: The Life of Rome's First Emperor

by Anthony Everitt

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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## Early Life

Augustus was born Gaius Octavius in 63 BC. He was the grandnephew of Julius Caesar and was adopted by Caesar as his heir. Octavius was a sickly child, but he was intelligent and ambitious. He studied philosophy, rhetoric, and literature. He also received military training.

## Rise to Power

After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, Octavius allied himself with Mark Antony and Lepidus to form the Second Triumvirate. The triumvirs defeated

Caesar's assassins at the Battle of Philippi in 42 BC. After the battle, the triumvirs divided the Roman world between them. Octavius received the western provinces, including Gaul, Spain, and Africa.

Octavius and Antony soon came into conflict. Antony was allied with Cleopatra VII of Egypt, and Octavius feared that Antony was planning to make Cleopatra the queen of Rome. Octavius declared war on Antony and Cleopatra in 31 BC. The two sides met at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC. Octavius's forces were victorious, and Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide.

## **Emperor of Rome**

After Actium, Octavius was the undisputed master of Rome. He was granted the title of Augustus by the Roman Senate in 27 BC. Augustus was now the first emperor of Rome.

Augustus ruled Rome for 41 years. During his reign, he brought peace and prosperity to the empire. He reformed the government, the army, and the economy. He also patronized the arts and literature.

## **Accomplishments**

Augustus's accomplishments as emperor were many and varied. He reformed the government, the army, and the economy. He also patronized the arts and literature.

Augustus's most important accomplishment was the establishment of the Roman Empire. He brought peace and stability to the empire after years of civil war. He also expanded the empire's borders, conquering new territories in Europe and the Middle East.

Augustus's reforms to the government made it more efficient and effective. He created a professional civil service and a standing army. He also divided the empire into provinces, each governed by a Roman official.

Augustus's reforms to the economy boosted trade and commerce. He created a new system of coinage and introduced new roads and canals. He also encouraged the development of new industries.

Augustus was a generous patron of the arts and literature. He commissioned the construction of many new buildings, including the Colosseum and the Pantheon. He also supported poets, artists, and scholars.

## **Legacy**

Augustus died in 14 AD at the age of 75. He was succeeded by his adopted son, Tiberius. Augustus's reign is considered one of the most important in Roman history. He established the Roman Empire and brought peace and prosperity to the Mediterranean world.

Augustus's legacy is still felt today. The Roman Empire he founded lasted for centuries and had a profound impact on Western civilization. Augustus's reforms to the government, the army, and the economy created a system that would be used by later empires. His patronage of the arts and literature helped to shape the cultural landscape of the ancient world.

Augustus was a complex and fascinating figure. He was a brilliant military leader, a skilled politician, and a generous patron of the arts. He also had a dark side, as he was responsible for the deaths of many people during his rise to power.

Despite his flaws, Augustus was one of the most important figures in Roman history. He established the Roman Empire and brought peace and prosperity to the Mediterranean world. His legacy is still felt today.

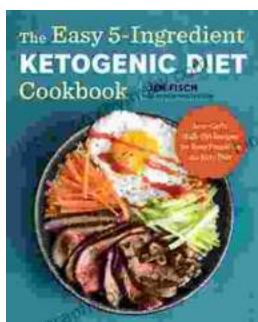


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