



EMPEROR JUSTINIAN: A TIMELINE

- 527 Death of Justin I (518-27); Accession of Justinian
- 529 First edition of the *Codex Justinianus*
- 532 ‘Nika’ Riot; ‘Eternal Peace’ with Persia; ‘Conversations’ between Chalcedonians and Miaphysites over the natures of Christ
- 533 *Digest* and *Institutes* completed; Invasion of North Africa, Belisarius defeats the Vandals
- 534 Second edition of the *Codex Justinianus*
- 535 Belisarius begins the invasion of Ostrogothic Italy
- 537 Dedication of Hagia Sophia
- 540 Belisarius enters Ravenna; Khusro sacks Antioch; Nomad attacks in the Balkans
- 541 Bubonic Plague appears in Egypt
- 543 Jacob Baradeus appointed bishop of Edessa
- 544 Justinian condemns the ‘Three Chapters’
- 546 Totila captures Rome
- 548 Death of Theodora
- 552 Defeat and death of Totila at Busta Gallorum
- 553 Fifth Ecumenical Council of Constantinople
- 554 Pragmatic Sanction in Italy
- 558 First encounter with the Avars
- 562 ‘50-Year Peace’ with Persia
- 565 Death of Justinian; Accession of Justin II (565-78)

EMPEROR JUSTINIAN: SOME SUGGESTED READING

Modern judgements on Justinian and his legacy have varied widely, from an autocratic tyrant who over-extended the empire to a dedicated ruler whose achievements preserved imperial power. The following suggestions provide some starting points for those who wish to read further, beginning with general introductions to Justinian and his wife Theodora and then a few more specialised studies.

Justinian and Theodora

- J. Evans, *The Age of Justinian: The Circumstances of Imperial Power* (1996)
F. Haarer, *Justinian: Empire and Society in the Sixth Century* (2022)
M. Maas (ed), *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Justinian* (2005)
D. Potter, *Theodora: Actress, Empress, Saint* (2015)

War and Religion

- T. Daryaee, *Sasanian Persia: The Rise and Fall of an Empire* (2009)
P. Heather, *Rome Resurgent: War and Empire in the Age of Justinian* (2018)
V. Menze, *Justinian and the Making of the Syrian Orthodox Church* (2008)
A. Sarantis, *Justinian's Balkan Wars* (2016)

Law, Plague, and Procopius

- Av. Cameron, *Procopius and the Sixth Century* (1985)
D. Johnston (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Roman Law* (2015)
A. Kaldellis, *Procopius of Caesarea: Tyranny, History and Philosophy at the End of Antiquity* (2004)
P. Sarris, "New Approaches to the 'Plague of Justinian'", *Past & Present* 254 (2022) 315-346

Primary Sources

The three crucial but contradictory works of Procopius – *Wars*, *Buildings*, and *Anecdota (Secret History)* – are translated in the Loeb Classical Library, while extensive extracts can be found online. Justinian's laws, an essential historical source which reveal the emperor's vision of himself, are likewise available online in older but serviceable translations by Scott (https://droitromain.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr/Anglica/codjust_Scott.htm) and Blume (<http://www.uwyo.edu/lawlib/blume-justinian/ajc-edition-2/novels/index.html>).