

The Age of Empires: Robert Aldrich's Epic Tale of Conquest and Betrayal

Characters

The Age of Empires features a large cast of characters, both historical and fictional. The novel's main characters include:

- **Julius Caesar:** The Roman dictator who is assassinated in 53 BC.
- **Mark Antony:** A brilliant general who is allied with Cleopatra, the Queen of Egypt.
- **Octavian:** Caesar's adopted son who becomes the first emperor of Rome.
- **Cleopatra:** The Queen of Egypt who is allied with Antony.
- **Livia Drusilla:** Augustus's wife and the mother of Tiberius.
- **Tiberius:** Augustus's stepson who succeeds him as emperor.
- **Caligula:** Tiberius's nephew who succeeds him as emperor.
- **Nero:** Caligula's stepson who succeeds him as emperor.

Setting

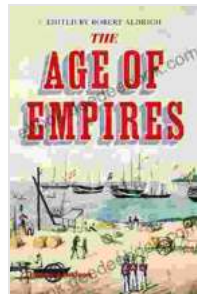
The Age of Empires is set in the Roman Empire during the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. The novel follows the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, from its humble beginnings to its eventual collapse. The novel's settings include:

- **Rome:** The capital of the Roman Empire.

- **Egypt:** The land of Cleopatra and the Ptolemaic dynasty.
- **Greece:** The birthplace of democracy and philosophy.
- **The Middle East:** The land of the Parthian Empire.
- **Germania:** The land of the Germanic tribes.

Themes

The Age of Empires explores a number of themes, including:



The Age of Empires by Robert Aldrich

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : Spanish
 File size : 872 KB
 Text-to-Speech : Enabled
 Screen Reader : Supported
 Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
 Print length : 399 pages



- **The rise and fall of empires:** The novel follows the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, from its humble beginnings to its eventual collapse. Aldrich shows how empires are often built on conquest and violence, and how they can be destroyed by internal decay and external threats.
- **The power of ambition:** The novel's characters are driven by ambition, both good and bad. Antony and Octavian are both ambitious men who want to rule Rome. Cleopatra is an ambitious woman who wants to protect her kingdom. However, ambition can also be destructive, as it can lead to violence and betrayal.

- **The importance of family:** The novel's characters are often torn between their loyalty to their families and their loyalty to their country. Augustus is torn between his loyalty to his family and his loyalty to Rome. Livia is torn between her loyalty to her husband and her loyalty to her son. Caligula is torn between his loyalty to his family and his loyalty to his own madness.

Critical Reception

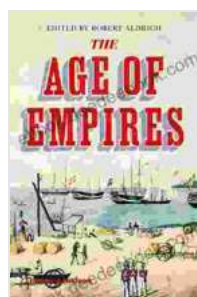
The Age of Empires has received critical acclaim for its sweeping scope, its vivid characters, and its insightful exploration of the human condition. The novel has been praised by critics such as:

- **The New York Times:** "Aldrich has written a sweeping, ambitious novel that is both entertaining and thought-provoking."
- **The Washington Post:** "The Age of Empires is a masterpiece of historical fiction. Aldrich has brought the Roman Empire to life in all its glory and brutality."
- **The Guardian:** "The Age of Empires is a must-read for anyone interested in historical fiction or the Roman Empire."

Awards

The Age of Empires has won numerous awards, including:

- The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
- The National Book Award for Fiction
- The PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction



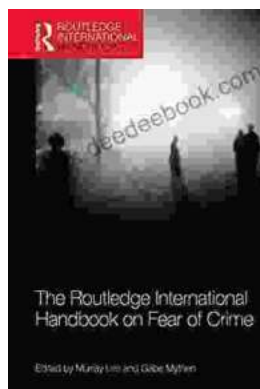
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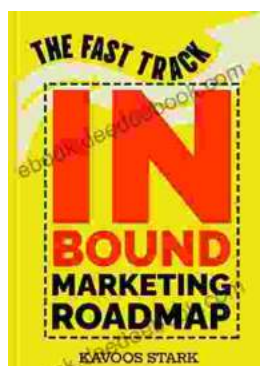
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