



Caligula: A Biography

By Aloys Winterling

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The infamous emperor Caligula ruled Rome from A.D. 37 to 41 as a tyrant who ultimately became a monster. An exceptionally smart and cruelly witty man, Caligula made his contemporaries worship him as a god. He drank pearls dissolved in vinegar and ate food covered in gold leaf. He forced men and women of high rank to have sex with him, turned part of his palace into a brothel, and committed incest with his sisters. He wanted to make his horse a consul. Torture and executions were the order of the day. Both modern and ancient interpretations have concluded from this alleged evidence that Caligula was insane. But was he?

This biography tells a different story of the well-known emperor. In a deft account written for a general audience, Aloys Winterling opens a new perspective on the man and his times. Basing Caligula on a thorough new assessment of the ancient sources, he sets the emperor's story into the context of the political system and the changing relations between the senate and the emperor during Caligula's time and finds a new rationality explaining his notorious brutality.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Seeks to rehabilitate one of the most infamous Roman emperors, commonly believed to have been deranged.”

(*New Yorker* 2012-01-09)

“A persuasive new Caligula emerges from this elegant revision: not mad at all, but just as bad and dangerous to know.”

(*Maclean's* 2011-10-12)

“In this lively biography of Rome’s infamous third emperor, readers will not find the wild-eyed dictator . . . but a thoughtful argument for his sanity.”

(*Publishers Weekly* 2011-05-30)

“A revisionist take on the man.”

(*Library Journal* 2011-11-18)

“An eloquent and compelling study of Roman imperial history, and especially of the difficult relations between the imperial monarch and the traditional aristocracy.”

(*London Review Of Books* 2012-04-26)

“Presents Roman emperor Caligula in a new light.”

(*Booklist* 2011-06-01)

“No Roman emperor cries out more obviously for redemption, but Aloys Winterling’s Caligula, a calm reassessment of his reign, avoids revisionist whitewashing and takes the residue of hatred as inescapable.”

(*Cathnews Perspectives* 2012-09-14)

“Makes it clear that the behavior of the third emperor were the acts of a diffident, slightly paranoid youth, who lacked the patience that the most quarrelsome and important of his subjects required.”

(*The New Criterion* 2011-09-06)

“A worthy study, which covers significant aspects of Caligula’s reign and provides some new interpretations on this fascinating subject.”

(Geoff W. Adams *Ancient History Bulletin* 2012-09-01)

“Winterling has produced an innovative biography which takes a novel approach to interpreting the historiography of Caligula’s reign.”

(*Bryn Mawr Classical Review (BMCR)* 2012-04-10)

“[Winterling] gives us a biography that brings the man and his times to life.”

(*History* 2012-10-01)

“Accessible and graceful. . . . Highly recommended.”

(*Choice* 2011-12-01)

From the Inside Flap

“Caligula enjoys a reputation as one of the most brutal and tyrannical Roman emperors. In this accessible narrative of Caligula’s life, Winterling uses his deep knowledge of Roman society and the imperial court to investigate why contemporaries chose to assassinate Caligula’s reputation as well as his person. Caligula emerges here as rather less insane, if no less loathsome, than his posthumous reputation made him out to be.”

—Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, author of *Rome’s Cultural Revolution*

About the Author

Aloys Winterling holds a chair for Ancient History at Humboldt-University Berlin. He is the author of *Aula Caesaris* and *Politics and Society in Imperial Rome*, among other books.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbara Richardson:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book specially book entitled Caligula: A Biography your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get previous to. The Caligula: A Biography giving you an additional experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Lauren Joseph:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to you personally is Caligula: A Biography this e-book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how do the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Here is why this book appropriate all of you.

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