

SK≡PTIKO
science & spirituality

***THE ROMANS,
DOING ANCIENT
HISTORY RIGHT***

#512-ADRIAN-GOLDSWORTHY



1
00:00:03,590 --> 00:00:02,070
if you write about you know i've written

2
00:00:04,950 --> 00:00:03,600
about caesar i've written about anthony

3
00:00:06,789 --> 00:00:04,960
cleopatra alexander the great

4
00:00:08,310 --> 00:00:06,799
you'll never quite know what someone

5
00:00:10,870 --> 00:00:08,320
else was thinking

6
00:00:12,470 --> 00:00:10,880
when they do something the danger is

7
00:00:14,549 --> 00:00:12,480
that you create

8
00:00:16,790 --> 00:00:14,559
an image of what you think caesar was

9
00:00:18,470 --> 00:00:16,800
like or cleopatra was like

10
00:00:19,830 --> 00:00:18,480
and then when you come to a gap in the

11
00:00:21,910 --> 00:00:19,840
source you

12
00:00:23,349 --> 00:00:21,920
fill it in with well this is what my

13
00:00:25,910 --> 00:00:23,359

caesar would have done

14

00:00:27,509 --> 00:00:25,920

that's a clip from today's guest dr

15

00:00:30,950 --> 00:00:27,519

adrian goldsworthy

16

00:00:32,549 --> 00:00:30,960

who is a very excellent and legitimate

17

00:00:36,470 --> 00:00:32,559

historian i mean

18

00:00:39,830 --> 00:00:36,480

phd oxford many many books

19

00:00:42,549 --> 00:00:39,840

fellowships awards recognized

20

00:00:44,869 --> 00:00:42,559

historian and since i've been splashing

21

00:00:45,430 --> 00:00:44,879

around in those waters a lot lately i

22

00:00:48,630 --> 00:00:45,440

thought it'd

23

00:00:50,869 --> 00:00:48,640

be good to talk to a real expert and

24

00:00:52,470 --> 00:00:50,879

you know that's really the roots of this

25

00:00:55,510 --> 00:00:52,480

show all along

26
00:00:57,750 --> 00:00:55,520
if you want to know about something you

27
00:01:00,069 --> 00:00:57,760
have to be willing to seek out

28
00:01:02,470 --> 00:01:00,079
and talk to the experts and talk to

29
00:01:05,750 --> 00:01:02,480
experts who have varying opinions

30
00:01:08,789 --> 00:01:05,760
because as we found out there still

31
00:01:11,750 --> 00:01:08,799
are a lot of bullshitters out there

32
00:01:13,429 --> 00:01:11,760
take for example this little bit of

33
00:01:17,109 --> 00:01:13,439
history has portrayed

34
00:01:20,390 --> 00:01:17,119
in a bbc documentary about the romans

35
00:01:21,670 --> 00:01:20,400
and their sacking of judea what's going

36
00:01:24,469 --> 00:01:21,680
on titus

37
00:01:25,109 --> 00:01:24,479
well they're tough general i'm running

38
00:01:28,230 --> 00:01:25,119

on water

39

00:01:29,749 --> 00:01:28,240

supplies men are tired

40

00:01:32,550 --> 00:01:29,759

we can't beat this bunch we might as

41

00:01:34,390 --> 00:01:32,560

well give up it's been 47 days now

42

00:01:35,670 --> 00:01:34,400

damn it that's how long the general said

43

00:01:38,830 --> 00:01:35,680

it would last

44

00:01:39,990 --> 00:01:38,840

i got it from one of the prisoners i

45

00:01:42,550 --> 00:01:40,000

heard

46

00:01:45,030 --> 00:01:42,560

i realize that i've kind of obsessed on

47

00:01:47,109 --> 00:01:45,040

this tiny little bit of history here

48

00:01:49,270 --> 00:01:47,119

but i'm going to have to go over it one

49

00:01:50,069 --> 00:01:49,280

more time in order for that clip to make

50

00:01:52,389 --> 00:01:50,079

sense

51
00:01:53,109 --> 00:01:52,399
because what they claim to be depicting

52
00:01:56,310 --> 00:01:53,119
there

53
00:01:57,350 --> 00:01:56,320
is vespasian and his son both of whom go

54
00:02:00,230 --> 00:01:57,360
on to be

55
00:02:01,830 --> 00:02:00,240
caesar's emperors of rome and their

56
00:02:05,190 --> 00:02:01,840
sacking of judea

57
00:02:07,350 --> 00:02:05,200
and they're referring to josephus

58
00:02:08,389 --> 00:02:07,360
who is the prisoner who has prophesied

59
00:02:10,389 --> 00:02:08,399
all this stuff

60
00:02:11,589 --> 00:02:10,399
but here's the thing and here's always

61
00:02:14,229 --> 00:02:11,599
been the thing

62
00:02:15,830 --> 00:02:14,239
what i care about and why i was so

63
00:02:19,190 --> 00:02:15,840

excited to have this

64

00:02:21,750 --> 00:02:19,200

interview with dr goldsworthy and really

65

00:02:22,630 --> 00:02:21,760

dig into the nuts and bolts of how

66

00:02:25,670 --> 00:02:22,640

history

67

00:02:29,110 --> 00:02:25,680

is done is that just like bad

68

00:02:32,150 --> 00:02:29,120

science we have to be able to spot

69

00:02:33,910 --> 00:02:32,160

bad history and in particular history

70

00:02:37,750 --> 00:02:33,920

like this that has

71

00:02:40,150 --> 00:02:37,760

just unbelievably huge ramifications for

72

00:02:42,309 --> 00:02:40,160

our culture because we are whether we're

73

00:02:44,550 --> 00:02:42,319

christian or jewish or muslim

74

00:02:46,830 --> 00:02:44,560

or even if we're not religious but

75

00:02:49,750 --> 00:02:46,840

enmeshed in the western

76

00:02:53,509 --> 00:02:49,760

christian-centered culture this

77

00:02:56,390 --> 00:02:53,519

history is fundamental to understanding

78

00:02:57,990 --> 00:02:56,400

who we are and if the people who are

79

00:03:01,190 --> 00:02:58,000

doing this history

80

00:03:02,309 --> 00:03:01,200

are not doing it right and are not able

81

00:03:04,550 --> 00:03:02,319

to sort out

82

00:03:06,869 --> 00:03:04,560

and see through what might be a

83

00:03:08,390 --> 00:03:06,879

deception for very understandable

84

00:03:10,869 --> 00:03:08,400

political reasons

85

00:03:11,750 --> 00:03:10,879

then we're likely to really run afoul

86

00:03:14,550 --> 00:03:11,760

when we start

87

00:03:15,110 --> 00:03:14,560

trying to figure out what this history

88

00:03:18,710 --> 00:03:15,120

means

89

00:03:21,990 --> 00:03:18,720

for these big pictures skeptico

90

00:03:24,390 --> 00:03:22,000

who are we why are we here

91

00:03:25,430 --> 00:03:24,400

kind of questions so with that let me

92

00:03:28,070 --> 00:03:25,440

play uh

93

00:03:28,550 --> 00:03:28,080

another extended clip that kind of gets

94

00:03:35,190 --> 00:03:28,560

at

95

00:03:36,070 --> 00:03:35,200

when it comes to how history is

96

00:03:39,110 --> 00:03:36,080

sometimes

97

00:03:39,509 --> 00:03:39,120

done that is one of my frustrations

98

00:03:42,789 --> 00:03:39,519

again

99

00:03:45,110 --> 00:03:42,799

coming in to this from the outside being

100

00:03:47,830 --> 00:03:45,120

kind of a science and a tech guy

101
00:03:50,309 --> 00:03:47,840
and going into your world and like i got

102
00:03:52,550 --> 00:03:50,319
very interested in josephus and i still

103
00:03:54,789 --> 00:03:52,560
am very interested in josephus but i'm

104
00:03:57,190 --> 00:03:54,799
also interested in the parapolitical

105
00:03:59,350 --> 00:03:57,200
and i read the jewish war and i read

106
00:04:02,070 --> 00:03:59,360
okay this is propaganda literature

107
00:04:03,030 --> 00:04:02,080
we shouldn't trust anything that he says

108
00:04:05,830 --> 00:04:03,040
really we

109
00:04:06,710 --> 00:04:05,840
he has one agenda and then i look at the

110
00:04:07,750 --> 00:04:06,720
historians

111
00:04:09,350 --> 00:04:07,760
and they're using this source and

112
00:04:10,470 --> 00:04:09,360
they're there it's the old analogy of

113
00:04:13,030 --> 00:04:10,480

you know i lost

114

00:04:14,470 --> 00:04:13,040

my keys in the parking lot but i'm going

115

00:04:15,910 --> 00:04:14,480

to look over here under the

116

00:04:17,749 --> 00:04:15,920

the street light because the light is

117

00:04:19,430 --> 00:04:17,759

better it's like you're not going to

118

00:04:21,270 --> 00:04:19,440

find it there

119

00:04:23,909 --> 00:04:21,280

this is one of my favorite and this is a

120

00:04:27,749 --> 00:04:23,919

highly regarded highly respected

121

00:04:31,510 --> 00:04:27,759

josephus expert and historian who writes

122

00:04:35,430 --> 00:04:31,520

claims to quote unquote want to

123

00:04:38,710 --> 00:04:35,440

make a broadly post-colonial perspective

124

00:04:42,070 --> 00:04:38,720

on hybrid identities of insiderness

125

00:04:44,310 --> 00:04:42,080

outsiderness when revisiting josephus

126
00:04:45,270 --> 00:04:44,320
and i'm like okay but don't you have to

127
00:04:47,510 --> 00:04:45,280
start with

128
00:04:49,430 --> 00:04:47,520
what was his motivation what was his

129
00:04:51,270 --> 00:04:49,440
agenda what is he telling us and how

130
00:04:53,350 --> 00:04:51,280
does that conform with

131
00:04:54,550 --> 00:04:53,360
what we know about how the history plays

132
00:04:57,430 --> 00:04:54,560
out

133
00:04:58,870 --> 00:04:57,440
exactly i mean it's when i was doing my

134
00:05:00,550 --> 00:04:58,880
doctorate they were trans

135
00:05:02,150 --> 00:05:00,560
only a section but some of the the

136
00:05:03,189 --> 00:05:02,160
faculty was trying to put all this

137
00:05:05,590 --> 00:05:03,199
post-modern

138
00:05:06,790 --> 00:05:05,600

narcological thought on to us that was

139

00:05:08,070 --> 00:05:06,800

was clearly nonsense

140

00:05:10,070 --> 00:05:08,080

you know and it was this assumption that

141

00:05:11,909 --> 00:05:10,080

there is no reality therefore

142

00:05:14,230 --> 00:05:11,919

all the treaties are stories that's all

143

00:05:15,749 --> 00:05:14,240

they are i never quite understood how

144

00:05:17,270 --> 00:05:15,759

someone felt that they would then

145

00:05:18,870 --> 00:05:17,280

there was a good reason for anybody to

146

00:05:20,469 --> 00:05:18,880

pay them to do this

147

00:05:21,749 --> 00:05:20,479

if they were saying it's all nonsense

148

00:05:23,270 --> 00:05:21,759

but i'm going to tell you some stories

149

00:05:24,790 --> 00:05:23,280

about it and my reality is as good as

150

00:05:27,270 --> 00:05:24,800

yours you know it is

151
00:05:28,790 --> 00:05:27,280
nonsense and the thing with josephus is

152
00:05:30,790 --> 00:05:28,800
so we cover a lot of ground

153
00:05:32,310 --> 00:05:30,800
on this interview with dr adrian

154
00:05:34,790 --> 00:05:32,320
goldsworthy who is by the way

155
00:05:36,230 --> 00:05:34,800
fantastic guest went all over the map

156
00:05:36,950 --> 00:05:36,240
when i took him in all sorts of

157
00:05:38,710 --> 00:05:36,960
different

158
00:05:40,390 --> 00:05:38,720
places that he probably doesn't normally

159
00:05:42,310 --> 00:05:40,400
go and he just handled it all

160
00:05:44,870 --> 00:05:42,320
because like all thinkers of any

161
00:05:45,749 --> 00:05:44,880
substance they don't mind being pushed a

162
00:05:47,909 --> 00:05:45,759
little bit being

163
00:05:49,590 --> 00:05:47,919

challenged with tough questions in fact

164

00:05:50,790 --> 00:05:49,600

it's my experience that they love it

165

00:05:53,830 --> 00:05:50,800

because they love

166

00:05:54,710 --> 00:05:53,840

thinking outside of the box so this

167

00:05:56,390 --> 00:05:54,720

turned out to be

168

00:05:58,230 --> 00:05:56,400

an interview that i really really

169

00:05:59,749 --> 00:05:58,240

enjoyed i had to prepare for it a lot

170

00:06:02,150 --> 00:05:59,759

because

171

00:06:02,870 --> 00:06:02,160

i really don't know that much about

172

00:06:05,749 --> 00:06:02,880

history

173

00:06:05,990 --> 00:06:05,759

but i enjoyed every second of it i hope

174

00:06:08,710 --> 00:06:06,000

you

175

00:06:10,390 --> 00:06:08,720

do too welcome to skeptica where we

176
00:06:11,510 --> 00:06:10,400
explore controversial science and

177
00:06:14,150 --> 00:06:11,520
spirituality

178
00:06:14,950 --> 00:06:14,160
with leading researchers thinkers and

179
00:06:17,270 --> 00:06:14,960
their critics

180
00:06:18,150 --> 00:06:17,280
i'm your host alex sacaris and today we

181
00:06:21,510 --> 00:06:18,160
welcome

182
00:06:24,390 --> 00:06:21,520
dr adrian goldsworthy to skeptico

183
00:06:25,029 --> 00:06:24,400
so this being a show primarily about

184
00:06:28,550 --> 00:06:25,039
science

185
00:06:31,830 --> 00:06:28,560
consciousness and spirituality we don't

186
00:06:33,670 --> 00:06:31,840
have many opportunities to interview

187
00:06:36,870 --> 00:06:33,680
top-notch historians

188
00:06:39,110 --> 00:06:36,880

but we certainly have won today

189

00:06:40,629 --> 00:06:39,120

dr adrian goldsworthy is a super

190

00:06:43,590 --> 00:06:40,639

impressive guy

191

00:06:44,550 --> 00:06:43,600

doctor at oxford research fellowship

192

00:06:46,550 --> 00:06:44,560

cardiff

193

00:06:48,950 --> 00:06:46,560

assistant professor university of notre

194

00:06:50,710 --> 00:06:48,960

dame the one in london not the one in

195

00:06:53,110 --> 00:06:50,720

south bend indiana

196

00:06:55,430 --> 00:06:53,120

and then there are the books really

197

00:06:58,710 --> 00:06:55,440

quite amazing but also very

198

00:07:01,749 --> 00:06:58,720

readable books on roman history

199

00:07:02,629 --> 00:07:01,759

roman warfare his specialty some novels

200

00:07:05,670 --> 00:07:02,639

thrown in there

201
00:07:08,870 --> 00:07:05,680
as well but many many about all these

202
00:07:11,430 --> 00:07:08,880
famous roman figures that we

203
00:07:13,189 --> 00:07:11,440
i don't know still feel so close to and

204
00:07:16,390 --> 00:07:13,199
they feel so relevant in

205
00:07:18,230 --> 00:07:16,400
our lives so one other thing i just want

206
00:07:20,629 --> 00:07:18,240
to mention

207
00:07:22,390 --> 00:07:20,639
check this out a lot of these books can

208
00:07:24,710 --> 00:07:22,400
be read for free

209
00:07:26,870 --> 00:07:24,720
on kindle unlimited if you are so

210
00:07:29,189 --> 00:07:26,880
inclined but what a great

211
00:07:30,070 --> 00:07:29,199
great opportunity you can buy them too

212
00:07:31,909 --> 00:07:30,080
i'm sure

213
00:07:33,430 --> 00:07:31,919

uh adrian would appreciate that but you

214

00:07:35,029 --> 00:07:33,440

know what he makes

215

00:07:37,909 --> 00:07:35,039

he makes a little bit of dough if you

216

00:07:40,870 --> 00:07:37,919

just read them on unlimited as well so

217

00:07:42,710 --> 00:07:40,880

that's there and just an amazing amazing

218

00:07:46,230 --> 00:07:42,720

body of work that

219

00:07:49,110 --> 00:07:46,240

is ever increasing because this guy is

220

00:07:49,909 --> 00:07:49,120

really high quality but he's also

221

00:07:52,309 --> 00:07:49,919

prolific

222

00:07:54,629 --> 00:07:52,319

so dr boldsworthy it's absolutely

223

00:07:56,629 --> 00:07:54,639

terrific to have you with us today

224

00:07:58,070 --> 00:07:56,639

thanks so much for joining me thank you

225

00:08:00,629 --> 00:07:58,080

for inviting me

226

00:08:01,909 --> 00:08:00,639

so as i mentioned you know ancient

227

00:08:04,950 --> 00:08:01,919

history is really

228

00:08:07,350 --> 00:08:04,960

out of my swing zone but i think i

229

00:08:08,390 --> 00:08:07,360

like so many people who read your

230

00:08:11,510 --> 00:08:08,400

fantastic

231

00:08:13,589 --> 00:08:11,520

books are fascinated with the romans

232

00:08:16,950 --> 00:08:13,599

fascinated with this history

233

00:08:20,070 --> 00:08:16,960

when did that fascination kind of

234

00:08:23,110 --> 00:08:20,080

come to life for you when i was very

235

00:08:24,790 --> 00:08:23,120

young really it's part of it was seeing

236

00:08:26,469 --> 00:08:24,800

some of the old epic movies on the on

237

00:08:28,629 --> 00:08:26,479

the television you know every

238

00:08:30,950 --> 00:08:28,639

every christmas or easter holiday bbc

239

00:08:33,509 --> 00:08:30,960

would be showing spartacus or

240

00:08:34,149 --> 00:08:33,519

uh quovardis or one of these things and

241

00:08:35,670 --> 00:08:34,159

um

242

00:08:37,190 --> 00:08:35,680

i started to get books about the romans

243

00:08:38,790 --> 00:08:37,200

and there'd be this insufferable little

244

00:08:40,230 --> 00:08:38,800

child who was telling you what was wrong

245

00:08:41,029 --> 00:08:40,240

with all the equipment and things they

246

00:08:43,190 --> 00:08:41,039

were wearing

247

00:08:45,030 --> 00:08:43,200

but it helped where i grew up grew up

248

00:08:47,030 --> 00:08:45,040

and where i live now there's a

249

00:08:48,630 --> 00:08:47,040

remains as a roman amphitheater remains

250

00:08:51,829 --> 00:08:48,640

of a roman army base

251

00:08:53,590 --> 00:08:51,839

25 miles away so this was it felt like

252

00:08:55,670 --> 00:08:53,600

my history i could go and crawl over the

253

00:08:57,750 --> 00:08:55,680

stones the romans left behind

254

00:08:59,750 --> 00:08:57,760

and that always made it history in

255

00:09:00,230 --> 00:08:59,760

general just just fascinates me and i

256

00:09:03,110 --> 00:09:00,240

can

257

00:09:04,790 --> 00:09:03,120

go anywhere or see a book about anything

258

00:09:05,829 --> 00:09:04,800

and easily get distracted and think oh

259

00:09:08,790 --> 00:09:05,839

wow that's

260

00:09:09,670 --> 00:09:08,800

interesting and my tendency is always to

261

00:09:11,190 --> 00:09:09,680

read a lot on

262

00:09:13,590 --> 00:09:11,200

on anything i start if i become

263

00:09:15,110 --> 00:09:13,600

interested so i'm easily distracted but

264

00:09:15,750 --> 00:09:15,120

there's something about the romans that

265

00:09:18,470 --> 00:09:15,760

i i

266

00:09:19,670 --> 00:09:18,480

return to all the time because apart

267

00:09:21,509 --> 00:09:19,680

from their influence

268

00:09:23,030 --> 00:09:21,519

on western culture there's so many

269

00:09:24,710 --> 00:09:23,040

things we refer to

270

00:09:27,030 --> 00:09:24,720

that have a roman origin but we don't

271

00:09:30,470 --> 00:09:27,040

necessarily realize it so finding out

272

00:09:32,150 --> 00:09:30,480

why we do this why we say that um why we

273

00:09:32,870 --> 00:09:32,160

write stories that way these sorts of

274

00:09:35,190 --> 00:09:32,880

things

275

00:09:36,310 --> 00:09:35,200

are all interesting but the in the end

276

00:09:38,150 --> 00:09:36,320

you can say about the romans the one

277

00:09:39,670 --> 00:09:38,160

thing they never were was dull

278

00:09:41,030 --> 00:09:39,680

so even though you wouldn't necessarily

279

00:09:43,350 --> 00:09:41,040

want to have them living next door to

280

00:09:45,110 --> 00:09:43,360

you or the roman empire out there today

281

00:09:46,790 --> 00:09:45,120

it's very exciting stuff it's

282

00:09:48,070 --> 00:09:46,800

interesting it's dramatic it's

283

00:09:49,990 --> 00:09:48,080

it's over the top sometimes it's

284

00:09:53,030 --> 00:09:50,000

appalling but it's never

285

00:09:54,389 --> 00:09:53,040

never dull so um after all these years

286

00:09:56,150 --> 00:09:54,399

of studying it full time it

287

00:09:58,470 --> 00:09:56,160

still absolutely fascinates me and i'm

288

00:10:00,710 --> 00:09:58,480

still learning lots of new things so

289

00:10:02,230 --> 00:10:00,720

um i you know i can't see the

290

00:10:02,790 --> 00:10:02,240

fascination going away it's just nice

291

00:10:06,150 --> 00:10:02,800

that

292

00:10:08,069 --> 00:10:06,160

i think it as i say a lot of people it's

293

00:10:10,069 --> 00:10:08,079

you hear something or you read something

294

00:10:12,389 --> 00:10:10,079

and then it'll spark a memory

295

00:10:13,910 --> 00:10:12,399

so i remember being in a um we're doing

296

00:10:15,670 --> 00:10:13,920

some filming once and chatting to one of

297

00:10:17,110 --> 00:10:15,680

the cameramen who said oh so what's this

298

00:10:18,949 --> 00:10:17,120

you know crossing the rubicon what does

299

00:10:20,310 --> 00:10:18,959

that mean because it had come up in what

300

00:10:21,910 --> 00:10:20,320

we were filming so talking about that

301

00:10:24,150 --> 00:10:21,920

and it was just oh yeah that's

302

00:10:25,990 --> 00:10:24,160

so it's it's there it's sort of lurking

303

00:10:28,069 --> 00:10:26,000

in the shadows and it's it's just more

304

00:10:29,509 --> 00:10:28,079

interesting when you know more

305

00:10:32,069 --> 00:10:29,519

you know that is such an interesting

306

00:10:33,430 --> 00:10:32,079

point because i do think we all have

307

00:10:35,269 --> 00:10:33,440

this sense that we're looking

308

00:10:37,910 --> 00:10:35,279

into the mirror when we look at the

309

00:10:40,550 --> 00:10:37,920

romans but at the same time

310

00:10:41,990 --> 00:10:40,560

is that overblown do you think sometimes

311

00:10:43,509 --> 00:10:42,000

i think this is something you

312

00:10:46,630 --> 00:10:43,519

wrestled with a little bit in your

313

00:10:48,550 --> 00:10:46,640

writing is that are we sometimes

314

00:10:49,829 --> 00:10:48,560

prone to draw too many parallels too

315

00:10:53,269 --> 00:10:49,839

many

316

00:10:54,150 --> 00:10:53,279

links i always try to write the history

317

00:10:55,590 --> 00:10:54,160

and not go in

318

00:10:57,670 --> 00:10:55,600

saying this is going to give us lessons

319

00:10:59,670 --> 00:10:57,680

for today i think in some cases there

320

00:11:01,350 --> 00:10:59,680

are lessons for today but

321

00:11:03,590 --> 00:11:01,360

if you go looking for something you will

322

00:11:05,350 --> 00:11:03,600

find it in the sources

323

00:11:07,030 --> 00:11:05,360

consciously or unconsciously you will

324

00:11:08,150 --> 00:11:07,040

see things that way it's much better to

325

00:11:09,829 --> 00:11:08,160

try and see well

326

00:11:11,269 --> 00:11:09,839

what is it we actually know and with the

327

00:11:12,230 --> 00:11:11,279

ancient world so often what's it we

328

00:11:14,790 --> 00:11:12,240

don't know

329

00:11:16,550 --> 00:11:14,800

because so much material has been lost

330

00:11:18,630 --> 00:11:16,560

and that's particularly true

331

00:11:20,230 --> 00:11:18,640

of many of the sort of what would have

332

00:11:22,870 --> 00:11:20,240

been a natural assumption

333

00:11:24,949 --> 00:11:22,880

for a roman though again what does it

334

00:11:26,470 --> 00:11:24,959

mean to be a roman this empire was vast

335

00:11:28,230 --> 00:11:26,480

it lasted a long time

336

00:11:30,069 --> 00:11:28,240

roman citizenship is really a legal

337

00:11:30,949 --> 00:11:30,079

status there are people from all over

338

00:11:33,670 --> 00:11:30,959

the world

339

00:11:35,509 --> 00:11:33,680

with and you weren't expected to conform

340

00:11:37,030 --> 00:11:35,519

in every aspect of your life

341

00:11:38,630 --> 00:11:37,040

um so that you know it's quite

342

00:11:42,870 --> 00:11:38,640

interesting when um

343

00:11:44,470 --> 00:11:42,880

you look at um pliny who had

344

00:11:45,829 --> 00:11:44,480

arrested christians brought before him

345

00:11:46,230 --> 00:11:45,839

and there's this famous letter where he

346

00:11:49,350 --> 00:11:46,240

writes

347

00:11:50,230 --> 00:11:49,360

this is what i've been doing is this the

348

00:11:52,389 --> 00:11:50,240

right thing and

349

00:11:54,150 --> 00:11:52,399

i get the emperor's reply and part of it

350

00:11:55,509 --> 00:11:54,160

is as far as he was concerned they

351

00:11:57,110 --> 00:11:55,519

should have just lied said i don't

352

00:11:58,230 --> 00:11:57,120

believe that and gone their way and

353

00:12:00,069 --> 00:11:58,240

nobody would have cared what they were

354

00:12:02,389 --> 00:12:00,079

doing in their private life

355

00:12:03,990 --> 00:12:02,399

it's but it's this very roman thing when

356

00:12:05,430 --> 00:12:04,000

authority says to you this is what you

357

00:12:06,150 --> 00:12:05,440

should do you must do it you must

358

00:12:08,870 --> 00:12:06,160

conform but

359

00:12:10,629 --> 00:12:08,880

most of the time you know you have all

360

00:12:11,670 --> 00:12:10,639

these people around the the empire who

361

00:12:14,949 --> 00:12:11,680

are roman

362

00:12:16,790 --> 00:12:14,959

but who um sorry the cat is just trying

363

00:12:17,670 --> 00:12:16,800

to destroy something very nicely on the

364

00:12:19,110 --> 00:12:17,680

floor but

365

00:12:20,710 --> 00:12:19,120

hopefully it's not being picked up i'm

366

00:12:24,230 --> 00:12:20,720

not just some wrapping paper

367

00:12:26,310 --> 00:12:24,240

um they weren't it wasn't

368

00:12:27,829 --> 00:12:26,320

a one-size-fits-all society but there

369

00:12:30,069 --> 00:12:27,839

were some things we were supposed to

370

00:12:33,350 --> 00:12:30,079

share with everyone else but

371

00:12:35,509 --> 00:12:33,360

i believe that human nature hasn't

372

00:12:37,670 --> 00:12:35,519

changed over the millennia i think human

373

00:12:39,269 --> 00:12:37,680

beings are essentially the same

374

00:12:40,870 --> 00:12:39,279

yes different cultures have different

375

00:12:42,790 --> 00:12:40,880

assumptions different languages even

376

00:12:45,430 --> 00:12:42,800

make you think in different ways

377

00:12:47,190 --> 00:12:45,440

and there are you know i'm getting the

378

00:12:49,030 --> 00:12:47,200

stage in my life where with a

379

00:12:50,310 --> 00:12:49,040

a young son of seven i'm seeing things

380

00:12:52,230 --> 00:12:50,320

that are very different

381

00:12:53,430 --> 00:12:52,240

for him growing up compared to my day

382

00:12:54,949 --> 00:12:53,440

you know the idea

383

00:12:56,870 --> 00:12:54,959

that if anyone had told me when i was

384

00:12:58,069 --> 00:12:56,880

seven that all telephones would no

385

00:12:59,350 --> 00:12:58,079

longer be plugged into the wall and

386

00:13:01,990 --> 00:12:59,360

would have a camera in them

387

00:13:02,710 --> 00:13:02,000

you know so there's there's lots of

388

00:13:05,670 --> 00:13:02,720

different stuff but

389

00:13:05,990 --> 00:13:05,680

basically human emotions human behavior

390

00:13:09,829 --> 00:13:06,000

so

391

00:13:10,150 --> 00:13:09,839

themselves not necessarily identically

392

00:13:13,509 --> 00:13:10,160

but

393

00:13:14,949 --> 00:13:13,519

similarly enough and really if it wasn't

394

00:13:16,629 --> 00:13:14,959

like that we wouldn't be able to write

395

00:13:18,629 --> 00:13:16,639

history at all because if the romans

396

00:13:21,509 --> 00:13:18,639

were completely alien

397

00:13:22,949 --> 00:13:21,519

then you wouldn't read cicero and read

398

00:13:24,310 --> 00:13:22,959

one of his letters where he's

399

00:13:26,310 --> 00:13:24,320

you know he's deeply upset by the death

400

00:13:27,750 --> 00:13:26,320

of his daughter or he's worried about

401
00:13:29,509 --> 00:13:27,760

family things there are very

402
00:13:31,030 --> 00:13:29,519

alongside all the politics alongside the

403
00:13:33,350 --> 00:13:31,040

assumptions that they make

404
00:13:34,150 --> 00:13:33,360

about the world that are very different

405
00:13:36,230 --> 00:13:34,160

to us

406
00:13:38,310 --> 00:13:36,240

they're people deep down they've got

407
00:13:39,590 --> 00:13:38,320

those same emotions the same biological

408
00:13:41,750 --> 00:13:39,600

things there that are

409
00:13:42,629 --> 00:13:41,760

driving them so they're they are a lot

410
00:13:45,430 --> 00:13:42,639

like us

411
00:13:46,790 --> 00:13:45,440

i i think that's so fascinating in so

412
00:13:49,269 --> 00:13:46,800

many ways and it

413
00:13:51,750 --> 00:13:49,279

kind of leads into a lot of the things

414

00:13:53,110 --> 00:13:51,760

that i did want to ask you about today

415

00:13:55,990 --> 00:13:53,120

because i think

416

00:13:57,189 --> 00:13:56,000

you know history as an academic

417

00:13:59,990 --> 00:13:57,199

discipline

418

00:14:02,870 --> 00:14:00,000

is in a very curious state and has been

419

00:14:06,069 --> 00:14:02,880

for a while and i find your books

420

00:14:08,629 --> 00:14:06,079

subtly subversive in some interesting

421

00:14:10,389 --> 00:14:08,639

little ways and one of the ways

422

00:14:12,069 --> 00:14:10,399

is what you just talked about in terms

423

00:14:15,030 --> 00:14:12,079

of the human factor

424

00:14:16,150 --> 00:14:15,040

and you bring that to life in an

425

00:14:18,629 --> 00:14:16,160

undeniable way

426

00:14:20,389 --> 00:14:18,639

so let's just touch on something the

427

00:14:22,150 --> 00:14:20,399

great man theory

428

00:14:23,590 --> 00:14:22,160

what is it what do you think about it

429

00:14:27,030 --> 00:14:23,600

and what do you think

430

00:14:29,350 --> 00:14:27,040

your books tell us about that

431

00:14:30,150 --> 00:14:29,360

it's been the trend in in academia for a

432

00:14:32,310 --> 00:14:30,160

long time

433

00:14:33,509 --> 00:14:32,320

to deny this at all everything has to be

434

00:14:35,509 --> 00:14:33,519

the cause of

435

00:14:37,590 --> 00:14:35,519

much wider trends you know their social

436

00:14:40,150 --> 00:14:37,600

trends their economic their

437

00:14:42,069 --> 00:14:40,160

technological in terms of how does say

438

00:14:44,310 --> 00:14:42,079

the printing press and its development

439

00:14:45,189 --> 00:14:44,320

change the way people act and think how

440

00:14:47,750 --> 00:14:45,199

the population

441

00:14:50,230 --> 00:14:47,760

size is or the ability to produce food

442

00:14:51,750 --> 00:14:50,240

to produce other goods

443

00:14:53,910 --> 00:14:51,760

and all of that i'm not denying its

444

00:14:55,829 --> 00:14:53,920

importance in any way whatsoever

445

00:14:57,189 --> 00:14:55,839

but what's always striking is if you

446

00:14:58,710 --> 00:14:57,199

you've sat with the same people in the

447

00:15:00,629 --> 00:14:58,720

common room at a university

448

00:15:02,310 --> 00:15:00,639

when they talked about politics whether

449

00:15:02,710 --> 00:15:02,320

it's politics within the departments

450

00:15:04,230 --> 00:15:02,720

which

451

00:15:06,150 --> 00:15:04,240

often in universities are fairly

452

00:15:08,629 --> 00:15:06,160

viciously waged

453

00:15:10,310 --> 00:15:08,639

compared to what's happening at state

454

00:15:10,710 --> 00:15:10,320

level national level whatever it might

455

00:15:12,310 --> 00:15:10,720

be

456

00:15:14,790 --> 00:15:12,320

they talk about personalities all the

457

00:15:16,150 --> 00:15:14,800

time and they don't talk so much about

458

00:15:17,670 --> 00:15:16,160

well of course this is the trend and

459

00:15:20,150 --> 00:15:17,680

everybody must do this

460

00:15:21,189 --> 00:15:20,160

um in our in our lives you know you

461

00:15:24,150 --> 00:15:21,199

notice

462

00:15:26,310 --> 00:15:24,160

um there are people who may be in

463

00:15:28,790 --> 00:15:26,320

positions of authority whatever that is

464

00:15:29,590 --> 00:15:28,800

in a small you know a club a society a

465

00:15:32,310 --> 00:15:29,600

church

466

00:15:33,189 --> 00:15:32,320

um a department at a business or

467

00:15:35,590 --> 00:15:33,199

whatever

468

00:15:37,030 --> 00:15:35,600

and their personality affects everybody

469

00:15:39,189 --> 00:15:37,040

around them and sometimes the people who

470

00:15:40,710 --> 00:15:39,199

aren't officially in charge but have

471

00:15:42,949 --> 00:15:40,720

big personalities or a particular

472

00:15:45,829 --> 00:15:42,959

influence influence the way

473

00:15:47,350 --> 00:15:45,839

others behave it's it's obvious as soon

474

00:15:49,350 --> 00:15:47,360

as you look at life it's obvious as soon

475

00:15:52,069 --> 00:15:49,360

as you look at your own experience

476
00:15:52,870 --> 00:15:52,079
and there are the people who make a big

477
00:15:54,470 --> 00:15:52,880
difference

478
00:15:55,990 --> 00:15:54,480
it doesn't even fall just in one

479
00:15:57,990 --> 00:15:56,000
category i mean if we want to

480
00:15:59,030 --> 00:15:58,000
kind of be more expansive and more

481
00:16:00,710 --> 00:15:59,040
inclusive which

482
00:16:02,790 --> 00:16:00,720
hell why not you know we certainly have

483
00:16:05,749 --> 00:16:02,800
been less so in the past i mean

484
00:16:06,310 --> 00:16:05,759
it's not just julius caesar and augustus

485
00:16:11,110 --> 00:16:06,320
it's

486
00:16:13,189 --> 00:16:11,120
you know right down the list right

487
00:16:15,269 --> 00:16:13,199
spartacus right so it's

488
00:16:17,110 --> 00:16:15,279

i don't know why that why that we we

489

00:16:19,110 --> 00:16:17,120

push against that so much

490

00:16:20,230 --> 00:16:19,120

but i fear that it's kind of has some

491

00:16:21,990 --> 00:16:20,240

other bigger

492

00:16:23,430 --> 00:16:22,000

issues in terms of how we want to see

493

00:16:25,590 --> 00:16:23,440

ourselves in the world and how we want

494

00:16:27,990 --> 00:16:25,600

to see ourselves as less than human

495

00:16:29,189 --> 00:16:28,000

in some ways that that kind of conform

496

00:16:30,790 --> 00:16:29,199

to other ideas

497

00:16:32,470 --> 00:16:30,800

it is although when it you know when it

498

00:16:32,870 --> 00:16:32,480

comes down to it everybody lives their

499

00:16:35,749 --> 00:16:32,880

life

500

00:16:37,269 --> 00:16:35,759

as a biography um and they are you know

501
00:16:38,949 --> 00:16:37,279
they are very concerned about what

502
00:16:40,550 --> 00:16:38,959
affects them personally there are these

503
00:16:42,389 --> 00:16:40,560
altruistic people who say yeah this is

504
00:16:43,670 --> 00:16:42,399
bad for me but you know it's good for

505
00:16:46,069 --> 00:16:43,680
the country it's good for the wider

506
00:16:48,790 --> 00:16:46,079
population but most of us

507
00:16:49,189 --> 00:16:48,800
have that drive to to eat to feed to

508
00:16:51,269 --> 00:16:49,199
have

509
00:16:52,710 --> 00:16:51,279
what wealth we need the things we want

510
00:16:54,629 --> 00:16:52,720
um

511
00:16:56,310 --> 00:16:54,639
we don't so there has always been this

512
00:16:57,990 --> 00:16:56,320
contrast in that people can somehow

513
00:16:59,590 --> 00:16:58,000

divorce their actual lives and their

514

00:17:00,389 --> 00:16:59,600

experience from how they're studying

515

00:17:03,110 --> 00:17:00,399

history

516

00:17:04,470 --> 00:17:03,120

and again it's there is a great danger

517

00:17:05,829 --> 00:17:04,480

if you write about

518

00:17:06,949 --> 00:17:05,839

you know i've written about caesar i've

519

00:17:08,789 --> 00:17:06,959

written about anthony cleopatra

520

00:17:10,230 --> 00:17:08,799

alexander the great

521

00:17:11,669 --> 00:17:10,240

particularly in the ancient world but

522

00:17:13,510 --> 00:17:11,679

some extent even in the modern world

523

00:17:14,949 --> 00:17:13,520

you'll never quite know what someone

524

00:17:17,350 --> 00:17:14,959

else was thinking

525

00:17:18,789 --> 00:17:17,360

when they do something and the extent to

526

00:17:20,230 --> 00:17:18,799

which they are thinking rationally or

527

00:17:22,309 --> 00:17:20,240

they've just got up they've

528

00:17:23,909 --> 00:17:22,319

you know they've had a bad cold the last

529

00:17:25,590 --> 00:17:23,919

few days they don't feel well they're

530

00:17:26,390 --> 00:17:25,600

still sleeping they say go and do this

531

00:17:28,390 --> 00:17:26,400

to someone

532

00:17:30,230 --> 00:17:28,400

and in most for most of us what we say

533

00:17:31,510 --> 00:17:30,240

doesn't matter but for some people out

534

00:17:33,270 --> 00:17:31,520

there it really does

535

00:17:34,710 --> 00:17:33,280

because they they have their impositions

536

00:17:37,750 --> 00:17:34,720

of authority

537

00:17:38,789 --> 00:17:37,760

the danger is that you create an image

538

00:17:41,590 --> 00:17:38,799

of what you think

539

00:17:43,350 --> 00:17:41,600

caesar was like or cleopatra was like

540

00:17:44,230 --> 00:17:43,360

and then when you come to a gap in the

541

00:17:46,710 --> 00:17:44,240

source

542

00:17:48,230 --> 00:17:46,720

you fill it in with well this is what my

543

00:17:50,390 --> 00:17:48,240

caesar would have done

544

00:17:52,390 --> 00:17:50,400

and i try always to avoid that but in

545

00:17:54,390 --> 00:17:52,400

the end you have to think

546

00:17:55,669 --> 00:17:54,400

it's rather like um you know a big

547

00:17:57,990 --> 00:17:55,679

contrast is the way it's made between

548

00:17:59,909 --> 00:17:58,000

julius caesar and caesar augustus

549

00:18:01,430 --> 00:17:59,919

the one gets murdered spectacularly on

550

00:18:02,870 --> 00:18:01,440

the ides of march stabbed to death by

551
00:18:03,669 --> 00:18:02,880
brutus and cassius all this sort of

552
00:18:05,669 --> 00:18:03,679
thing

553
00:18:07,270 --> 00:18:05,679
augustus becomes the first proper

554
00:18:09,430 --> 00:18:07,280
emperor creates the principate this

555
00:18:11,350 --> 00:18:09,440
system that will last for centuries

556
00:18:12,710 --> 00:18:11,360
and the classic contrast is well of

557
00:18:13,990 --> 00:18:12,720
course you know this shows he's more

558
00:18:16,150 --> 00:18:14,000
politically savvy he

559
00:18:17,669 --> 00:18:16,160
understands he doesn't upset the senate

560
00:18:19,669 --> 00:18:17,679
and all this sort of thing

561
00:18:21,350 --> 00:18:19,679
until you actually look and then see

562
00:18:24,070 --> 00:18:21,360
that caesar is only in rome

563
00:18:25,830 --> 00:18:24,080

for barely half a year having fought

564

00:18:27,830 --> 00:18:25,840

civil war constantly

565

00:18:29,029 --> 00:18:27,840

and then is murdered and he's murdered

566

00:18:30,710 --> 00:18:29,039

by people who

567

00:18:32,230 --> 00:18:30,720

by the time you get to augustus they're

568

00:18:33,590 --> 00:18:32,240

all dead and most of the people who

569

00:18:33,909 --> 00:18:33,600

thought like i mean everyone's watched

570

00:18:37,990 --> 00:18:33,919

and

571

00:18:40,230 --> 00:18:38,000

act that way augustus has

572

00:18:41,669 --> 00:18:40,240

decades you know he lives far longer

573

00:18:43,270 --> 00:18:41,679

than anyone expects

574

00:18:44,870 --> 00:18:43,280

and he survives and he doesn't have to

575

00:18:45,510 --> 00:18:44,880

keep fighting civil war you know it's a

576

00:18:48,310 --> 00:18:45,520

different

577

00:18:49,830 --> 00:18:48,320

so you're comparing but if you look and

578

00:18:51,029 --> 00:18:49,840

look chronologically look at what

579

00:18:53,990 --> 00:18:51,039

caesar's actually doing

580

00:18:55,270 --> 00:18:54,000

where he is what he was doing then all

581

00:18:56,310 --> 00:18:55,280

these ideas well he should have thought

582

00:18:57,190 --> 00:18:56,320

of a solution to this he should have

583

00:18:58,870 --> 00:18:57,200

done that you know

584

00:19:01,190 --> 00:18:58,880

i didn't have the time it's like

585

00:19:03,750 --> 00:19:01,200

alexander the great dreaming that he was

586

00:19:05,430 --> 00:19:03,760

planning this great society this great

587

00:19:06,230 --> 00:19:05,440

new empire that would do this and do

588

00:19:08,470 --> 00:19:06,240

that

589

00:19:10,470 --> 00:19:08,480

what he's actually doing he's riding

590

00:19:12,310 --> 00:19:10,480

marching on foot traveling

591

00:19:14,070 --> 00:19:12,320

sleeping under canvas fighting lots of

592

00:19:15,430 --> 00:19:14,080

battles for nearly all his life he

593

00:19:17,830 --> 00:19:15,440

doesn't have a lot of time

594

00:19:18,789 --> 00:19:17,840

and in that sort of situation those more

595

00:19:20,710 --> 00:19:18,799

immediate

596

00:19:22,230 --> 00:19:20,720

factors like the people trying to kill

597

00:19:25,110 --> 00:19:22,240

you will probably

598

00:19:27,110 --> 00:19:25,120

fill your mind to a degree that um any

599

00:19:27,909 --> 00:19:27,120

of us know when we're really busy doing

600

00:19:29,990 --> 00:19:27,919

something

601
00:19:31,430 --> 00:19:30,000
the abstract thoughts don't really come

602
00:19:32,950 --> 00:19:31,440
and you know

603
00:19:34,630 --> 00:19:32,960
the more simply you're having to live if

604
00:19:35,830 --> 00:19:34,640
you're struggling to stay warm at night

605
00:19:37,110 --> 00:19:35,840
because you're you're camping and the

606
00:19:38,710 --> 00:19:37,120
weather's turned bad and you're getting

607
00:19:39,669 --> 00:19:38,720
enough to eat the event you want to file

608
00:19:41,430 --> 00:19:39,679
it

609
00:19:42,870 --> 00:19:41,440
those things stop you thinking

610
00:19:44,870 --> 00:19:42,880
necessarily it might clear your mind and

611
00:19:46,630 --> 00:19:44,880
you might come back from that trip

612
00:19:49,669 --> 00:19:46,640
it's so easy to turn these people into

613
00:19:51,190 --> 00:19:49,679

some merely representatives of ideas

614

00:19:53,350 --> 00:19:51,200

and not flesh and blood human beings

615

00:19:55,350 --> 00:19:53,360

that tend to be complicated and often

616

00:19:57,029 --> 00:19:55,360

are contradictory and often might say

617

00:19:58,150 --> 00:19:57,039

i believe this that and the other but

618

00:20:00,070 --> 00:19:58,160

there are aspects of their life where

619

00:20:01,669 --> 00:20:00,080

they don't quite live up to that because

620

00:20:03,669 --> 00:20:01,679

we're all human we all make mistakes

621

00:20:05,270 --> 00:20:03,679

we're all flawed um

622

00:20:06,870 --> 00:20:05,280

and many of us will you know can easily

623

00:20:07,990 --> 00:20:06,880

convince ourselves that well it's okay

624

00:20:10,710 --> 00:20:08,000

if i do that

625

00:20:12,310 --> 00:20:10,720

so it's trying to make that history

626

00:20:13,830 --> 00:20:12,320

human if it isn't human then i don't

627

00:20:16,549 --> 00:20:13,840

think it's really history

628

00:20:18,310 --> 00:20:16,559

it becomes just abstract ideas that

629

00:20:19,750 --> 00:20:18,320

might be very clever

630

00:20:21,510 --> 00:20:19,760

but probably have little basis in

631

00:20:24,149 --> 00:20:21,520

reality awesome

632

00:20:25,669 --> 00:20:24,159

i love all that and i i would also wrap

633

00:20:27,350 --> 00:20:25,679

it into something you just talked about

634

00:20:29,830 --> 00:20:27,360

but i love the way you put it here

635

00:20:31,029 --> 00:20:29,840

hindsight is the enemy of history and i

636

00:20:33,029 --> 00:20:31,039

think maybe you want to

637

00:20:34,310 --> 00:20:33,039

expound on that just a little bit in

638

00:20:35,909 --> 00:20:34,320

terms of no matter

639

00:20:38,470 --> 00:20:35,919

how straight you're trying to play it as

640

00:20:41,590 --> 00:20:38,480

a historian it's really really hard

641

00:20:42,950 --> 00:20:41,600

not to fall into that trap isn't it well

642

00:20:45,350 --> 00:20:42,960

it is i mean that was the really the

643

00:20:47,270 --> 00:20:45,360

idea behind the the philip and alexander

644

00:20:48,950 --> 00:20:47,280

the great book that i i did a couple

645

00:20:51,750 --> 00:20:48,960

years ago and that's

646

00:20:53,270 --> 00:20:51,760

um alexander the great's famous we all

647

00:20:54,310 --> 00:20:53,280

know coming to this story this is what

648

00:20:55,909 --> 00:20:54,320

he's going to do

649

00:20:57,350 --> 00:20:55,919

you know he's going to come king very

650

00:20:59,110 --> 00:20:57,360

young charge off

651
00:21:00,549 --> 00:20:59,120
go and conquer and end up in india and

652
00:21:01,990 --> 00:21:00,559
then you know on his way back

653
00:21:03,669 --> 00:21:02,000
we forget about all the things his

654
00:21:06,390 --> 00:21:03,679
father had to do before he got there

655
00:21:07,990 --> 00:21:06,400
and we also forget how brief this career

656
00:21:09,029 --> 00:21:08,000
was and that there were plenty of people

657
00:21:11,750 --> 00:21:09,039
alive

658
00:21:13,190 --> 00:21:11,760
when alexander died who could remember a

659
00:21:15,190 --> 00:21:13,200
time before his father

660
00:21:16,630 --> 00:21:15,200
which was a time before macedonia

661
00:21:20,230 --> 00:21:16,640
mattered

662
00:21:21,830 --> 00:21:20,240
and you know they macedonia was a

663
00:21:23,510 --> 00:21:21,840

nowhere place you know it really wasn't

664

00:21:25,350 --> 00:21:23,520

this military superpower that it became

665

00:21:27,430 --> 00:21:25,360

in an incredibly short time

666

00:21:28,470 --> 00:21:27,440

and sometimes i was just reading a novel

667

00:21:29,990 --> 00:21:28,480

um

668

00:21:32,390 --> 00:21:30,000

just in the last few weeks that was

669

00:21:33,430 --> 00:21:32,400

published in 1942 so in the middle of

670

00:21:35,430 --> 00:21:33,440

the second world war

671

00:21:37,430 --> 00:21:35,440

and it's about somebody in the british

672

00:21:38,470 --> 00:21:37,440

army up until the evacuation from

673

00:21:39,909 --> 00:21:38,480

dunkirk

674

00:21:41,190 --> 00:21:39,919

and it's all the sort of the first nine

675

00:21:42,390 --> 00:21:41,200

months of the war the phony war when

676

00:21:44,070 --> 00:21:42,400

they go to france

677

00:21:45,909 --> 00:21:44,080

expecting to re-fight the first world

678

00:21:47,590 --> 00:21:45,919

war

679

00:21:49,110 --> 00:21:47,600

and the problem and even within those

680

00:21:50,470 --> 00:21:49,120

two years he's writing he said well

681

00:21:52,070 --> 00:21:50,480

people don't remember this you know

682

00:21:55,190 --> 00:21:52,080

saying they're talking about this as if

683

00:21:57,110 --> 00:21:55,200

somehow we were all stupid but everybody

684

00:21:58,549 --> 00:21:57,120

was expecting things to be like last

685

00:22:00,149 --> 00:21:58,559

time there was no reason to believe it

686

00:22:01,750 --> 00:22:00,159

hadn't happened yet

687

00:22:03,669 --> 00:22:01,760

and that's even in you know somebody's

688

00:22:05,270 --> 00:22:03,679

lifetime you can often see how quickly

689

00:22:07,190 --> 00:22:05,280

we come to accept

690

00:22:09,750 --> 00:22:07,200

um you know we've still got quite tight

691

00:22:13,029 --> 00:22:09,760

lockdown rules here in the uk

692

00:22:15,029 --> 00:22:13,039

this is a year and a bit on ask somebody

693

00:22:16,549 --> 00:22:15,039

at christmas 2019 whether they thought

694

00:22:18,149 --> 00:22:16,559

this could happen

695

00:22:19,590 --> 00:22:18,159

and would people put up with this they

696

00:22:20,950 --> 00:22:19,600

would probably have said no but it

697

00:22:22,789 --> 00:22:20,960

you quickly become used to it and the

698

00:22:23,669 --> 00:22:22,799

danger is once you know that's what

699

00:22:25,590 --> 00:22:23,679

happens you

700

00:22:28,070 --> 00:22:25,600

tend to make it inevitable and you're

701
00:22:31,350 --> 00:22:28,080
looking for reasons to explain

702
00:22:32,950 --> 00:22:31,360
why this happened which means you forget

703
00:22:34,710 --> 00:22:32,960
the random chance you know i mean

704
00:22:35,830 --> 00:22:34,720
famously even shakespeare picked it up

705
00:22:37,270 --> 00:22:35,840
from plutarch with

706
00:22:39,029 --> 00:22:37,280
with julius caesar had he actually

707
00:22:40,549 --> 00:22:39,039
listened to the warnings of don't go to

708
00:22:42,470 --> 00:22:40,559
the senate today

709
00:22:43,990 --> 00:22:42,480
what's gonna he's about to leave rome in

710
00:22:45,590 --> 00:22:44,000
three days time for big campaign not

711
00:22:47,990 --> 00:22:45,600
come back for years so

712
00:22:49,590 --> 00:22:48,000
um and the sheer chance that augustus

713
00:22:50,710 --> 00:22:49,600

survives these illnesses that are

714

00:22:52,149 --> 00:22:50,720

considered you know

715

00:22:54,549 --> 00:22:52,159

more than on at least one occasion he

716

00:22:56,549 --> 00:22:54,559

hands over his signet ring to a gripper

717

00:22:57,590 --> 00:22:56,559

he's expecting to die everybody believes

718

00:22:59,750 --> 00:22:57,600

he's going to die

719

00:23:00,630 --> 00:22:59,760

but he doesn't the flip side of that

720

00:23:03,990 --> 00:23:00,640

that you point out

721

00:23:06,230 --> 00:23:04,000

also is that we do have the advantage

722

00:23:07,510 --> 00:23:06,240

of knowing how things turn out and that

723

00:23:10,230 --> 00:23:07,520

can inform how we

724

00:23:11,110 --> 00:23:10,240

interpret these actions right so when

725

00:23:13,830 --> 00:23:11,120

augustus

726
00:23:15,830 --> 00:23:13,840
is they're gonna kind of prop him up and

727
00:23:17,350 --> 00:23:15,840
then kind of toss them aside once they

728
00:23:17,990 --> 00:23:17,360
get used to him because he's just a kid

729
00:23:21,110 --> 00:23:18,000
right

730
00:23:23,750 --> 00:23:21,120
but he he manages to become

731
00:23:25,029 --> 00:23:23,760
the great augustus and then i think we

732
00:23:27,270 --> 00:23:25,039
reflect back and we go

733
00:23:28,789 --> 00:23:27,280
that must have been there all along too

734
00:23:29,430 --> 00:23:28,799
as well and there's a there's a truth to

735
00:23:31,430 --> 00:23:29,440
that too

736
00:23:32,870 --> 00:23:31,440
so you got to play both sides of it

737
00:23:34,549 --> 00:23:32,880
don't you that's tricky

738
00:23:36,230 --> 00:23:34,559

oh certainly and i mean you know when

739

00:23:39,590 --> 00:23:36,240

somebody um

740

00:23:41,269 --> 00:23:39,600

becomes you know a great athlete

741

00:23:42,630 --> 00:23:41,279

wins the olympic gold wins there you

742

00:23:43,990 --> 00:23:42,640

know just started wimbledon the tennis

743

00:23:45,110 --> 00:23:44,000

tournament but you know you'll think oh

744

00:23:46,390 --> 00:23:45,120

well there's a sense that

745

00:23:47,990 --> 00:23:46,400

particularly if they do this more than

746

00:23:49,590 --> 00:23:48,000

once then there's obviously something

747

00:23:53,029 --> 00:23:49,600

with inside them

748

00:23:55,430 --> 00:23:53,039

that but there's also the sheer luck

749

00:23:56,710 --> 00:23:55,440

and that they don't get an injury early

750

00:23:57,990 --> 00:23:56,720

in their career that can

751
00:24:00,549 --> 00:23:58,000
you know somebody could be as promising

752
00:24:02,230 --> 00:24:00,559
as anything that goes

753
00:24:03,590 --> 00:24:02,240
something in their head starts you know

754
00:24:04,789 --> 00:24:03,600
they can't cope with the life with the

755
00:24:06,630 --> 00:24:04,799
pressure that could go

756
00:24:08,470 --> 00:24:06,640
it's clearly there with augustus but you

757
00:24:10,390 --> 00:24:08,480
can also that the hard thing is you need

758
00:24:11,430 --> 00:24:10,400
to remind yourself that it was perfectly

759
00:24:13,669 --> 00:24:11,440
reasonable

760
00:24:15,990 --> 00:24:13,679
for cicero to think you know praise the

761
00:24:17,909 --> 00:24:16,000
young man reward him discard him

762
00:24:20,149 --> 00:24:17,919
um anthony to think he's a boy who owes

763
00:24:22,870 --> 00:24:20,159

everything to a name because

764

00:24:24,390 --> 00:24:22,880

you know imagine some 19 year old turns

765

00:24:25,590 --> 00:24:24,400

up and say yeah i'm going to be

766

00:24:27,190 --> 00:24:25,600

ruler of the state you know i'm going to

767

00:24:28,630 --> 00:24:27,200

be the leading man in here never done

768

00:24:30,149 --> 00:24:28,640

anything in my life but i've you know

769

00:24:31,110 --> 00:24:30,159

just inherited all this money in this

770

00:24:33,190 --> 00:24:31,120

name

771

00:24:34,310 --> 00:24:33,200

you know you would react like that he he

772

00:24:37,110 --> 00:24:34,320

shouldn't win

773

00:24:39,430 --> 00:24:37,120

um so there's clearly there's that

774

00:24:40,870 --> 00:24:39,440

incredible self-confidence i mean i know

775

00:24:42,310 --> 00:24:40,880

a lot of people you know it's it's a

776

00:24:43,750 --> 00:24:42,320

natural thing when you're young you

777

00:24:44,789 --> 00:24:43,760

think you can do anything

778

00:24:46,950 --> 00:24:44,799

because you haven't had the

779

00:24:48,390 --> 00:24:46,960

disappointments yet but when you

780

00:24:51,750 --> 00:24:48,400

actually go on and do it

781

00:24:53,750 --> 00:24:51,760

and it's it's but it's it's luck as well

782

00:24:55,590 --> 00:24:53,760

as ability it's this combination

783

00:24:56,950 --> 00:24:55,600

and i i think perhaps particularly

784

00:24:58,470 --> 00:24:56,960

because i've

785

00:24:59,750 --> 00:24:58,480

i've said a lot of military history and

786

00:25:01,990 --> 00:24:59,760

that has been sort of my initial

787

00:25:05,510 --> 00:25:02,000

interest

788

00:25:08,470 --> 00:25:05,520

you can reduce military history to

789

00:25:09,269 --> 00:25:08,480

the the economic power the organization

790

00:25:11,269 --> 00:25:09,279

of

791

00:25:13,430 --> 00:25:11,279

one side against the other so that it

792

00:25:14,070 --> 00:25:13,440

becomes inevitable that the union would

793

00:25:16,230 --> 00:25:14,080

win the civil

794

00:25:17,510 --> 00:25:16,240

war it's inevitable that the allies

795

00:25:18,470 --> 00:25:17,520

particularly once america's entered the

796

00:25:20,789 --> 00:25:18,480

war in 1941

797

00:25:22,070 --> 00:25:20,799

are going to win but it sure didn't seem

798

00:25:23,430 --> 00:25:22,080

like that at the time

799

00:25:25,110 --> 00:25:23,440

and it could have gone wrong and people

800

00:25:26,710 --> 00:25:25,120

could have said look this is not worth

801
00:25:27,190 --> 00:25:26,720
it we might as well negotiate let's

802
00:25:30,310 --> 00:25:27,200
settle

803
00:25:32,630 --> 00:25:30,320
you know so narrative history

804
00:25:34,230 --> 00:25:32,640
is vital you you can't understand the

805
00:25:36,230 --> 00:25:34,240
confusion the chaos the

806
00:25:37,510 --> 00:25:36,240
the chance factor within battles as well

807
00:25:38,230 --> 00:25:37,520
as all the planning as well as all the

808
00:25:40,230 --> 00:25:38,240
preparation

809
00:25:41,669 --> 00:25:40,240
as well as the bigger social economic

810
00:25:42,870 --> 00:25:41,679
picture the organ all of that that

811
00:25:46,149 --> 00:25:42,880
matters

812
00:25:48,230 --> 00:25:46,159
but it all comes down to that the chance

813
00:25:51,029 --> 00:25:48,240

the confusion the chaos the

814

00:25:51,269 --> 00:25:51,039

and the bits you don't really understand

815

00:25:53,510 --> 00:25:51,279

and

816

00:25:54,950 --> 00:25:53,520

the danger is again that you you you see

817

00:25:56,470 --> 00:25:54,960

well that's what happened so everybody

818

00:25:57,830 --> 00:25:56,480

must have realized if you had any sense

819

00:25:59,110 --> 00:25:57,840

at all you must realize this is what's

820

00:26:01,510 --> 00:25:59,120

going to happen

821

00:26:02,310 --> 00:26:01,520

it you know again people's lives aren't

822

00:26:04,710 --> 00:26:02,320

like that

823

00:26:06,310 --> 00:26:04,720

and these great plans don't always work

824

00:26:08,310 --> 00:26:06,320

out

825

00:26:10,070 --> 00:26:08,320

i want to return for just a minute to

826

00:26:12,870 --> 00:26:10,080

the human factor issue

827

00:26:13,590 --> 00:26:12,880

because i have a kind of long way around

828

00:26:16,310 --> 00:26:13,600

the barn

829

00:26:17,909 --> 00:26:16,320

question indulge me but i recently

830

00:26:21,190 --> 00:26:17,919

interviewed a guy

831

00:26:23,830 --> 00:26:21,200

dr alexander almeida he's uh

832

00:26:26,310 --> 00:26:23,840

quite a prominent professor of

833

00:26:30,149 --> 00:26:26,320

psychiatry and a doctor down in brazil

834

00:26:32,710 --> 00:26:30,159

and he's also kind of a researcher

835

00:26:33,669 --> 00:26:32,720

on the intersection between medicine and

836

00:26:36,070 --> 00:26:33,679

spirituality

837

00:26:36,710 --> 00:26:36,080

and the kind of headline there from him

838

00:26:40,870 --> 00:26:36,720

is

839

00:26:43,990 --> 00:26:40,880

psychology

840

00:26:45,669 --> 00:26:44,000

have kind of grown up to the fact that

841

00:26:48,789 --> 00:26:45,679

spirituality and religion

842

00:26:49,350 --> 00:26:48,799

is just a reality it relates to our

843

00:26:51,590 --> 00:26:49,360

health

844

00:26:53,750 --> 00:26:51,600

in undeniable ways you know you're much

845

00:26:55,990 --> 00:26:53,760

more likely to be

846

00:26:57,830 --> 00:26:56,000

in better health less suicide rate live

847

00:26:59,830 --> 00:26:57,840

longer live happier all those things

848

00:27:01,350 --> 00:26:59,840

without attaching any meaning to that

849

00:27:02,630 --> 00:27:01,360

i'm not a religious person i'm not

850

00:27:05,750 --> 00:27:02,640

religious in any way

851

00:27:08,149 --> 00:27:05,760

but he's saying just follow the facts

852

00:27:09,990 --> 00:27:08,159

and that's where we go and that's where

853

00:27:11,909 --> 00:27:10,000

we have to go as a science and we have

854

00:27:14,149 --> 00:27:11,919

to understand that

855

00:27:16,549 --> 00:27:14,159

one of my frustrations is sometimes when

856

00:27:18,389 --> 00:27:16,559

i look at history as an academic

857

00:27:21,029 --> 00:27:18,399

discipline it looks like something

858

00:27:21,510 --> 00:27:21,039

written by atheists for atheists and

859

00:27:25,430 --> 00:27:21,520

don't

860

00:27:28,870 --> 00:27:25,440

ever go into anything else so

861

00:27:29,269 --> 00:27:28,880

i i love when you address that as you do

862

00:27:31,669 --> 00:27:29,279

when

863

00:27:33,190 --> 00:27:31,679

augustus closes the doors to the temple

864

00:27:36,070 --> 00:27:33,200

of janus

865

00:27:37,190 --> 00:27:36,080

what is he doing there is it just ritual

866

00:27:39,990 --> 00:27:37,200

it certainly

867

00:27:41,430 --> 00:27:40,000

seems self-serving to a certain extent

868

00:27:42,389 --> 00:27:41,440

calling peace you know when they're in

869

00:27:45,269 --> 00:27:42,399

the middle of war

870

00:27:46,710 --> 00:27:45,279

but at the same time it seems to be

871

00:27:49,750 --> 00:27:46,720

interwoven deeply

872

00:27:52,070 --> 00:27:49,760

in a spiritual belief system that he has

873

00:27:54,310 --> 00:27:52,080

and isn't that something we have to

874

00:27:54,950 --> 00:27:54,320

process as a part of this all as well

875

00:27:58,470 --> 00:27:54,960

and his

876
00:27:59,350 --> 00:27:58,480
history maybe have a little bit of

877
00:28:02,789 --> 00:27:59,360
myopia

878
00:28:06,230 --> 00:28:02,799
on the on the spirituality and religion

879
00:28:09,110 --> 00:28:06,240
factor it does because it's

880
00:28:09,830 --> 00:28:09,120
it's harder to quantify and it is not

881
00:28:11,190 --> 00:28:09,840
fashionable

882
00:28:14,070 --> 00:28:11,200
in academic circles you know you're

883
00:28:16,630 --> 00:28:14,080
expected to be sort of generally rather

884
00:28:17,909 --> 00:28:16,640
liberal in your political attitudes and

885
00:28:19,190 --> 00:28:17,919
skeptical of of

886
00:28:21,110 --> 00:28:19,200
religious belief because that's

887
00:28:22,710 --> 00:28:21,120
old-fashioned that's there are plenty of

888
00:28:23,350 --> 00:28:22,720

exceptions to that but that's the sort

889

00:28:25,430 --> 00:28:23,360

of the

890

00:28:27,110 --> 00:28:25,440

the default setting almost for most

891

00:28:29,510 --> 00:28:27,120

academics these days

892

00:28:31,669 --> 00:28:29,520

and it's a big problem because you know

893

00:28:32,870 --> 00:28:31,679

on the one hand even if

894

00:28:34,070 --> 00:28:32,880

you're not a christian or you're not

895

00:28:35,990 --> 00:28:34,080

jewish you don't believe any of these

896

00:28:38,789 --> 00:28:36,000

things if you try and study

897

00:28:40,789 --> 00:28:38,799

english literature history anything

898

00:28:42,870 --> 00:28:40,799

until almost the immediate past

899

00:28:44,789 --> 00:28:42,880

and you don't understand christianity

900

00:28:45,909 --> 00:28:44,799

and how important that can be to

901
00:28:47,430 --> 00:28:45,919
individual you are not going to

902
00:28:48,310 --> 00:28:47,440
understand why people did things you

903
00:28:50,149 --> 00:28:48,320
know you're not going to understand

904
00:28:51,830 --> 00:28:50,159
cromwell or the english civil war

905
00:28:53,510 --> 00:28:51,840
um you're not going to understand the

906
00:28:54,470 --> 00:28:53,520
enlightenment even when it's a reaction

907
00:28:57,350 --> 00:28:54,480
against

908
00:28:58,950 --> 00:28:57,360
aspects of formal religion nevertheless

909
00:29:01,909 --> 00:28:58,960
they're thinking in ways

910
00:29:03,669 --> 00:29:01,919
that are shaped by a moral sense that is

911
00:29:05,510 --> 00:29:03,679
shaped in turn by that

912
00:29:07,269 --> 00:29:05,520
and worse yet in the romans we can just

913
00:29:08,549 --> 00:29:07,279

throw the pagan term out there and then

914

00:29:11,510 --> 00:29:08,559

dismiss it entirely

915

00:29:12,230 --> 00:29:11,520

like that is somehow a lesser rich

916

00:29:15,269 --> 00:29:12,240

spiritual

917

00:29:16,870 --> 00:29:15,279

experience than our you know our

918

00:29:18,230 --> 00:29:16,880

experience well the interesting thing

919

00:29:19,029 --> 00:29:18,240

about the word is of course it means

920

00:29:21,269 --> 00:29:19,039

sort of you know

921

00:29:22,470 --> 00:29:21,279

country bumpkin it's it's rustic it's a

922

00:29:24,230 --> 00:29:22,480

you know the romans were

923

00:29:25,990 --> 00:29:24,240

in in the christian era dismissing

924

00:29:27,029 --> 00:29:26,000

people as just a bunch of hicks who

925

00:29:28,149 --> 00:29:27,039

didn't know anything

926

00:29:30,230 --> 00:29:28,159

and they're old fashioned in their

927

00:29:30,710 --> 00:29:30,240

religion as well so you almost take this

928

00:29:34,710 --> 00:29:30,720

on

929

00:29:38,389 --> 00:29:34,720

very hard

930

00:29:40,149 --> 00:29:38,399

to understand ancient religion because

931

00:29:41,750 --> 00:29:40,159

there aren't scriptural texts in the

932

00:29:43,830 --> 00:29:41,760

same way what we have are physical

933

00:29:44,389 --> 00:29:43,840

remains we know that somebody built this

934

00:29:45,830 --> 00:29:44,399

temple

935

00:29:47,190 --> 00:29:45,840

we know they dedicated this altar

936

00:29:48,870 --> 00:29:47,200

because often there's an inscription

937

00:29:50,870 --> 00:29:48,880

saying this is what we did

938

00:29:52,870 --> 00:29:50,880

and the fact they're spending lots of

939

00:29:53,909 --> 00:29:52,880

money but you also get

940

00:29:55,909 --> 00:29:53,919

you know the equivalent of the sort of

941

00:29:57,750 --> 00:29:55,919

widow's might the poorly carved the

942

00:29:59,750 --> 00:29:57,760

cheap one that somebody

943

00:30:01,269 --> 00:29:59,760

has thought and even the reverse i mean

944

00:30:03,110 --> 00:30:01,279

one of the striking things just across

945

00:30:04,870 --> 00:30:03,120

the the bristol channel for me is is the

946

00:30:06,789 --> 00:30:04,880

city of bath where you've got

947

00:30:08,470 --> 00:30:06,799

the remains of of hot springs that with

948

00:30:11,590 --> 00:30:08,480

the romans developed into a bath

949

00:30:13,350 --> 00:30:11,600

complex from the first century onwards

950

00:30:15,430 --> 00:30:13,360

and you get these to fix i these little

951
00:30:16,870 --> 00:30:15,440
lead tablets where people have inscribed

952
00:30:19,669 --> 00:30:16,880
a curse on it

953
00:30:21,350 --> 00:30:19,679
wrapped it up and thrown it down into

954
00:30:22,630 --> 00:30:21,360
the hot springs to reach the gods of the

955
00:30:24,630 --> 00:30:22,640
underworld and it's often

956
00:30:25,990 --> 00:30:24,640
it's so it's quite sort of banal it's

957
00:30:29,110 --> 00:30:26,000
you know whoever

958
00:30:31,269 --> 00:30:29,120
be he um man or woman boy or girl slave

959
00:30:33,430 --> 00:30:31,279
or free later christian or pagan who

960
00:30:35,190 --> 00:30:33,440
stole my towel if they don't return it

961
00:30:36,870 --> 00:30:35,200
will all these things happen

962
00:30:38,310 --> 00:30:36,880
so but you know this is is clear

963
00:30:39,190 --> 00:30:38,320

evidence where lots of people are doing

964

00:30:41,350 --> 00:30:39,200

this

965

00:30:42,630 --> 00:30:41,360

and some of them are so formulaic you

966

00:30:44,149 --> 00:30:42,640

might wonder well are there

967

00:30:45,830 --> 00:30:44,159

either either of their books that you

968

00:30:47,190 --> 00:30:45,840

copy this is how you curse someone

969

00:30:48,950 --> 00:30:47,200

or other professionals that you can

970

00:30:50,389 --> 00:30:48,960

basically pay some coins to and they'll

971

00:30:52,789 --> 00:30:50,399

write this for you

972

00:30:53,590 --> 00:30:52,799

but you get you know there is clearly

973

00:30:55,990 --> 00:30:53,600

belief

974

00:30:56,710 --> 00:30:56,000

ritual all of this is absolutely

975

00:30:58,230 --> 00:30:56,720

everywhere

976
00:31:00,070 --> 00:30:58,240
in the ancient world it's so many

977
00:31:01,909 --> 00:31:00,080
aspects of of life

978
00:31:03,269 --> 00:31:01,919
in many many different forms many of

979
00:31:05,750 --> 00:31:03,279
which we glimpse

980
00:31:08,310 --> 00:31:05,760
but we don't really understand and

981
00:31:10,710 --> 00:31:08,320
there's a great danger you don't want to

982
00:31:12,149 --> 00:31:10,720
make it if you're a christian assume say

983
00:31:13,750 --> 00:31:12,159
that it's exactly the same as your

984
00:31:15,509 --> 00:31:13,760
emotional experience

985
00:31:17,110 --> 00:31:15,519
if you're an atheist then you tend to

986
00:31:18,389 --> 00:31:17,120
sort of see all religion as a bit weird

987
00:31:19,029 --> 00:31:18,399
and wacky so you're coming from an

988
00:31:21,190 --> 00:31:19,039

outsider

989

00:31:23,029 --> 00:31:21,200

and you just you you either make it very

990

00:31:24,789 --> 00:31:23,039

sort of mechanistic you know it's

991

00:31:27,350 --> 00:31:24,799

i offer you this because i want this in

992

00:31:28,789 --> 00:31:27,360

return and there's an element of that as

993

00:31:30,310 --> 00:31:28,799

there would be with people lighting

994

00:31:32,389 --> 00:31:30,320

candles to saints now in

995

00:31:33,350 --> 00:31:32,399

catholic countries but it isn't just

996

00:31:35,509 --> 00:31:33,360

that

997

00:31:37,110 --> 00:31:35,519

it's perhaps a little little broad to

998

00:31:38,389 --> 00:31:37,120

expand this but there's an element in

999

00:31:40,310 --> 00:31:38,399

all of this

1000

00:31:41,750 --> 00:31:40,320

there is human hope there are things we

1001
00:31:43,590 --> 00:31:41,760
don't know because this is the future

1002
00:31:46,070 --> 00:31:43,600
and it hasn't happened yet

1003
00:31:47,509 --> 00:31:46,080
and we'd like it to happen this way and

1004
00:31:49,830 --> 00:31:47,519
we're trying to make so

1005
00:31:50,870 --> 00:31:49,840
work out how to to get the but there is

1006
00:31:53,029 --> 00:31:50,880
that

1007
00:31:54,789 --> 00:31:53,039
people who are more likely to do what

1008
00:31:55,590 --> 00:31:54,799
they they're doing or to take risks if

1009
00:31:58,310 --> 00:31:55,600
they have some hope

1010
00:32:00,710 --> 00:31:58,320
they will succeed and that's true in so

1011
00:32:02,389 --> 00:32:00,720
many walks of life and it's often

1012
00:32:04,070 --> 00:32:02,399
a formal religion but you again you'll

1013
00:32:06,070 --> 00:32:04,080

find that some of the the atheists are

1014

00:32:08,070 --> 00:32:06,080

remarkably superstitious

1015

00:32:10,310 --> 00:32:08,080

it's it's difficult because it's hard to

1016

00:32:12,470 --> 00:32:10,320

come to someone say like augustus

1017

00:32:13,830 --> 00:32:12,480

who builds all these temples revives all

1018

00:32:15,430 --> 00:32:13,840

these rituals and yes some of it is

1019

00:32:19,269 --> 00:32:15,440

politics but

1020

00:32:20,950 --> 00:32:19,279

deep down what does he actually believe

1021

00:32:22,870 --> 00:32:20,960

you you would tend to assume because we

1022

00:32:23,830 --> 00:32:22,880

have a few people like cicero who are

1023

00:32:25,430 --> 00:32:23,840

quite cynical

1024

00:32:27,110 --> 00:32:25,440

of many aspects and the philosophical

1025

00:32:28,630 --> 00:32:27,120

schools are becoming this sort of oh you

1026
00:32:29,269 --> 00:32:28,640
know that the gods are just this sort of

1027
00:32:31,029 --> 00:32:29,279
vague

1028
00:32:32,310 --> 00:32:31,039
you know personifications of a divine

1029
00:32:33,750 --> 00:32:32,320
thing out there but

1030
00:32:35,669 --> 00:32:33,760
even they are saying well lots of other

1031
00:32:37,990 --> 00:32:35,679
people actually believe this and

1032
00:32:39,830 --> 00:32:38,000
for this to persist it's i mean i was

1033
00:32:40,789 --> 00:32:39,840
just writing something a couple of days

1034
00:32:42,310 --> 00:32:40,799
ago

1035
00:32:43,909 --> 00:32:42,320
this was was for a novel and i was

1036
00:32:45,350 --> 00:32:43,919
writing about some

1037
00:32:47,430 --> 00:32:45,360
christian characters bacon character

1038
00:32:48,630 --> 00:32:47,440

some some jewish ones in the early 2nd

1039

00:32:50,710 --> 00:32:48,640

century a.d

1040

00:32:51,830 --> 00:32:50,720

and trying to understand what those

1041

00:32:54,950 --> 00:32:51,840

faiths might have been

1042

00:32:56,310 --> 00:32:54,960

in a small town then particularly

1043

00:32:58,630 --> 00:32:56,320

from the jewish perspective where you've

1044

00:33:01,830 --> 00:32:58,640

had the great temple destroyed in 70

1045

00:33:05,269 --> 00:33:01,840

animal sacrifices ended that center of

1046

00:33:06,710 --> 00:33:05,279

so much of the has gone and

1047

00:33:07,669 --> 00:33:06,720

if you look archaeologically it was one

1048

00:33:09,350 --> 00:33:07,679

point i was trying to make in the

1049

00:33:11,029 --> 00:33:09,360

historical note to this book

1050

00:33:13,509 --> 00:33:11,039

if you look at somewhere like galilee

1051
00:33:16,149 --> 00:33:13,519
for the second third century's a.d

1052
00:33:17,350 --> 00:33:16,159
there's almost nothing to show that the

1053
00:33:18,950 --> 00:33:17,360
population

1054
00:33:20,870 --> 00:33:18,960
is doing anything that conforms to

1055
00:33:22,149 --> 00:33:20,880
jewish ritual and then

1056
00:33:24,549 --> 00:33:22,159
suddenly in the fourth and fifth

1057
00:33:25,909 --> 00:33:24,559
centuries being it's there again it

1058
00:33:27,909 --> 00:33:25,919
springs up

1059
00:33:29,269 --> 00:33:27,919
now that can't have happened unless

1060
00:33:30,149 --> 00:33:29,279
people have actually remembered all of

1061
00:33:31,509 --> 00:33:30,159
this

1062
00:33:33,750 --> 00:33:31,519
it's just that they haven't done

1063
00:33:33,990 --> 00:33:33,760

anything that archaeologically in terms

1064

00:33:37,269 --> 00:33:34,000

of

1065

00:33:39,909 --> 00:33:37,279

way they're designing houses that

1066

00:33:41,430 --> 00:33:39,919

there's nothing visible but there's so

1067

00:33:43,350 --> 00:33:41,440

much of life that isn't going to be

1068

00:33:45,029 --> 00:33:43,360

visible in our material culture as the

1069

00:33:47,509 --> 00:33:45,039

archaeologist would call it

1070

00:33:49,350 --> 00:33:47,519

and it's so you find lots of these

1071

00:33:50,630 --> 00:33:49,360

things that that persist because clearly

1072

00:33:51,430 --> 00:33:50,640

people are talking about it and you're

1073

00:33:52,549 --> 00:33:51,440

remembering

1074

00:33:54,389 --> 00:33:52,559

what your grandfather or your

1075

00:33:55,750 --> 00:33:54,399

grandmother told you and you might be

1076

00:33:57,669 --> 00:33:55,760

doing all of these things not

1077

00:33:59,590 --> 00:33:57,679

necessarily doing it very publicly

1078

00:34:00,950 --> 00:33:59,600

or making a big show of it but you are

1079

00:34:04,070 --> 00:34:00,960

doing it and you continue

1080

00:34:06,310 --> 00:34:04,080

so it's a great danger and because

1081

00:34:07,590 --> 00:34:06,320

so much of academic study of of all

1082

00:34:09,430 --> 00:34:07,600

disciplines especially in the arts has

1083

00:34:11,349 --> 00:34:09,440

become very theoretical

1084

00:34:13,430 --> 00:34:11,359

and we have this sense of modeling and

1085

00:34:14,790 --> 00:34:13,440

we label everything in all these

1086

00:34:17,750 --> 00:34:14,800

these terms that are there to make us

1087

00:34:20,069 --> 00:34:17,760

sound intelligent but you lose that

1088

00:34:21,669 --> 00:34:20,079

contact with the fact that in the end

1089

00:34:22,710 --> 00:34:21,679

again you're coming back to people to

1090

00:34:24,629 --> 00:34:22,720

families to

1091

00:34:26,149 --> 00:34:24,639

generations living doing their thing and

1092

00:34:28,310 --> 00:34:26,159

living in a world that

1093

00:34:30,629 --> 00:34:28,320

like ours is very uncertain but if

1094

00:34:33,109 --> 00:34:30,639

anything in most of them are much closer

1095

00:34:34,629 --> 00:34:33,119

to the bread i mean a pandemic on this

1096

00:34:35,510 --> 00:34:34,639

scale that we've just had is is

1097

00:34:37,669 --> 00:34:35,520

appalling

1098

00:34:39,430 --> 00:34:37,679

but compared to the fires the plagues

1099

00:34:40,629 --> 00:34:39,440

that would ravage the roman empire or

1100

00:34:41,909 --> 00:34:40,639

the black death in the middle age you

1101

00:34:43,669 --> 00:34:41,919

know these are

1102

00:34:45,430 --> 00:34:43,679

we are very fortunate to be living in

1103

00:34:47,349 --> 00:34:45,440

21st century especially in a western

1104

00:34:49,909 --> 00:34:47,359

country where we have access to

1105

00:34:51,349 --> 00:34:49,919

these scientific medical discoveries to

1106

00:34:53,510 --> 00:34:51,359

lifestyle standards of

1107

00:34:55,349 --> 00:34:53,520

of health that are so many are so much

1108

00:34:56,230 --> 00:34:55,359

higher than they have been in the bulk

1109

00:34:58,950 --> 00:34:56,240

of human history

1110

00:35:00,790 --> 00:34:58,960

i think the the the complexity and the

1111

00:35:03,430 --> 00:35:00,800

multi-layering of your answer

1112

00:35:05,030 --> 00:35:03,440

is the only thing we can do in the face

1113

00:35:05,990 --> 00:35:05,040

of this and i would tie it back in a

1114

00:35:08,310 --> 00:35:06,000

couple of ways

1115

00:35:09,510 --> 00:35:08,320

to what you were talking about earlier

1116

00:35:12,230 --> 00:35:09,520

we as

1117

00:35:13,990 --> 00:35:12,240

modern people in this culture should not

1118

00:35:15,510 --> 00:35:14,000

assume that these romans are any

1119

00:35:16,950 --> 00:35:15,520

different because we know they're not

1120

00:35:18,710 --> 00:35:16,960

different and then the historian like

1121

00:35:19,349 --> 00:35:18,720

you goes and brings forth all this stuff

1122

00:35:21,589 --> 00:35:19,359

and goes

1123

00:35:22,630 --> 00:35:21,599

i knew it they are they are me i see

1124

00:35:24,630 --> 00:35:22,640

them in the mirror

1125

00:35:26,390 --> 00:35:24,640

and i would say the same is true from a

1126

00:35:28,230 --> 00:35:26,400

spiritual perspective you know

1127

00:35:29,990 --> 00:35:28,240

my thing is we are all living rich

1128

00:35:32,230 --> 00:35:30,000

spiritual lives whether you're an

1129

00:35:33,990 --> 00:35:32,240

atheist or whether you're highly

1130

00:35:35,750 --> 00:35:34,000

religious or spiritual

1131

00:35:37,349 --> 00:35:35,760

you still wake up at two o'clock in the

1132

00:35:39,510 --> 00:35:37,359

morning staring at the ceiling

1133

00:35:41,270 --> 00:35:39,520

wondering what will be the fate of your

1134

00:35:41,910 --> 00:35:41,280

son what will be the fate of the ones

1135

00:35:46,069 --> 00:35:41,920

you love

1136

00:35:48,550 --> 00:35:46,079

who've passed on

1137

00:35:50,069 --> 00:35:48,560

and when you hear them whispering and in

1138

00:35:51,430 --> 00:35:50,079

your dreams you wonder if there's

1139

00:35:53,910 --> 00:35:51,440

reality to that

1140

00:35:55,589 --> 00:35:53,920

and then you know my thing on this show

1141

00:35:57,270 --> 00:35:55,599

for a couple hundred shows saying is

1142

00:35:59,430 --> 00:35:57,280

there any reality to that

1143

00:36:00,710 --> 00:35:59,440

well terminal lucidity and near-death

1144

00:36:02,870 --> 00:36:00,720

experience and

1145

00:36:04,390 --> 00:36:02,880

reincarnation research at the university

1146

00:36:06,630 --> 00:36:04,400

of virginia is all

1147

00:36:08,550 --> 00:36:06,640

conclusively pointing in the same way

1148

00:36:09,990 --> 00:36:08,560

there is this extended consciousness

1149

00:36:12,550 --> 00:36:10,000

realm that we all

1150

00:36:14,630 --> 00:36:12,560

do have a sense that's out there so if

1151

00:36:16,230 --> 00:36:14,640

we are somehow in some way we don't

1152

00:36:17,430 --> 00:36:16,240

understand because we don't understand

1153

00:36:19,589 --> 00:36:17,440

it i don't understand it

1154

00:36:20,870 --> 00:36:19,599

but if we are engaged in that extended

1155

00:36:22,310 --> 00:36:20,880

consciousness realm

1156

00:36:25,670 --> 00:36:22,320

then i think it's only reasonable to

1157

00:36:27,270 --> 00:36:25,680

assume that so was julius caesar so was

1158

00:36:30,069 --> 00:36:27,280

miss spacey and so were

1159

00:36:31,270 --> 00:36:30,079

and and that to write that out of the

1160

00:36:34,870 --> 00:36:31,280

history

1161

00:36:36,870 --> 00:36:34,880

seems like a mistake in the same way

1162

00:36:39,589 --> 00:36:36,880

that that you're saying to not look at

1163

00:36:40,470 --> 00:36:39,599

it with also kind of a little bit of a

1164

00:36:43,109 --> 00:36:40,480

suspicious

1165

00:36:43,750 --> 00:36:43,119

eye and say you know but i also see

1166

00:36:45,750 --> 00:36:43,760

other

1167

00:36:47,349 --> 00:36:45,760

motivations that might be involved in

1168

00:36:50,150 --> 00:36:47,359

the same way that i see him

1169

00:36:51,190 --> 00:36:50,160

in the modern culture so are we in sync

1170

00:36:52,470 --> 00:36:51,200

on that

1171

00:36:55,109 --> 00:36:52,480

i think we're certainly similar i mean

1172

00:36:56,870 --> 00:36:55,119

one one nice example i'd give is

1173

00:36:58,550 --> 00:36:56,880

you've had a lot of stuff over the years

1174

00:36:59,910 --> 00:36:58,560

looking at sort of demographics in the

1175

00:37:01,829 --> 00:36:59,920

roman empire and saying well life

1176
00:37:04,230 --> 00:37:01,839
expectancy on average is low because

1177
00:37:05,910 --> 00:37:04,240
an awful infant mortality is appallingly

1178
00:37:07,589 --> 00:37:05,920
high and many women die during

1179
00:37:10,069 --> 00:37:07,599
childbirth many children don't

1180
00:37:11,829 --> 00:37:10,079
last very long and therefore there's

1181
00:37:14,390 --> 00:37:11,839
then been this sort of very

1182
00:37:15,670 --> 00:37:14,400
rational rather cold assumption that

1183
00:37:17,030 --> 00:37:15,680
that means

1184
00:37:20,150 --> 00:37:17,040
the romans or anybody else the ancient

1185
00:37:21,990 --> 00:37:20,160
one didn't really care when a child died

1186
00:37:23,270 --> 00:37:22,000
because well you know they do lots of

1187
00:37:24,230 --> 00:37:23,280
them will have a few more and it'll be

1188
00:37:25,349 --> 00:37:24,240

fine in the long run

1189

00:37:27,510 --> 00:37:25,359

and that's partly because

1190

00:37:29,430 --> 00:37:27,520

archaeologically we don't find so many

1191

00:37:31,349 --> 00:37:29,440

graves of children

1192

00:37:33,430 --> 00:37:31,359

but that's because children's bones are

1193

00:37:35,670 --> 00:37:33,440

desperately fragile especially in

1194

00:37:37,190 --> 00:37:35,680

infants and in many cultures we don't

1195

00:37:38,630 --> 00:37:37,200

find graves at all so we don't know how

1196

00:37:40,310 --> 00:37:38,640

they get disposing of the dead

1197

00:37:42,069 --> 00:37:40,320

it's so you know they're doing things

1198

00:37:44,069 --> 00:37:42,079

that aren't visible archaeologically but

1199

00:37:46,710 --> 00:37:44,079

you've only got to go there's a museum

1200

00:37:48,710 --> 00:37:46,720

at um corbridge on hadrian's wall

1201
00:37:50,630 --> 00:37:48,720
and they have two tombstones in there

1202
00:37:53,750 --> 00:37:50,640
and one of them is to this little girl

1203
00:37:55,430 --> 00:37:53,760
and it's carved on stone but it's like

1204
00:37:57,030 --> 00:37:55,440
a child's picture you know the way

1205
00:37:58,550 --> 00:37:57,040
children will draw and they'll draw the

1206
00:38:00,150 --> 00:37:58,560
fingers and the thumb

1207
00:38:01,430 --> 00:38:00,160
because they know you've got four and

1208
00:38:01,829 --> 00:38:01,440
four fingers and a thumb so they draw

1209
00:38:03,990 --> 00:38:01,839
them

1210
00:38:05,109 --> 00:38:04,000
holding a ball and it's this little girl

1211
00:38:08,150 --> 00:38:05,119
who's three

1212
00:38:09,430 --> 00:38:08,160
years a couple of months a few days and

1213
00:38:11,430 --> 00:38:09,440

the family another family obviously had

1214

00:38:13,270 --> 00:38:11,440

enough money to put this up but

1215

00:38:14,550 --> 00:38:13,280

you can't look at that and tell me these

1216

00:38:16,230 --> 00:38:14,560

people didn't care

1217

00:38:18,550 --> 00:38:16,240

that they're not feeling exactly the

1218

00:38:21,109 --> 00:38:18,560

same emotions that any parent feels when

1219

00:38:24,150 --> 00:38:21,119

they hold one of those tiny things and

1220

00:38:25,510 --> 00:38:24,160

just wonder and then to lose it and yes

1221

00:38:27,430 --> 00:38:25,520

they're in a world where lots of

1222

00:38:29,349 --> 00:38:27,440

terrible things happen you know we're

1223

00:38:30,230 --> 00:38:29,359

we're lucky we are very insulated though

1224

00:38:32,790 --> 00:38:30,240

again

1225

00:38:34,390 --> 00:38:32,800

no some people have have to face

1226

00:38:37,670 --> 00:38:34,400

terrible disease and other

1227

00:38:39,910 --> 00:38:37,680

you know disasters in you know in

1228

00:38:40,950 --> 00:38:39,920

in modern day and in in our countries

1229

00:38:43,190 --> 00:38:40,960

but

1230

00:38:44,069 --> 00:38:43,200

it's just so human you know and it's

1231

00:38:46,069 --> 00:38:44,079

that same

1232

00:38:47,910 --> 00:38:46,079

sense and you can see the hope as well

1233

00:38:49,430 --> 00:38:47,920

that you know this

1234

00:38:50,950 --> 00:38:49,440

their little girl's gone somewhere nice

1235

00:38:53,109 --> 00:38:50,960

you know that anyone is going to think

1236

00:38:56,310 --> 00:38:53,119

in those circumstances the sense of

1237

00:38:58,150 --> 00:38:56,320

this wasn't just flesh and blood that

1238

00:39:00,230 --> 00:38:58,160

didn't function properly and then died

1239

00:39:02,710 --> 00:39:00,240

and oh well let's dispose of it so

1240

00:39:04,150 --> 00:39:02,720

it's it's there and it's it's it's there

1241

00:39:06,310 --> 00:39:04,160

in any period of history but

1242

00:39:07,589 --> 00:39:06,320

it's it's particularly so in the ancient

1243

00:39:09,430 --> 00:39:07,599

world it's just that

1244

00:39:11,750 --> 00:39:09,440

as with so many things you you get

1245

00:39:14,790 --> 00:39:11,760

glimpses and you can't

1246

00:39:17,270 --> 00:39:14,800

but deep down you know anyone today

1247

00:39:19,270 --> 00:39:17,280

um you can judge their actions their

1248

00:39:21,510 --> 00:39:19,280

beliefs on what they do

1249

00:39:22,790 --> 00:39:21,520

what you know publicly but you don't

1250

00:39:24,950 --> 00:39:22,800

know what they've thought

1251

00:39:26,310 --> 00:39:24,960

and you don't so that there's that

1252

00:39:27,829 --> 00:39:26,320

element of mystery but

1253

00:39:29,270 --> 00:39:27,839

it's it's rather like napoleon in that

1254

00:39:31,030 --> 00:39:29,280

sense of not being a religious man but

1255

00:39:32,310 --> 00:39:31,040

having this sense of his own destiny his

1256

00:39:34,390 --> 00:39:32,320

star

1257

00:39:36,069 --> 00:39:34,400

that meant that i'm special i can do

1258

00:39:37,589 --> 00:39:36,079

these things and if i do it i'll succeed

1259

00:39:40,630 --> 00:39:37,599

so that he sometimes takes

1260

00:39:42,630 --> 00:39:40,640

absurd gambles and you know probably

1261

00:39:44,550 --> 00:39:42,640

could have stayed emperor in 1813 if

1262

00:39:46,550 --> 00:39:44,560

he'd been willing to negotiate

1263

00:39:48,069 --> 00:39:46,560

but doesn't because i can win and

1264

00:39:49,510 --> 00:39:48,079

eventually you know the dice just don't

1265

00:39:53,270 --> 00:39:49,520

go his way and he does

1266

00:39:53,990 --> 00:39:53,280

but if you remove that personality again

1267

00:39:55,589 --> 00:39:54,000

and

1268

00:39:57,430 --> 00:39:55,599

that personality that's rooted in a

1269

00:39:59,430 --> 00:39:57,440

sense of

1270

00:40:00,630 --> 00:39:59,440

in his case destiny but of something

1271

00:40:04,150 --> 00:40:00,640

that is more than

1272

00:40:05,910 --> 00:40:04,160

simple calculation then

1273

00:40:07,589 --> 00:40:05,920

none of it makes sense and you can't

1274

00:40:08,710 --> 00:40:07,599

really explain these things in an

1275

00:40:10,309 --> 00:40:08,720

accurate way so

1276

00:40:12,230 --> 00:40:10,319

i think it needs to be there as i say

1277

00:40:13,829 --> 00:40:12,240

it's it's the balance of trying to look

1278

00:40:15,430 --> 00:40:13,839

at all sides but this is

1279

00:40:17,670 --> 00:40:15,440

is an element because we're talking

1280

00:40:19,270 --> 00:40:17,680

about people you've touched on this a

1281

00:40:21,190 --> 00:40:19,280

couple times but let's talk about it

1282

00:40:24,630 --> 00:40:21,200

directly and that is

1283

00:40:27,270 --> 00:40:24,640

sources and i i think you

1284

00:40:29,750 --> 00:40:27,280

bring for us a new kind of understanding

1285

00:40:32,390 --> 00:40:29,760

of the challenge that historians face

1286

00:40:33,829 --> 00:40:32,400

and i like how you do it directly i i

1287

00:40:35,109 --> 00:40:33,839

remember i was reading one of your books

1288

00:40:39,349 --> 00:40:35,119

and you had this

1289

00:40:41,430 --> 00:40:39,359

small just little bit on a geographer

1290

00:40:42,550 --> 00:40:41,440

from crete and i don't even know what

1291

00:40:44,550 --> 00:40:42,560

that means

1292

00:40:46,150 --> 00:40:44,560

in that time period but you're adding

1293

00:40:46,630 --> 00:40:46,160

just this little tidbit because you're

1294

00:40:49,670 --> 00:40:46,640

saying

1295

00:40:50,470 --> 00:40:49,680

gosh darn it i can't i can't fill in all

1296

00:40:52,309 --> 00:40:50,480

these gaps

1297

00:40:54,390 --> 00:40:52,319

and i can't even trust this all the

1298

00:40:54,950 --> 00:40:54,400

sources that i have completely i have to

1299

00:40:57,910 --> 00:40:54,960

be

1300

00:40:59,589 --> 00:40:57,920

always looking for these other angles

1301

00:41:01,829 --> 00:40:59,599

these other sources

1302

00:41:02,710 --> 00:41:01,839

that seems to be such an awesome part of

1303

00:41:05,270 --> 00:41:02,720

your work

1304

00:41:07,030 --> 00:41:05,280

talk to us about the gaps and the

1305

00:41:08,550 --> 00:41:07,040

filling in the gaps and maybe not

1306

00:41:10,550 --> 00:41:08,560

filling in the gaps

1307

00:41:12,309 --> 00:41:10,560

well there's so much really because you

1308

00:41:14,309 --> 00:41:12,319

know that the greeks and the romans

1309

00:41:18,150 --> 00:41:14,319

wrote down a huge amount

1310

00:41:19,109 --> 00:41:18,160

but we have a tiny tiny fraction of one

1311

00:41:20,870 --> 00:41:19,119

percent

1312

00:41:22,230 --> 00:41:20,880

that's preserved in any shape or form

1313

00:41:24,230 --> 00:41:22,240

and most of it is is

1314

00:41:25,990 --> 00:41:24,240

just missing and that's that's of the

1315

00:41:26,710 --> 00:41:26,000

formerly published books as it were but

1316

00:41:28,470 --> 00:41:26,720

again

1317

00:41:30,069 --> 00:41:28,480

formally published means that people

1318

00:41:31,030 --> 00:41:30,079

copied them out because this is the four

1319

00:41:33,510 --> 00:41:31,040

presses so

1320

00:41:35,430 --> 00:41:33,520

you know books were expensive things

1321

00:41:37,030 --> 00:41:35,440

they're also big bulky things to carry

1322

00:41:38,790 --> 00:41:37,040

around

1323

00:41:40,870 --> 00:41:38,800

so we've lost a lot of that but then

1324

00:41:42,230 --> 00:41:40,880

you're dealing with a population of you

1325

00:41:43,670 --> 00:41:42,240

know even the conservative estimates of

1326

00:41:47,510 --> 00:41:43,680

their own empire talking 60

1327

00:41:49,750 --> 00:41:47,520

70 million um over centuries

1328

00:41:50,950 --> 00:41:49,760

we don't know what the level of literacy

1329

00:41:53,190 --> 00:41:50,960

was but there are clearly a lot of

1330

00:41:54,950 --> 00:41:53,200

people who never write anything down

1331

00:41:56,230 --> 00:41:54,960

it's it's quite interesting that it

1332

00:41:57,589 --> 00:41:56,240

tells you something about the society

1333

00:41:59,670 --> 00:41:57,599

the commonest form

1334

00:42:00,829 --> 00:41:59,680

of any writing from the ancient world

1335

00:42:02,390 --> 00:42:00,839

from the roman world is a letter of

1336

00:42:04,150 --> 00:42:02,400

recommendation saying

1337

00:42:06,630 --> 00:42:04,160

do this for my friend give him a job

1338

00:42:09,349 --> 00:42:06,640

give him help or imagine you see me when

1339

00:42:10,630 --> 00:42:09,359

he or she stands before you so it tells

1340

00:42:11,510 --> 00:42:10,640

you about how they're interacting as

1341

00:42:13,349 --> 00:42:11,520

people but

1342

00:42:16,470 --> 00:42:13,359

there is so much that's missing and

1343

00:42:18,069 --> 00:42:16,480

there is so much where you can

1344

00:42:20,309 --> 00:42:18,079

you know you can see with things like

1345

00:42:21,829 --> 00:42:20,319

the the writing tablets from vindalanda

1346

00:42:25,430 --> 00:42:21,839

the papyri from

1347

00:42:26,870 --> 00:42:25,440

egypt from um the middle east um austria

1348

00:42:29,030 --> 00:42:26,880

these

1349

00:42:31,430 --> 00:42:29,040

it looks very impractical but in a lot

1350

00:42:34,150 --> 00:42:31,440

of particularly desert areas they use

1351

00:42:35,910 --> 00:42:34,160

broken pieces of pottery as paper

1352

00:42:38,069 --> 00:42:35,920

because if it's from a big amphor it's

1353

00:42:38,950 --> 00:42:38,079

reasonably flat and it's cheap and what

1354

00:42:39,990 --> 00:42:38,960

else you're going to do with it it's

1355

00:42:40,710 --> 00:42:40,000

only going to throw it out so you can

1356

00:42:42,309 --> 00:42:40,720

write on it

1357

00:42:43,910 --> 00:42:42,319

so particularly for your sort of not so

1358

00:42:45,349 --> 00:42:43,920

good copies but you'll even the army

1359

00:42:48,069 --> 00:42:45,359

will send messages

1360

00:42:49,670 --> 00:42:48,079

on this stuff um and you have these you

1361

00:42:52,069 --> 00:42:49,680

know these incredible fragments there's

1362

00:42:53,670 --> 00:42:52,079

the one from a little outpost on one of

1363

00:42:56,710 --> 00:42:53,680

the roads going down to the red sea

1364

00:42:58,710 --> 00:42:56,720

ports where it talks about an attack by

1365

00:43:00,950 --> 00:42:58,720

60 barbarians on this outpost

1366

00:43:02,470 --> 00:43:00,960

on the caravan that's been sheltering by

1367

00:43:04,710 --> 00:43:02,480

an output this is this

1368

00:43:06,150 --> 00:43:04,720

account is written by an ordinary

1369

00:43:06,790 --> 00:43:06,160

soldier as far as we can tell so he's

1370

00:43:08,470 --> 00:43:06,800

not you know

1371

00:43:10,150 --> 00:43:08,480

even a century in our officer but it

1372

00:43:11,430 --> 00:43:10,160

it's down to that level and it

1373

00:43:13,270 --> 00:43:11,440

sounds straight out of a john ford

1374

00:43:14,630 --> 00:43:13,280

western i mean it's you know they

1375

00:43:16,630 --> 00:43:14,640

there's a woman and two children are

1376

00:43:17,030 --> 00:43:16,640

abducted they find a dead child they're

1377

00:43:19,030 --> 00:43:17,040

tracy

1378

00:43:20,069 --> 00:43:19,040

you could sort of see john wayne they're

1379

00:43:23,270 --> 00:43:20,079

looking you know really

1380

00:43:25,670 --> 00:43:23,280

um rugged and and upset but we'll get

1381

00:43:27,349 --> 00:43:25,680

him back sort of thing and it's

1382

00:43:29,510 --> 00:43:27,359

but it's very and it's pure chance it

1383

00:43:30,950 --> 00:43:29,520

survives and there's a big chunk broken

1384

00:43:32,309 --> 00:43:30,960

out in in the middle of it that so we

1385

00:43:33,829 --> 00:43:32,319

don't get the full story

1386

00:43:35,270 --> 00:43:33,839

and then it's forwarded on to sort of

1387

00:43:36,710 --> 00:43:35,280

all the outposts along this road look

1388

00:43:37,589 --> 00:43:36,720

there's a warning there's trouble out

1389

00:43:39,270 --> 00:43:37,599

there do this

1390

00:43:40,790 --> 00:43:39,280

so you get these glimpses of the

1391

00:43:43,030 --> 00:43:40,800

everyday you get

1392

00:43:44,150 --> 00:43:43,040

the the vindlander writing tablet that

1393

00:43:47,109 --> 00:43:44,160

that is

1394

00:43:49,190 --> 00:43:47,119

um an invitation to a birthday party by

1395

00:43:51,109 --> 00:43:49,200

the wife of one commander

1396

00:43:52,550 --> 00:43:51,119

one garrison to the wife of another

1397

00:43:55,190 --> 00:43:52,560

sophistia lepadina

1398

00:43:57,030 --> 00:43:55,200

and it's it's interesting because it's

1399

00:43:58,150 --> 00:43:57,040

written obviously by a scribe but the

1400

00:43:59,750 --> 00:43:58,160

last line

1401

00:44:01,030 --> 00:43:59,760

is written in different handwriting

1402

00:44:02,230 --> 00:44:01,040

which is probably the woman's themselves

1403

00:44:04,390 --> 00:44:02,240

so it makes it you know

1404

00:44:05,510 --> 00:44:04,400

that's probably the earliest handwriting

1405

00:44:07,349 --> 00:44:05,520

certainly in britain

1406

00:44:09,670 --> 00:44:07,359

perhaps in europe by a woman that would

1407

00:44:11,750 --> 00:44:09,680

possess it's about 8 100.

1408

00:44:12,710 --> 00:44:11,760

but it's so normal you know inviting a

1409

00:44:15,190 --> 00:44:12,720

friend over

1410

00:44:16,870 --> 00:44:15,200

because it's your birthday but what's

1411

00:44:18,630 --> 00:44:16,880

interesting is that from that

1412

00:44:20,150 --> 00:44:18,640

we'd always thought of these places as

1413

00:44:22,630 --> 00:44:20,160

army bases you know this is

1414

00:44:23,990 --> 00:44:22,640

we call them forts fortress is where a

1415

00:44:25,750 --> 00:44:24,000

legion lives a fort is where an

1416

00:44:26,309 --> 00:44:25,760

auxiliary unit about a tenth of the size

1417

00:44:28,230 --> 00:44:26,319

lives

1418

00:44:30,069 --> 00:44:28,240

but fort comes up the idea is you know

1419

00:44:32,470 --> 00:44:30,079

it's very military it's

1420

00:44:35,270 --> 00:44:32,480

it's about walls and towers and defenses

1421

00:44:36,790 --> 00:44:35,280

and a garrison of men ready to fight

1422

00:44:38,309 --> 00:44:36,800

but the writing tablets make it clear

1423

00:44:40,470 --> 00:44:38,319

that the the commanding officers brought

1424

00:44:42,309 --> 00:44:40,480

his wife his children his slaves his

1425

00:44:44,230 --> 00:44:42,319

hunting dogs his horses

1426

00:44:46,790 --> 00:44:44,240

we're finding within the barrett blocks

1427

00:44:47,910 --> 00:44:46,800

there children's and women's shoes and

1428

00:44:49,510 --> 00:44:47,920

things in the

1429

00:44:51,109 --> 00:44:49,520

again it's one of those surprises you

1430

00:44:53,109 --> 00:44:51,119

expect the roman army to be desperately

1431

00:44:55,430 --> 00:44:53,119

clean about everything but the floor

1432

00:44:57,190 --> 00:44:55,440

is actually rush matting and when it

1433

00:44:58,710 --> 00:44:57,200

gets dirty instead of cleaning it out

1434

00:45:00,150 --> 00:44:58,720

and putting new stuff in they just pile

1435

00:45:01,829 --> 00:45:00,160

more on top

1436

00:45:03,270 --> 00:45:01,839

and you know so these and you can tell

1437

00:45:04,870 --> 00:45:03,280

from all the the remains of the

1438

00:45:05,670 --> 00:45:04,880

parasites the insects you know this is

1439

00:45:07,990 --> 00:45:05,680

quite a sort of

1440

00:45:08,710 --> 00:45:08,000

unhealthy environment but this is where

1441

00:45:10,550 --> 00:45:08,720

but

1442

00:45:12,870 --> 00:45:10,560

and there are shoes and things that are

1443

00:45:14,390 --> 00:45:12,880

found in this mat you know big things

1444

00:45:15,910 --> 00:45:14,400

that were clearly covered over and in

1445

00:45:17,349 --> 00:45:15,920

the dim light nobody could see because

1446

00:45:20,230 --> 00:45:17,359

it's still there now

1447

00:45:21,990 --> 00:45:20,240

um you know best part of 18 centuries

1448

00:45:23,829 --> 00:45:22,000

later

1449

00:45:25,270 --> 00:45:23,839

but it's telling us that this isn't a

1450

00:45:27,030 --> 00:45:25,280

fort as we see it it's

1451

00:45:28,309 --> 00:45:27,040

it's an army based like one today it's a

1452

00:45:30,950 --> 00:45:28,319

garrison town

1453

00:45:31,990 --> 00:45:30,960

it's got the families it's got the noisy

1454

00:45:34,550 --> 00:45:32,000

children running around

1455

00:45:35,190 --> 00:45:34,560

and it's got all the shops outside it's

1456

00:45:37,750 --> 00:45:35,200

got the

1457

00:45:38,710 --> 00:45:37,760

you know so it's it's a very different

1458

00:45:41,030 --> 00:45:38,720

thing

1459

00:45:42,470 --> 00:45:41,040

and the hints of all of this were there

1460

00:45:43,990 --> 00:45:42,480

in the sources

1461

00:45:45,430 --> 00:45:44,000

but until things like the vindlander

1462

00:45:47,430 --> 00:45:45,440

tablets and excavations came along

1463

00:45:49,510 --> 00:45:47,440

nobody put the pieces together

1464

00:45:50,870 --> 00:45:49,520

once you do it's obvious that this is

1465

00:45:52,470 --> 00:45:50,880

what we should have expected

1466

00:45:54,870 --> 00:45:52,480

and that it's obvious that these

1467

00:45:56,230 --> 00:45:54,880

relatively aristocratic women are

1468

00:45:58,390 --> 00:45:56,240

trying to have the same sort of social

1469

00:46:00,150 --> 00:45:58,400

life they'd have back in southern gall

1470

00:46:00,550 --> 00:46:00,160

or spain or italy wherever they came

1471

00:46:02,150 --> 00:46:00,560

from

1472

00:46:03,510 --> 00:46:02,160

and they're socially networking with

1473

00:46:05,109 --> 00:46:03,520

their peers and doing and they're

1474

00:46:07,109 --> 00:46:05,119

trading favors you know we have another

1475

00:46:08,390 --> 00:46:07,119

letter from a woman who's asking a favor

1476

00:46:11,349 --> 00:46:08,400

of the commander

1477

00:46:13,109 --> 00:46:11,359

because she's a friend of his wife so

1478

00:46:16,550 --> 00:46:13,119

they're doing all these very

1479

00:46:17,270 --> 00:46:16,560

greco-roman things but on the very very

1480

00:46:19,190 --> 00:46:17,280

edge

1481

00:46:20,790 --> 00:46:19,200

of the roman empire as it was then right

1482

00:46:23,910 --> 00:46:20,800

out in the wilds

1483

00:46:25,670 --> 00:46:23,920

so we have and that's the the

1484

00:46:27,030 --> 00:46:25,680

it's one of the things to me that's so

1485

00:46:28,230 --> 00:46:27,040

fascinating about the ancient world is

1486

00:46:30,230 --> 00:46:28,240

there isn't just

1487

00:46:31,589 --> 00:46:30,240

one type of source you know you have the

1488

00:46:33,589 --> 00:46:31,599

literature you have the writings of the

1489

00:46:34,950 --> 00:46:33,599

ciceros the caesars the plinies the

1490

00:46:36,630 --> 00:46:34,960

poets

1491

00:46:38,230 --> 00:46:36,640

you also have these other texts that

1492

00:46:39,750 --> 00:46:38,240

maybe get you know turn up

1493

00:46:41,589 --> 00:46:39,760

we'd never have heard of silvicio

1494

00:46:42,470 --> 00:46:41,599

lepadina her husband serialis were it

1495

00:46:44,309 --> 00:46:42,480

not for these

1496

00:46:45,910 --> 00:46:44,319

writing times we know nothing about them

1497

00:46:48,390 --> 00:46:45,920

other than what's revealed

1498

00:46:50,069 --> 00:46:48,400

from their stay in in vindalanda but you

1499

00:46:51,670 --> 00:46:50,079

know in surpicile epidino

1500

00:46:53,589 --> 00:46:51,680

case we've also got one of her shoes

1501

00:46:55,670 --> 00:46:53,599

turned out and that's that's

1502

00:46:57,190 --> 00:46:55,680

the thong between the toes breaks so

1503

00:46:59,270 --> 00:46:57,200

rather than repair it she's wealthy

1504

00:46:59,910 --> 00:46:59,280

enough that gets thrown away by some new

1505

00:47:02,309 --> 00:46:59,920

ones

1506

00:47:03,829 --> 00:47:02,319

um but that tells you again about this

1507

00:47:05,670 --> 00:47:03,839

one of the children seems to have had

1508

00:47:07,349 --> 00:47:05,680

some sort of

1509

00:47:09,430 --> 00:47:07,359

perhaps spine defect or some health

1510

00:47:11,670 --> 00:47:09,440

problem because his shoes wear out

1511

00:47:13,030 --> 00:47:11,680

in a strange way on the front side of

1512

00:47:14,390 --> 00:47:13,040

either soul so either

1513

00:47:16,309 --> 00:47:14,400

he's just doing something in the way

1514

00:47:18,230 --> 00:47:16,319

that kids will but you know

1515

00:47:19,349 --> 00:47:18,240

many times you say don't do that yeah

1516

00:47:20,230 --> 00:47:19,359

he's going to stand that way he's going

1517

00:47:21,829 --> 00:47:20,240

to walk that way

1518

00:47:24,069 --> 00:47:21,839

he's riding at his skateboard and that's

1519

00:47:26,950 --> 00:47:24,079

how there's something you know

1520

00:47:27,589 --> 00:47:26,960

there's a story there um in the same way

1521

00:47:31,349 --> 00:47:27,599

that

1522

00:47:32,950 --> 00:47:31,359

been laid out to dry

1523

00:47:34,390 --> 00:47:32,960

and then a dog or a cat has come and

1524

00:47:35,910 --> 00:47:34,400

walked across them and left the paw

1525

00:47:37,430 --> 00:47:35,920

prints and that's still there

1526

00:47:38,630 --> 00:47:37,440

because when it's baked in that's you

1527

00:47:39,349 --> 00:47:38,640

had to stay there and it's been on the

1528

00:47:41,190 --> 00:47:39,359

roof

1529

00:47:42,630 --> 00:47:41,200

all these little human touch we get that

1530

00:47:44,309 --> 00:47:42,640

the archaeology gives us

1531

00:47:45,829 --> 00:47:44,319

very much a sense of the mundane the

1532

00:47:48,470 --> 00:47:45,839

day-to-day

1533

00:47:49,430 --> 00:47:48,480

but it's limited because what you mostly

1534

00:47:51,670 --> 00:47:49,440

find are the rubbish

1535

00:47:53,349 --> 00:47:51,680

the things people threw away you know

1536

00:47:54,710 --> 00:47:53,359

the vindelanda writing tablets so

1537

00:47:56,710 --> 00:47:54,720

precious to us

1538

00:47:58,309 --> 00:47:56,720

are all the letters all the paperwork

1539

00:47:58,870 --> 00:47:58,319

that when somebody was about to move on

1540

00:48:00,470 --> 00:47:58,880

they thought

1541

00:48:01,910 --> 00:48:00,480

i'm not carrying that all the way you

1542

00:48:02,950 --> 00:48:01,920

know hundreds of miles thousand miles

1543

00:48:05,270 --> 00:48:02,960

from another province

1544

00:48:06,150 --> 00:48:05,280

just shove it on the bonfire and because

1545

00:48:07,990 --> 00:48:06,160

they're wood

1546

00:48:09,829 --> 00:48:08,000

as the fire heated up it's such thin

1547

00:48:11,910 --> 00:48:09,839

wood it's been lifted off

1548

00:48:13,750 --> 00:48:11,920

and landed somewhere else and then got

1549

00:48:15,430 --> 00:48:13,760

buried and preserved or

1550

00:48:17,349 --> 00:48:15,440

there's one they found a couple of years

1551
00:48:18,150 --> 00:48:17,359
ago or a set of tablets that were in a

1552
00:48:19,670 --> 00:48:18,160
line

1553
00:48:21,349 --> 00:48:19,680
and the thinking is that maybe somebody

1554
00:48:23,510 --> 00:48:21,359
was carrying a basket or a bucket

1555
00:48:24,870 --> 00:48:23,520
to the fire with a hole in it and they

1556
00:48:26,309 --> 00:48:24,880
just dropped out

1557
00:48:28,150 --> 00:48:26,319
and then they're demolishing the fort

1558
00:48:29,109 --> 00:48:28,160
around them it's buried within days so

1559
00:48:32,470 --> 00:48:29,119
it's preserved

1560
00:48:33,990 --> 00:48:32,480
it's so you have the archaeology you

1561
00:48:36,230 --> 00:48:34,000
have these inscriptions people

1562
00:48:38,710 --> 00:48:36,240
chose to set up all of this it's all

1563
00:48:40,470 --> 00:48:38,720

telling you about the same world

1564

00:48:41,750 --> 00:48:40,480

and academics being academics have a

1565

00:48:43,030 --> 00:48:41,760

dreadful tendency

1566

00:48:44,069 --> 00:48:43,040

to separate off into their little

1567

00:48:45,670 --> 00:48:44,079

disciplines and you know i'm an

1568

00:48:46,790 --> 00:48:45,680

epigrapher i only look at inscriptions

1569

00:48:48,390 --> 00:48:46,800

i'm an archaeologist

1570

00:48:50,150 --> 00:48:48,400

literary texts don't matter i'm a

1571

00:48:51,910 --> 00:48:50,160

historian the text of what's matter the

1572

00:48:53,670 --> 00:48:51,920

archaeology doesn't count

1573

00:48:55,510 --> 00:48:53,680

let's let's pick up on that because

1574

00:48:56,309 --> 00:48:55,520

because that is one that is one of my

1575

00:48:59,589 --> 00:48:56,319

frustrations

1576
00:49:02,230 --> 00:48:59,599
again coming in to this from the outside

1577
00:49:03,829 --> 00:49:02,240
being kind of a science and a tech guy

1578
00:49:05,829 --> 00:49:03,839
and going into your world

1579
00:49:07,430 --> 00:49:05,839
and like i got very interested in

1580
00:49:09,750 --> 00:49:07,440
josephus and i still

1581
00:49:11,990 --> 00:49:09,760
am very interested in josephus but i'm

1582
00:49:14,309 --> 00:49:12,000
also interested in the parapolitical

1583
00:49:16,470 --> 00:49:14,319
and i read the jewish war and i read

1584
00:49:19,270 --> 00:49:16,480
okay this is propaganda literature

1585
00:49:19,750 --> 00:49:19,280
we shouldn't trust anything that he says

1586
00:49:22,790 --> 00:49:19,760
really

1587
00:49:23,829 --> 00:49:22,800
we he has one agenda and then i look at

1588
00:49:24,950 --> 00:49:23,839

the historians

1589

00:49:26,549 --> 00:49:24,960

and they're using this source and

1590

00:49:26,950 --> 00:49:26,559

they're there it's the old analogy of

1591

00:49:30,069 --> 00:49:26,960

you know

1592

00:49:31,670 --> 00:49:30,079

i lost my keys in the parking lot but

1593

00:49:33,030 --> 00:49:31,680

i'm going to look over here under the

1594

00:49:34,870 --> 00:49:33,040

the street light because the light is

1595

00:49:35,670 --> 00:49:34,880

better it's like you're not going to

1596

00:49:37,670 --> 00:49:35,680

find it

1597

00:49:39,910 --> 00:49:37,680

there this is one of my favorite and

1598

00:49:41,030 --> 00:49:39,920

this is a highly regarded highly

1599

00:49:44,870 --> 00:49:41,040

respected

1600

00:49:48,710 --> 00:49:44,880

josephus expert and historian who writes

1601
00:49:52,549 --> 00:49:48,720
claims to quote unquote want to

1602
00:49:55,829 --> 00:49:52,559
make a broadly post-colonial perspective

1603
00:49:59,270 --> 00:49:55,839
on hybrid identities of insiderness

1604
00:50:01,430 --> 00:49:59,280
outsiderness when revisiting josephus

1605
00:50:02,390 --> 00:50:01,440
and i'm like okay but don't you have to

1606
00:50:04,710 --> 00:50:02,400
start with

1607
00:50:06,549 --> 00:50:04,720
what was his motivation what was his

1608
00:50:08,470 --> 00:50:06,559
agenda what is he telling us and how

1609
00:50:10,470 --> 00:50:08,480
does that conform with

1610
00:50:11,670 --> 00:50:10,480
what we know about how the history plays

1611
00:50:14,549 --> 00:50:11,680
out

1612
00:50:15,990 --> 00:50:14,559
exactly i mean it's when i was doing my

1613
00:50:17,670 --> 00:50:16,000

doctorate they were trans

1614

00:50:19,349 --> 00:50:17,680

only a section but some of the the

1615

00:50:20,309 --> 00:50:19,359

faculty was trying to put all this

1616

00:50:22,790 --> 00:50:20,319

postmodern

1617

00:50:23,910 --> 00:50:22,800

narratological thought on to us that was

1618

00:50:25,190 --> 00:50:23,920

was clearly nonsense

1619

00:50:27,190 --> 00:50:25,200

you know and it was this assumption that

1620

00:50:29,030 --> 00:50:27,200

there is no reality therefore

1621

00:50:30,230 --> 00:50:29,040

all the treaties are stories that's all

1622

00:50:31,750 --> 00:50:30,240

they are

1623

00:50:33,270 --> 00:50:31,760

i never quite understood how someone

1624

00:50:35,109 --> 00:50:33,280

felt that they would then there was a

1625

00:50:37,190 --> 00:50:35,119

good reason for anybody to pay them

1626

00:50:38,630 --> 00:50:37,200

to do this if they were saying it's all

1627

00:50:40,230 --> 00:50:38,640

nonsense but i'm going to tell you some

1628

00:50:41,030 --> 00:50:40,240

stories about it my reality is as good

1629

00:50:42,790 --> 00:50:41,040

as yours

1630

00:50:44,230 --> 00:50:42,800

you know it is nonsense and the thing

1631

00:50:45,670 --> 00:50:44,240

with josephus is

1632

00:50:48,390 --> 00:50:45,680

you know you can get the extreme cases

1633

00:50:50,950 --> 00:50:48,400

if you go to a site that is

1634

00:50:51,430 --> 00:50:50,960

i think it is gamala up on the golan

1635

00:50:53,750 --> 00:50:51,440

heights

1636

00:50:55,430 --> 00:50:53,760

storm by the romans in 67 josephus

1637

00:50:56,950 --> 00:50:55,440

describes the siege

1638

00:50:58,309 --> 00:50:56,960

the archaeologists in the local

1639

00:50:59,510 --> 00:50:58,319

archaeological unit took this very

1640

00:51:01,670 --> 00:50:59,520

seriously because they have bronze

1641

00:51:03,109 --> 00:51:01,680

plaques with quotes from josephus as you

1642

00:51:04,390 --> 00:51:03,119

go through the breach and all

1643

00:51:06,630 --> 00:51:04,400

but nevertheless it's clearly somewhere

1644

00:51:07,990 --> 00:51:06,640

that was besieged and stormed by the

1645

00:51:11,270 --> 00:51:08,000

romans and it fits well

1646

00:51:12,790 --> 00:51:11,280

enough um but it also fits in with

1647

00:51:14,950 --> 00:51:12,800

some of the exaggeration some of the

1648

00:51:16,390 --> 00:51:14,960

confusion and the you know we all get

1649

00:51:17,589 --> 00:51:16,400

things wrong we all have those moments

1650

00:51:18,870 --> 00:51:17,599

where we say the wrong word

1651
00:51:19,990 --> 00:51:18,880
and two thousand years later you're

1652
00:51:21,589 --> 00:51:20,000
looking and thinking oh no he must have

1653
00:51:22,549 --> 00:51:21,599
met something very significant by that

1654
00:51:25,670 --> 00:51:22,559
but

1655
00:51:26,549 --> 00:51:25,680
it's unfortunate that in the fashion in

1656
00:51:28,870 --> 00:51:26,559
modern

1657
00:51:31,349 --> 00:51:28,880
academic study of of so many disciplines

1658
00:51:31,829 --> 00:51:31,359
has become this very theoretical base

1659
00:51:33,829 --> 00:51:31,839
that

1660
00:51:34,950 --> 00:51:33,839
almost if you start spouting all these

1661
00:51:35,829 --> 00:51:34,960
words and saying you're going to do this

1662
00:51:38,390 --> 00:51:35,839
post-colonial

1663
00:51:39,030 --> 00:51:38,400

analysis it justifies what you're going

1664

00:51:41,349 --> 00:51:39,040

to do

1665

00:51:42,950 --> 00:51:41,359

regard rather than the actual content

1666

00:51:44,549 --> 00:51:42,960

with many of these these particular

1667

00:51:46,390 --> 00:51:44,559

approaches i don't particularly have

1668

00:51:48,150 --> 00:51:46,400

that much sympathy with them but

1669

00:51:49,589 --> 00:51:48,160

you can be a good historian or a good

1670

00:51:51,109 --> 00:51:49,599

archaeologist and

1671

00:51:53,990 --> 00:51:51,119

work with that approach as long as you

1672

00:51:55,589 --> 00:51:54,000

treat the evidence sensibly rationally

1673

00:51:57,190 --> 00:51:55,599

and you do everything else like a good

1674

00:51:58,150 --> 00:51:57,200

historian archaeologist or whatever it

1675

00:51:59,510 --> 00:51:58,160

might be and it

1676
00:52:01,670 --> 00:51:59,520
it does come back to this i mean you

1677
00:52:03,990 --> 00:52:01,680
have the basic problem if you look at

1678
00:52:05,910 --> 00:52:04,000
josephus narrative of the jewish

1679
00:52:07,030 --> 00:52:05,920
war say let alone the antiquities and

1680
00:52:08,309 --> 00:52:07,040
say well

1681
00:52:10,309 --> 00:52:08,319
i don't believe this because clearly you

1682
00:52:10,790 --> 00:52:10,319
know this is the guy who's telling you

1683
00:52:13,829 --> 00:52:10,800
that

1684
00:52:16,390 --> 00:52:13,839
um he's you know with his 40s he's got

1685
00:52:18,549 --> 00:52:16,400
he's about to be you know with his the

1686
00:52:19,589 --> 00:52:18,559
last few companions let's all draw lots

1687
00:52:21,190 --> 00:52:19,599
to see who's sort of

1688
00:52:22,710 --> 00:52:21,200

who's the last one to kill everybody

1689

00:52:23,829 --> 00:52:22,720

else you know this sort of thing and

1690

00:52:25,589 --> 00:52:23,839

you know you're looking and thinking oh

1691

00:52:26,950 --> 00:52:25,599

and it was just luck and divine choice

1692

00:52:27,670 --> 00:52:26,960

that made that i'm the one who survived

1693

00:52:29,270 --> 00:52:27,680

you think

1694

00:52:30,950 --> 00:52:29,280

these poor blokes have had a fast one

1695

00:52:32,710 --> 00:52:30,960

pulled on them by him

1696

00:52:34,630 --> 00:52:32,720

which again is so that there's an

1697

00:52:35,829 --> 00:52:34,640

element where you know because in his

1698

00:52:37,190 --> 00:52:35,839

life for instance you know he's

1699

00:52:38,950 --> 00:52:37,200

defending himself against all the

1700

00:52:39,670 --> 00:52:38,960

accusations made against him by other

1701
00:52:41,190 --> 00:52:39,680
people so

1702
00:52:42,790 --> 00:52:41,200
there's an element where some of what

1703
00:52:44,950 --> 00:52:42,800
went on is common knowledge

1704
00:52:46,549 --> 00:52:44,960
at least other people's versions of it

1705
00:52:48,790 --> 00:52:46,559
and yes

1706
00:52:49,589 --> 00:52:48,800
you get any people describing the same

1707
00:52:51,030 --> 00:52:49,599
event

1708
00:52:52,710 --> 00:52:51,040
and they're not going to describe it

1709
00:52:53,990 --> 00:52:52,720
identically but you know i mean the

1710
00:52:56,390 --> 00:52:54,000
thing i always look at in

1711
00:52:57,750 --> 00:52:56,400
josephus from a parapolitical standpoint

1712
00:53:00,309 --> 00:52:57,760
which jumps out at me

1713
00:53:01,589 --> 00:53:00,319

is he comes out and he says and this is

1714

00:53:03,510 --> 00:53:01,599

like every

1715

00:53:04,950 --> 00:53:03,520

certainly every bbc documentary i've

1716

00:53:05,510 --> 00:53:04,960

watched but every history channel i've

1717

00:53:07,510 --> 00:53:05,520

watched

1718

00:53:09,030 --> 00:53:07,520

in addition to what i've read kind of

1719

00:53:11,589 --> 00:53:09,040

totally skips over this part

1720

00:53:12,309 --> 00:53:11,599

he comes out and he says hey i figured

1721

00:53:14,710 --> 00:53:12,319

this out

1722

00:53:16,549 --> 00:53:14,720

because i am like super jew you know i

1723

00:53:17,790 --> 00:53:16,559

was down at the temple when i was 14 i

1724

00:53:21,030 --> 00:53:17,800

knew all this stuff

1725

00:53:22,549 --> 00:53:21,040

vespasian is the messiah i've read the

1726

00:53:25,990 --> 00:53:22,559

whole thing i figured it all out

1727

00:53:28,470 --> 00:53:26,000

this i mean this is so clearly

1728

00:53:30,230 --> 00:53:28,480

serving this agenda that the romans have

1729

00:53:32,470 --> 00:53:30,240

that you know if i can defeat you with

1730

00:53:34,470 --> 00:53:32,480

uh sticks and arrows great but if i can

1731

00:53:35,910 --> 00:53:34,480

co-op your belief system and that

1732

00:53:37,750 --> 00:53:35,920

reduces your

1733

00:53:39,510 --> 00:53:37,760

will to fight all the better i mean

1734

00:53:40,790 --> 00:53:39,520

there's no other way to read that i

1735

00:53:42,069 --> 00:53:40,800

don't think

1736

00:53:44,069 --> 00:53:42,079

and it's clearly and the fact that he

1737

00:53:44,710 --> 00:53:44,079

wrote an aramaic version as well is to

1738

00:53:46,230 --> 00:53:44,720

tell

1739

00:53:47,829 --> 00:53:46,240

jewish people in babylon look you don't

1740

00:53:49,750 --> 00:53:47,839

want to do this you know it's this

1741

00:53:52,309 --> 00:53:49,760

and it's you're sitting there in rome

1742

00:53:54,549 --> 00:53:52,319

you've been made a roman citizen

1743

00:53:57,190 --> 00:53:54,559

with 200 with 200 of your friends and

1744

00:54:01,030 --> 00:53:57,200

the villa of of vespasian yes

1745

00:54:01,670 --> 00:54:01,040

um so the the problem of course is is

1746

00:54:03,430 --> 00:54:01,680

that

1747

00:54:04,950 --> 00:54:03,440

if we just decide we can't believe

1748

00:54:05,910 --> 00:54:04,960

anything he says then we have very

1749

00:54:07,750 --> 00:54:05,920

little

1750

00:54:10,309 --> 00:54:07,760

and you know there are some things you

1751

00:54:11,990 --> 00:54:10,319

can verify the details of

1752

00:54:13,670 --> 00:54:12,000

particularly you know some of the stuff

1753

00:54:15,510 --> 00:54:13,680

about the roman army units involved

1754

00:54:16,790 --> 00:54:15,520

names of commanders we start to identify

1755

00:54:17,510 --> 00:54:16,800

so these people are around but he's

1756

00:54:19,109 --> 00:54:17,520

giving you

1757

00:54:20,710 --> 00:54:19,119

it's it's the same basic problem if you

1758

00:54:22,230 --> 00:54:20,720

look at julius caesar's account of his

1759

00:54:25,750 --> 00:54:22,240

conquest of gaul

1760

00:54:27,670 --> 00:54:25,760

you know think how patton anybody else

1761

00:54:29,349 --> 00:54:27,680

would have loved to be judged by history

1762

00:54:31,109 --> 00:54:29,359

purely by their own version of what they

1763

00:54:32,870 --> 00:54:31,119

did um

1764

00:54:34,390 --> 00:54:32,880

you know napoleon was trying to do this

1765

00:54:35,670 --> 00:54:34,400

on san helina after

1766

00:54:37,349 --> 00:54:35,680

the owner yeah i didn't really lose

1767

00:54:38,950 --> 00:54:37,359

waterloo it was everybody else's fault

1768

00:54:40,390 --> 00:54:38,960

and you know and i'd i'd really beaten

1769

00:54:41,990 --> 00:54:40,400

the british anyway when those prussians

1770

00:54:43,670 --> 00:54:42,000

just turned up and nobody knew that was

1771

00:54:47,510 --> 00:54:43,680

going to happen you know i could never

1772

00:54:50,789 --> 00:54:47,520

um but again with all of these things

1773

00:54:52,630 --> 00:54:50,799

there's a lot they have just most of the

1774

00:54:54,390 --> 00:54:52,640

best propaganda and most of the best

1775

00:54:56,549 --> 00:54:54,400

lies starts with a sort of

1776

00:54:58,309 --> 00:54:56,559

kernel of truth if you keep the big

1777

00:54:58,789 --> 00:54:58,319

things then you can slip more and more

1778

00:55:01,829 --> 00:54:58,799

in

1779

00:55:04,870 --> 00:55:01,839

from the start then

1780

00:55:06,950 --> 00:55:04,880

no one's going to read it so again i've

1781

00:55:09,190 --> 00:55:06,960

i confess i've used josephus a lot

1782

00:55:11,190 --> 00:55:09,200

because as a source for the roman army

1783

00:55:12,789 --> 00:55:11,200

no one else describes the army of that

1784

00:55:14,150 --> 00:55:12,799

period actually doing what army's

1785

00:55:16,390 --> 00:55:14,160

supposed to do and fighting

1786

00:55:17,750 --> 00:55:16,400

compared to josephus and we don't have

1787

00:55:19,990 --> 00:55:17,760

anyone else

1788

00:55:22,069 --> 00:55:20,000

talking about what it's like to face the

1789

00:55:22,470 --> 00:55:22,079

romans so when he talks about you know

1790

00:55:27,109 --> 00:55:22,480

the

1791

00:55:28,549 --> 00:55:27,119

was so clever i got my men to cover

1792

00:55:29,910 --> 00:55:28,559

their ears so we were all right we

1793

00:55:32,950 --> 00:55:29,920

didn't worry but it's

1794

00:55:34,230 --> 00:55:32,960

it's giving you a sense of what it might

1795

00:55:36,789 --> 00:55:34,240

have been like that you

1796

00:55:38,470 --> 00:55:36,799

you don't otherwise get so it's useful

1797

00:55:39,990 --> 00:55:38,480

and it's useful for lots of the

1798

00:55:42,789 --> 00:55:40,000

often with these people the things they

1799

00:55:45,190 --> 00:55:42,799

say almost as an aside

1800

00:55:45,990 --> 00:55:45,200

it's easier to rely upon more but you

1801
00:55:49,109 --> 00:55:46,000
need

1802
00:55:49,990 --> 00:55:49,119
come from right from the first you've

1803
00:55:51,510 --> 00:55:50,000
got to

1804
00:55:53,109 --> 00:55:51,520
have worked out you know what's the

1805
00:55:54,630 --> 00:55:53,119
agenda what are they doing what are they

1806
00:55:55,589 --> 00:55:54,640
trying to do and therefore how does that

1807
00:55:56,950 --> 00:55:55,599
affect how i treat

1808
00:55:58,789 --> 00:55:56,960
all of this and that's you know that's

1809
00:56:01,270 --> 00:55:58,799
sort of basic stuff you should be doing

1810
00:56:03,670 --> 00:56:01,280
the problem is

1811
00:56:06,150 --> 00:56:03,680
again if in a dis academic discipline if

1812
00:56:08,230 --> 00:56:06,160
this becomes merely a text

1813
00:56:10,069 --> 00:56:08,240

then none of that matters reality

1814

00:56:11,670 --> 00:56:10,079

doesn't matter um you can't get back to

1815

00:56:12,630 --> 00:56:11,680

reality anyway so don't worry about it

1816

00:56:14,470 --> 00:56:12,640

but

1817

00:56:16,230 --> 00:56:14,480

you know it's striking with josephus on

1818

00:56:18,390 --> 00:56:16,240

the whole

1819

00:56:20,470 --> 00:56:18,400

his accounts the scriptures of buildings

1820

00:56:21,750 --> 00:56:20,480

tie up very well with the archaeology

1821

00:56:24,630 --> 00:56:21,760

when we have it

1822

00:56:26,230 --> 00:56:24,640

um there are some peculiarities i mean

1823

00:56:28,630 --> 00:56:26,240

there's the idea when he talks about

1824

00:56:30,309 --> 00:56:28,640

some of these uh valleys and chasms that

1825

00:56:32,950 --> 00:56:30,319

are so deep you can't see the bottom

1826

00:56:34,390 --> 00:56:32,960

she does a couple of times and i quite

1827

00:56:35,670 --> 00:56:34,400

like the one i did the idea because i

1828

00:56:37,030 --> 00:56:35,680

wear glasses that maybe he's just

1829

00:56:39,109 --> 00:56:37,040

short-sighted and he can't but

1830

00:56:40,230 --> 00:56:39,119

i suspect it is simply exaggeration or

1831

00:56:40,950 --> 00:56:40,240

in the same way you have all this stuff

1832

00:56:42,150 --> 00:56:40,960

this is

1833

00:56:43,910 --> 00:56:42,160

going to be about the greatest war in

1834

00:56:45,349 --> 00:56:43,920

history which is what thucydides has

1835

00:56:48,069 --> 00:56:45,359

said everybody else has said

1836

00:56:50,630 --> 00:56:48,079

it's fairly standard in ancient history

1837

00:56:54,150 --> 00:56:52,069

with all of these things you'd love to

1838

00:56:54,870 --> 00:56:54,160

have more you'd love to have someone you

1839

00:56:57,910 --> 00:56:54,880

could set

1840

00:56:59,349 --> 00:56:57,920

against this you'd even like the

1841

00:57:01,349 --> 00:56:59,359

official roman version you know the

1842

00:57:02,150 --> 00:57:01,359

commentaries of titus and vespasian that

1843

00:57:05,430 --> 00:57:02,160

he says he

1844

00:57:07,589 --> 00:57:05,440

he used what did they actually say

1845

00:57:09,030 --> 00:57:07,599

and what's that it's rather like i mean

1846

00:57:09,430 --> 00:57:09,040

one of the most frustrating things of

1847

00:57:11,030 --> 00:57:09,440

all

1848

00:57:12,870 --> 00:57:11,040

is if you go to rome you can see

1849

00:57:14,309 --> 00:57:12,880

trajan's column there in the middle of

1850

00:57:16,069 --> 00:57:14,319

trajan's forum and it's got

1851
00:57:17,750 --> 00:57:16,079
hundreds and hundreds of scenes with

1852
00:57:19,910 --> 00:57:17,760
thousands of figures very

1853
00:57:21,829 --> 00:57:19,920
intricately carved of roman soldiers

1854
00:57:25,270 --> 00:57:21,839
fighting of bridges of

1855
00:57:27,030 --> 00:57:25,280
um forts of dacians they're fighting

1856
00:57:30,069 --> 00:57:27,040
but we don't know the stories of that

1857
00:57:31,589 --> 00:57:30,079
war and clearly this is telling a story

1858
00:57:33,589 --> 00:57:31,599
and there are bits where you're probably

1859
00:57:34,230 --> 00:57:33,599
supposed to recognize where this is who

1860
00:57:36,230 --> 00:57:34,240
this is

1861
00:57:38,470 --> 00:57:36,240
what's going on um you know the bayer

1862
00:57:38,870 --> 00:57:38,480
tapestry is is famous over here because

1863
00:57:40,710 --> 00:57:38,880

it's

1864

00:57:42,069 --> 00:57:40,720

1066 in the norman conquest it was

1865

00:57:44,390 --> 00:57:42,079

something we all did in school

1866

00:57:46,230 --> 00:57:44,400

in my day though not now but it's got

1867

00:57:49,109 --> 00:57:46,240

these nice bits of latin capture

1868

00:57:51,030 --> 00:57:49,119

captions embroidered into it and we know

1869

00:57:52,470 --> 00:57:51,040

more about the story this is like

1870

00:57:54,630 --> 00:57:52,480

not having the captions and not having

1871

00:57:55,510 --> 00:57:54,640

the story at all it's like watching a

1872

00:57:57,270 --> 00:57:55,520

foreign film

1873

00:57:58,870 --> 00:57:57,280

and you know there's some cultural

1874

00:58:02,710 --> 00:57:58,880

references that exactly

1875

00:58:05,430 --> 00:58:02,720

yes um or something silent

1876
00:58:07,349 --> 00:58:05,440
you know you don't get what's good so

1877
00:58:08,870 --> 00:58:07,359
it's it's

1878
00:58:10,789 --> 00:58:08,880
that's the that's the big problem and

1879
00:58:11,109 --> 00:58:10,799
it's there in all of anxious because you

1880
00:58:14,230 --> 00:58:11,119
so

1881
00:58:17,109 --> 00:58:14,240
rarely get more than one side

1882
00:58:18,630 --> 00:58:17,119
for the same event and um you know one

1883
00:58:20,549 --> 00:58:18,640
of the main points i tried to make in

1884
00:58:22,230 --> 00:58:20,559
the book on philip and alexander is that

1885
00:58:23,670 --> 00:58:22,240
we talk a lot about alexander the great

1886
00:58:25,270 --> 00:58:23,680
and there's been this great

1887
00:58:26,630 --> 00:58:25,280
um you know for a long time this this

1888
00:58:28,390 --> 00:58:26,640

scholarly view that there was this sort

1889

00:58:29,910 --> 00:58:28,400

of official version and then what they

1890

00:58:31,589 --> 00:58:29,920

call the vulgate the more critical

1891

00:58:32,230 --> 00:58:31,599

version of alexander they all go back to

1892

00:58:35,109 --> 00:58:32,240

these are

1893

00:58:35,589 --> 00:58:35,119

you know a few basic sources but

1894

00:58:39,750 --> 00:58:35,599

actually

1895

00:58:41,829 --> 00:58:39,760

all that we have was written down

1896

00:58:43,589 --> 00:58:41,839

three four hundred years later after

1897

00:58:45,589 --> 00:58:43,599

alexander's death

1898

00:58:47,670 --> 00:58:45,599

and we're just assuming that this is

1899

00:58:50,150 --> 00:58:47,680

accurate and we're assuming that they've

1900

00:58:50,950 --> 00:58:50,160

used the earlier sources um you know you

1901

00:58:53,109 --> 00:58:50,960

don't have

1902

00:58:55,190 --> 00:58:53,119

in the same way you can look at first

1903

00:58:57,190 --> 00:58:55,200

century bc and you have something

1904

00:58:58,549 --> 00:58:57,200

in caesar's own words you have lots in

1905

00:59:00,390 --> 00:58:58,559

cicero's own words

1906

00:59:01,670 --> 00:59:00,400

you get a sense you know from cicero you

1907

00:59:03,349 --> 00:59:01,680

can tell

1908

00:59:04,630 --> 00:59:03,359

what at least he thought was funny some

1909

00:59:06,150 --> 00:59:04,640

of the jokes that were circulating at

1910

00:59:06,870 --> 00:59:06,160

the time the jokes he felt he could make

1911

00:59:09,190 --> 00:59:06,880

to a

1912

00:59:11,030 --> 00:59:09,200

to the the court but also to the

1913

00:59:11,910 --> 00:59:11,040

bystanders the people hanging around in

1914

00:59:15,910 --> 00:59:11,920

the forum

1915

00:59:18,390 --> 00:59:15,920

watching the trial when it's going on

1916

00:59:19,030 --> 00:59:18,400

that makes them again much more human it

1917

00:59:20,630 --> 00:59:19,040

gives them more

1918

00:59:22,789 --> 00:59:20,640

more of a sense of their personalities

1919

00:59:26,309 --> 00:59:22,799

than we can ever really get

1920

00:59:27,910 --> 00:59:26,319

for um philip and alexander so

1921

00:59:29,510 --> 00:59:27,920

there are these problems and depending

1922

00:59:31,589 --> 00:59:29,520

on the topic you look at in the subject

1923

00:59:35,430 --> 00:59:31,599

you look at that the sources will vary

1924

00:59:36,470 --> 00:59:35,440

you know one of the um paradoxes really

1925

00:59:38,069 --> 00:59:36,480

is that if you look at the second

1926

00:59:39,829 --> 00:59:38,079

century a.d

1927

00:59:41,510 --> 00:59:39,839

which is the height of the roman empire

1928

00:59:42,150 --> 00:59:41,520

you've got famous emperors like trajan

1929

00:59:45,109 --> 00:59:42,160

hadrian

1930

00:59:47,190 --> 00:59:45,119

marcus aurelius you know you have marcus

1931

00:59:48,950 --> 00:59:47,200

aurelius meditations that

1932

00:59:50,710 --> 00:59:48,960

is a remarkable document because when

1933

00:59:52,230 --> 00:59:50,720

you you know most philosophers

1934

00:59:54,069 --> 00:59:52,240

come out with great ideas but they don't

1935

00:59:54,870 --> 00:59:54,079

have to put them into event this fellow

1936

00:59:57,190 --> 00:59:54,880

is in charge of

1937

00:59:58,789 --> 00:59:57,200

large part of the world and when he's

1938

01:00:00,950 --> 00:59:58,799

talking about how difficult it is to get

1939

01:00:03,109 --> 01:00:00,960

up on a cold morning out of a warm bed

1940

01:00:04,230 --> 01:00:03,119

you know a you immediately recognize

1941

01:00:07,109 --> 01:00:04,240

that

1942

01:00:08,390 --> 01:00:07,119

but it's also but he talks very little

1943

01:00:10,309 --> 01:00:08,400

other than the whole you know you must

1944

01:00:11,510 --> 01:00:10,319

not become too much a caesar you must be

1945

01:00:12,630 --> 01:00:11,520

tolerant you must be

1946

01:00:14,150 --> 01:00:12,640

all of these good things you should

1947

01:00:15,430 --> 01:00:14,160

aspire to and the worry that you will be

1948

01:00:17,510 --> 01:00:15,440

corrupted by power

1949

01:00:19,190 --> 01:00:17,520

you know it's it's admirable to have

1950

01:00:20,470 --> 01:00:19,200

someone in that position thinking in

1951

01:00:22,230 --> 01:00:20,480

this way

1952

01:00:23,750 --> 01:00:22,240

but actually that second century period

1953

01:00:25,990 --> 01:00:23,760

of history we know

1954

01:00:27,430 --> 01:00:26,000

very very little about the archaeology

1955

01:00:28,870 --> 01:00:27,440

is some of the most spectacular from the

1956

01:00:30,390 --> 01:00:28,880

entire roman period

1957

01:00:31,430 --> 01:00:30,400

the monuments are you know this is a lot

1958

01:00:33,829 --> 01:00:31,440

of the great stuff this is when the

1959

01:00:36,470 --> 01:00:33,839

empire is at its most prosperous

1960

01:00:38,309 --> 01:00:36,480

but we don't have any good narrative

1961

01:00:40,150 --> 01:00:38,319

histories of any part of it

1962

01:00:42,470 --> 01:00:40,160

adrian let me throw it let me throw out

1963

01:00:44,230 --> 01:00:42,480

one pet theory just indulge me it'll be

1964

01:00:45,109 --> 01:00:44,240

short but it has kind of emerged from a

1965

01:00:48,150 --> 01:00:45,119

couple of different

1966

01:00:49,750 --> 01:00:48,160

guests that i've talked to so josephus

1967

01:00:52,710 --> 01:00:49,760

kind of famously

1968

01:00:53,670 --> 01:00:52,720

says hey and i have a revelation you're

1969

01:00:56,230 --> 01:00:53,680

going to be

1970

01:00:57,030 --> 01:00:56,240

you know caesar and the in the copper

1971

01:01:00,870 --> 01:00:57,040

scrolls

1972

01:01:02,470 --> 01:01:00,880

is a treasure map

1973

01:01:05,349 --> 01:01:02,480

and at the bottom of the treasure map it

1974

01:01:08,870 --> 01:01:05,359

says and this is a copy

1975

01:01:12,150 --> 01:01:08,880

josephus being josephus super elite

1976

01:01:15,270 --> 01:01:12,160

among the jewish elite what if he knows

1977

01:01:17,430 --> 01:01:15,280

basically the idea what's in

1978

01:01:19,190 --> 01:01:17,440

the information contained in that copper

1979

01:01:21,750 --> 01:01:19,200

scroll what if he has

1980

01:01:23,750 --> 01:01:21,760

the treasure map in his head and what if

1981

01:01:23,990 --> 01:01:23,760

that is his real bargaining chip with

1982

01:01:26,069 --> 01:01:24,000

this

1983

01:01:27,589 --> 01:01:26,079

basin because it is interesting isn't it

1984

01:01:30,390 --> 01:01:27,599

that vespasian who is

1985

01:01:30,710 --> 01:01:30,400

the soldier soldier but really you know

1986

01:01:34,150 --> 01:01:30,720

in

1987

01:01:35,829 --> 01:01:34,160

doesn't

1988

01:01:37,990 --> 01:01:35,839

you know it has kind of been cast out by

1989

01:01:39,670 --> 01:01:38,000

nero something happens

1990

01:01:41,109 --> 01:01:39,680

and now he goes down to egypt and he

1991

01:01:43,910 --> 01:01:41,119

seems to have a lot of dough

1992

01:01:44,870 --> 01:01:43,920

to assemble an army and he shows up in

1993

01:01:46,549 --> 01:01:44,880

rome and

1994

01:01:49,109 --> 01:01:46,559

everyone's like oh okay i guess you're

1995

01:01:50,950 --> 01:01:49,119

the guy how far off is that do we have

1996

01:01:52,309 --> 01:01:50,960

anything that would directly contradict

1997

01:01:53,510 --> 01:01:52,319

that idea i mean the thing is you've got

1998

01:01:57,270 --> 01:01:53,520

to remember the timing

1999

01:01:59,589 --> 01:01:57,280

so this is 67. nero's still alive

2000

01:02:01,430 --> 01:01:59,599

until a few months later where all the

2001

01:02:02,710 --> 01:02:01,440

bad decisions and the craziness he's

2002

01:02:04,230 --> 01:02:02,720

done i mean i've just been to the

2003

01:02:05,910 --> 01:02:04,240

british museum has a very nice

2004

01:02:07,430 --> 01:02:05,920

exhibition about nero but they've

2005

01:02:08,870 --> 01:02:07,440

they've tried over the top to be

2006

01:02:10,470 --> 01:02:08,880

controversial by saying you know he was

2007

01:02:12,710 --> 01:02:10,480

just misunderstood and

2008

01:02:14,150 --> 01:02:12,720

um with fire wasn't his fault and yeah

2009

01:02:15,270 --> 01:02:14,160

so he persecuted all these christians

2010

01:02:16,549 --> 01:02:15,280

but you know that's the sort of thing

2011

01:02:18,549 --> 01:02:16,559

the romans did and

2012

01:02:19,670 --> 01:02:18,559

it was just hostile sources saying you

2013

01:02:21,270 --> 01:02:19,680

know nero

2014

01:02:23,430 --> 01:02:21,280

might have started well but turned into

2015

01:02:25,910 --> 01:02:23,440

a very bad emperor and when you think

2016

01:02:27,589 --> 01:02:25,920

again take a teenager with no experience

2017

01:02:29,349 --> 01:02:27,599

of politics public life

2018

01:02:30,870 --> 01:02:29,359

military and suddenly say you're in

2019

01:02:32,230 --> 01:02:30,880

charge of the world and nobody's going

2020

01:02:34,230 --> 01:02:32,240

to ever say no to you

2021

01:02:36,309 --> 01:02:34,240

no it's probably not going to go well

2022

01:02:38,150 --> 01:02:36,319

this is the so it shouldn't surprise in

2023

01:02:40,390 --> 01:02:38,160

fact it should surprise us it goes as

2024

01:02:42,150 --> 01:02:40,400

well for as long as it does and you know

2025

01:02:44,309 --> 01:02:42,160

the whole killing your mother and

2026

01:02:45,270 --> 01:02:44,319

assassinating all these sort of various

2027

01:02:47,910 --> 01:02:45,280

wives this

2028

01:02:48,470 --> 01:02:47,920

it's it's not surprising so the whole

2029

01:02:51,589 --> 01:02:48,480

empire

2030

01:02:52,069 --> 01:02:51,599

is suddenly for the first time really

2031

01:02:53,670 --> 01:02:52,079

since

2032

01:02:55,829 --> 01:02:53,680

they haven't when augustus died and they

2033

01:02:57,589 --> 01:02:55,839

didn't know that tiberius would take

2034

01:02:59,510 --> 01:02:57,599

over there would be another emperor

2035

01:03:01,349 --> 01:02:59,520

civil war is no longer in living memory

2036

01:03:02,309 --> 01:03:01,359

but it's a possibility everyone knows

2037

01:03:04,309 --> 01:03:02,319

about so

2038

01:03:05,349 --> 01:03:04,319

vespasian yeah this fellow surrenders

2039

01:03:06,309 --> 01:03:05,359

and suddenly says yeah

2040

01:03:07,190 --> 01:03:06,319

look at all these wonderful things

2041

01:03:09,109 --> 01:03:07,200

you're going to be emperor it's going to

2042

01:03:11,670 --> 01:03:09,119

be great roman sources are full of these

2043

01:03:13,109 --> 01:03:11,680

prophecies of people's future glory

2044

01:03:14,230 --> 01:03:13,119

some of which may be true you know we

2045

01:03:15,430 --> 01:03:14,240

don't know of all the people who were

2046

01:03:17,029 --> 01:03:15,440

told they were going to have great

2047

01:03:17,990 --> 01:03:17,039

things and it never quite panned out for

2048

01:03:21,910 --> 01:03:18,000

them

2049

01:03:24,150 --> 01:03:21,920

in vespasian's case he is in charge

2050

01:03:25,589 --> 01:03:24,160

of the biggest field army that's

2051
01:03:29,430 --> 01:03:25,599
operating at the time

2052
01:03:30,710 --> 01:03:29,440
and the eastern provinces have almost a

2053
01:03:32,630 --> 01:03:30,720
third

2054
01:03:33,829 --> 01:03:32,640
of the entire roman army stationed in

2055
01:03:35,750 --> 01:03:33,839
them and

2056
01:03:37,109 --> 01:03:35,760
part of that is in egypt which can't be

2057
01:03:40,230 --> 01:03:37,119
governed by a senator so

2058
01:03:41,910 --> 01:03:40,240
can't produce a claimant to the throne

2059
01:03:43,750 --> 01:03:41,920
and when the syrian governor is willing

2060
01:03:45,270 --> 01:03:43,760
to do a deal with you but again with

2061
01:03:47,190 --> 01:03:45,280
vespasian's case you know that

2062
01:03:49,190 --> 01:03:47,200
galba the first successor he's sending

2063
01:03:51,190 --> 01:03:49,200

his son titus to go and say yes look i'm

2064

01:03:53,349 --> 01:03:51,200

a good little boy i'm on your side

2065

01:03:55,990 --> 01:03:53,359

he doesn't he isn't the first to commit

2066

01:03:57,750 --> 01:03:56,000

it's only once the fighting started

2067

01:03:59,029 --> 01:03:57,760

that he then commits because you get to

2068

01:04:00,309 --> 01:03:59,039

the point where if you're in charge of

2069

01:04:01,829 --> 01:04:00,319

an army

2070

01:04:03,270 --> 01:04:01,839

you're either going to die or you're

2071

01:04:04,390 --> 01:04:03,280

going to become emperor because no one's

2072

01:04:06,549 --> 01:04:04,400

going to trust you

2073

01:04:08,230 --> 01:04:06,559

and unless you're very very sure of your

2074

01:04:09,750 --> 01:04:08,240

alliance with whoever's winning

2075

01:04:11,190 --> 01:04:09,760

and particularly as the emperors that

2076

01:04:12,309 --> 01:04:11,200

they're choosing don't seem that good

2077

01:04:15,109 --> 01:04:12,319

and once the

2078

01:04:17,270 --> 01:04:15,119

danubian legions join him then he's got

2079

01:04:19,829 --> 01:04:17,280

nearly half the roman army

2080

01:04:22,230 --> 01:04:19,839

on his side so there is an awful lot and

2081

01:04:23,829 --> 01:04:22,240

those resources bear in mind as well

2082

01:04:25,589 --> 01:04:23,839

the east is where the real money is

2083

01:04:28,069 --> 01:04:25,599

still at this stage

2084

01:04:29,270 --> 01:04:28,079

so when people there want to back you

2085

01:04:30,630 --> 01:04:29,280

they also want

2086

01:04:33,109 --> 01:04:30,640

i mean the paradox is if you look at the

2087

01:04:34,549 --> 01:04:33,119

first century bc the eastern province is

2088

01:04:36,789 --> 01:04:34,559

always back the loser

2089

01:04:39,029 --> 01:04:36,799

in rome civil wars it's pompey it's

2090

01:04:40,549 --> 01:04:39,039

brutus and cassius it's mark anthony

2091

01:04:41,990 --> 01:04:40,559

but it isn't really their fault it's

2092

01:04:42,470 --> 01:04:42,000

just those are the people who keep going

2093

01:04:43,750 --> 01:04:42,480

to them

2094

01:04:45,109 --> 01:04:43,760

but they give them lots of money and

2095

01:04:46,470 --> 01:04:45,119

then the victor comes along and says

2096

01:04:47,829 --> 01:04:46,480

well you're on the wrong side you know

2097

01:04:49,829 --> 01:04:47,839

be nice if you could just just to be

2098

01:04:52,390 --> 01:04:49,839

friends just reassure me by giving

2099

01:04:53,750 --> 01:04:52,400

so i think there's there's plenty of of

2100

01:04:56,470 --> 01:04:53,760

logic but again

2101
01:04:57,750 --> 01:04:56,480
had the the decisive battle of the civil

2102
01:04:59,589 --> 01:04:57,760
war is fought by

2103
01:05:01,510 --> 01:04:59,599
only an advance guard of troops lawyers

2104
01:05:02,870 --> 01:05:01,520
of espacie and if they lost

2105
01:05:04,710 --> 01:05:02,880
things might have turned out very

2106
01:05:05,750 --> 01:05:04,720
differently and it's a confusing night

2107
01:05:07,270 --> 01:05:05,760
engagement

2108
01:05:10,069 --> 01:05:07,280
you know so lots could have gone wrong

2109
01:05:11,829 --> 01:05:10,079
and none of these armies are really

2110
01:05:13,670 --> 01:05:11,839
the veteran troops from judea don't

2111
01:05:15,029 --> 01:05:13,680
actually get to the fighting

2112
01:05:17,270 --> 01:05:15,039
even though there's you know so these

2113
01:05:19,029 --> 01:05:17,280

are ones that because for long periods

2114

01:05:21,029 --> 01:05:19,039

in in roman history

2115

01:05:22,710 --> 01:05:21,039

the army the empire is so powerful there

2116

01:05:24,069 --> 01:05:22,720

isn't that much fighting going on so you

2117

01:05:25,589 --> 01:05:24,079

don't have

2118

01:05:27,349 --> 01:05:25,599

armies that are used to fighting on a

2119

01:05:29,109 --> 01:05:27,359

grand scale which is what you need to do

2120

01:05:31,109 --> 01:05:29,119

when you fight other romans so it tends

2121

01:05:33,270 --> 01:05:31,119

to make civil wars all about numbers

2122

01:05:34,390 --> 01:05:33,280

and a lot less predictable than they

2123

01:05:37,029 --> 01:05:34,400

might otherwise be

2124

01:05:38,150 --> 01:05:37,039

so again it'd be a question of how i'm

2125

01:05:39,670 --> 01:05:38,160

looking at it if i look at it as a

2126

01:05:41,349 --> 01:05:39,680

historian i would say

2127

01:05:42,710 --> 01:05:41,359

there are all those factors and the

2128

01:05:45,589 --> 01:05:42,720

chance and

2129

01:05:47,829 --> 01:05:45,599

vespasian is so unusual and even in

2130

01:05:48,230 --> 01:05:47,839

seretorius he's the only man described

2131

01:05:49,589 --> 01:05:48,240

who

2132

01:05:51,589 --> 01:05:49,599

where it said that his character

2133

01:05:54,470 --> 01:05:51,599

improved once he became emperor

2134

01:05:55,670 --> 01:05:54,480

and he gets a remarkably good press even

2135

01:05:56,789 --> 01:05:55,680

though they thought he was mean they

2136

01:05:58,069 --> 01:05:56,799

thought he was stingy they didn't

2137

01:05:59,430 --> 01:05:58,079

really like him he wasn't one of the

2138

01:06:00,950 --> 01:05:59,440

proper aristocracy but

2139

01:06:03,029 --> 01:06:00,960

i do wonder if he just had somebody who

2140

01:06:05,589 --> 01:06:03,039

was genuinely very good

2141

01:06:06,309 --> 01:06:05,599

and able and as well to plan this

2142

01:06:07,910 --> 01:06:06,319

unlucky

2143

01:06:09,750 --> 01:06:07,920

which everybody had to be and the romans

2144

01:06:11,589 --> 01:06:09,760

were quite happy to acknowledge

2145

01:06:14,390 --> 01:06:11,599

so as the historian i would tell it that

2146

01:06:15,829 --> 01:06:14,400

way as a novelist i would start thinking

2147

01:06:18,230 --> 01:06:15,839

there's a good story and i'd push

2148

01:06:21,349 --> 01:06:18,240

possibilities in a way

2149

01:06:23,029 --> 01:06:21,359

because you can but the historian in me

2150

01:06:23,910 --> 01:06:23,039

has to say look that's the evidence as

2151
01:06:26,870 --> 01:06:23,920
far as it goes

2152
01:06:28,150 --> 01:06:26,880
anything else is possible so much is

2153
01:06:30,309 --> 01:06:28,160
possible there is so much we will

2154
01:06:31,750 --> 01:06:30,319
probably never know the real truth

2155
01:06:33,589 --> 01:06:31,760
you bring up some really good some

2156
01:06:36,069 --> 01:06:33,599
really really good kind of

2157
01:06:37,670 --> 01:06:36,079
counter arguments that don't exactly

2158
01:06:39,109 --> 01:06:37,680
argue against it but kind of

2159
01:06:40,950 --> 01:06:39,119
counter evidence that has to be

2160
01:06:42,309 --> 01:06:40,960
considered so i really appreciate that i

2161
01:06:44,549 --> 01:06:42,319
tell you what we're at an

2162
01:06:46,870 --> 01:06:44,559
hour do we have a few more minutes for

2163
01:06:48,470 --> 01:06:46,880

maybe a lightning round here

2164

01:06:50,150 --> 01:06:48,480

we could try yeah i'm not very good at

2165

01:06:53,750 --> 01:06:50,160

short answers as you may have noticed

2166

01:06:55,910 --> 01:06:53,760

no no no take your time i i'm i'm

2167

01:06:57,430 --> 01:06:55,920

thoroughly enjoying every every minute

2168

01:06:57,990 --> 01:06:57,440

of that and i think the audience will as

2169

01:07:00,390 --> 01:06:58,000

well

2170

01:07:01,430 --> 01:07:00,400

so we're soaking it up so my final kind

2171

01:07:04,390 --> 01:07:01,440

of point was

2172

01:07:05,190 --> 01:07:04,400

on the the roman way the roman playbook

2173

01:07:08,549 --> 01:07:05,200

if you will

2174

01:07:10,470 --> 01:07:08,559

that you reveal so many times and so

2175

01:07:12,470 --> 01:07:10,480

many different interesting ways

2176
01:07:14,069 --> 01:07:12,480
a couple of them that we've all heard

2177
01:07:16,870 --> 01:07:14,079
that you might want to com comment on

2178
01:07:17,510 --> 01:07:16,880
is divide and rule uh another one that i

2179
01:07:19,349 --> 01:07:17,520
really like

2180
01:07:22,309 --> 01:07:19,359
that i got from you is spare the

2181
01:07:25,510 --> 01:07:22,319
conquered overcome the proud with war

2182
01:07:26,150 --> 01:07:25,520
maybe even tie those two together in a

2183
01:07:27,589 --> 01:07:26,160
way

2184
01:07:29,029 --> 01:07:27,599
well spare the con could overcome the

2185
01:07:30,789 --> 01:07:29,039
problem with war i can't take credit for

2186
01:07:32,950 --> 01:07:30,799
that that's the poet virgil who was

2187
01:07:34,150 --> 01:07:32,960
as a significantly more talented artist

2188
01:07:36,710 --> 01:07:34,160

than i'm ever going to be

2189

01:07:38,069 --> 01:07:36,720

but um because it's although it's one of

2190

01:07:40,069 --> 01:07:38,079

those things virgil doesn't

2191

01:07:41,589 --> 01:07:40,079

the latin doesn't translate as easily as

2192

01:07:43,190 --> 01:07:41,599

home as greek does so if you read the

2193

01:07:44,309 --> 01:07:43,200

aeneid it can come across as very

2194

01:07:46,630 --> 01:07:44,319

stilted

2195

01:07:48,150 --> 01:07:46,640

when you can read it in latin there is a

2196

01:07:49,990 --> 01:07:48,160

richness to the language but there's

2197

01:07:50,870 --> 01:07:50,000

also a subtlety because this is not an

2198

01:07:53,270 --> 01:07:50,880

epic

2199

01:07:54,150 --> 01:07:53,280

written for a genuinely heroic society

2200

01:07:56,069 --> 01:07:54,160

this is one

2201

01:07:58,069 --> 01:07:56,079

it's more like a modern novel that's

2202

01:07:59,670 --> 01:07:58,079

clever it's because you're dealing with

2203

01:08:01,109 --> 01:07:59,680

you're setting it in this ancient past

2204

01:08:02,630 --> 01:08:01,119

but actually you're dealing with

2205

01:08:04,870 --> 01:08:02,640

very hard politics that's got a lot of

2206

01:08:06,390 --> 01:08:04,880

people killed that is really the roman

2207

01:08:07,829 --> 01:08:06,400

attitude i mean the romans

2208

01:08:09,510 --> 01:08:07,839

are obviously aggressive because they

2209

01:08:11,990 --> 01:08:09,520

end up owning most of the known world

2210

01:08:13,589 --> 01:08:12,000

as far as you know that they exist they

2211

01:08:14,870 --> 01:08:13,599

don't this empire doesn't just happen

2212

01:08:16,229 --> 01:08:14,880

they don't they're not peacefully

2213

01:08:17,990 --> 01:08:16,239

defending themselves

2214

01:08:19,430 --> 01:08:18,000

they are aggressive on the other hand

2215

01:08:20,870 --> 01:08:19,440

they are

2216

01:08:22,709 --> 01:08:20,880

they're not simply aggressive and they

2217

01:08:24,309 --> 01:08:22,719

do get to the point where under augustus

2218

01:08:25,669 --> 01:08:24,319

they're deciding look we've probably got

2219

01:08:26,550 --> 01:08:25,679

all the bits of the world that are worth

2220

01:08:28,070 --> 01:08:26,560

having

2221

01:08:29,430 --> 01:08:28,080

and we don't want any more it's just

2222

01:08:31,590 --> 01:08:29,440

expensive we don't know that's

2223

01:08:32,950 --> 01:08:31,600

justification for not fighting more with

2224

01:08:35,669 --> 01:08:32,960

and there's clearly differences of

2225

01:08:36,309 --> 01:08:35,679

opinion but that is very much the roman

2226

01:08:38,789 --> 01:08:36,319

attitude

2227

01:08:39,430 --> 01:08:38,799

they don't they don't see outsiders as

2228

01:08:41,990 --> 01:08:39,440

having

2229

01:08:42,709 --> 01:08:42,000

equal rights or any right to exist and

2230

01:08:45,829 --> 01:08:42,719

they don't see

2231

01:08:47,990 --> 01:08:45,839

peace as the product of

2232

01:08:49,189 --> 01:08:48,000

coexistence and friendship and this sort

2233

01:08:51,990 --> 01:08:49,199

of thing they see

2234

01:08:53,910 --> 01:08:52,000

peace as the product of roman victory

2235

01:08:55,510 --> 01:08:53,920

and roman victory doesn't have to be go

2236

01:08:56,950 --> 01:08:55,520

out and killing everybody

2237

01:08:59,269 --> 01:08:56,960

and it doesn't have to be the romans

2238

01:08:59,590 --> 01:08:59,279

occupying everywhere but it does have to

2239

01:09:02,229 --> 01:08:59,600

be

2240

01:09:03,510 --> 01:09:02,239

total victory and permanent victory as

2241

01:09:05,430 --> 01:09:03,520

opposed to

2242

01:09:07,669 --> 01:09:05,440

what is kind of common of that era right

2243

01:09:09,749 --> 01:09:07,679

and of this era in a lot of ways

2244

01:09:10,709 --> 01:09:09,759

it's very much a sense that roman power

2245

01:09:12,470 --> 01:09:10,719

is respected

2246

01:09:13,749 --> 01:09:12,480

and that nobody will do anything you

2247

01:09:15,990 --> 01:09:13,759

don't want them to do

2248

01:09:18,149 --> 01:09:16,000

you usually don't actively want them to

2249

01:09:19,590 --> 01:09:18,159

do very much i mean they're very sort of

2250

01:09:21,269 --> 01:09:19,600

hands off in the way they run the

2251

01:09:22,550 --> 01:09:21,279

provinces and they try to get people to

2252

01:09:23,189 --> 01:09:22,560

run their own affairs as much as they

2253

01:09:24,870 --> 01:09:23,199

can

2254

01:09:26,789 --> 01:09:24,880

that's partly laziness and partly

2255

01:09:29,990 --> 01:09:26,799

meanness but they're they're also it's

2256

01:09:30,950 --> 01:09:30,000

but it's this sense that once you get to

2257

01:09:33,829 --> 01:09:30,960

become an enemy

2258

01:09:34,309 --> 01:09:33,839

you know tribes that simply look at

2259

01:09:36,390 --> 01:09:34,319

caesar's

2260

01:09:38,309 --> 01:09:36,400

envoys the wrong way become enemies and

2261

01:09:39,910 --> 01:09:38,319

there is this they are very touchy but

2262

01:09:40,950 --> 01:09:39,920

again that's not that uncommon in the

2263

01:09:43,110 --> 01:09:40,960

ancient world people in the ancient

2264

01:09:45,590 --> 01:09:43,120

world go to war

2265

01:09:46,470 --> 01:09:45,600

for almost no reason as we would

2266

01:09:48,390 --> 01:09:46,480

understand it

2267

01:09:50,149 --> 01:09:48,400

usually because they think they can and

2268

01:09:50,950 --> 01:09:50,159

it will be beneficial and there's a nice

2269

01:09:53,269 --> 01:09:50,960

story

2270

01:09:54,149 --> 01:09:53,279

nice in useful historical sense rather

2271

01:09:56,870 --> 01:09:54,159

than what happened

2272

01:09:58,709 --> 01:09:56,880

of a roman army advancing in asia minor

2273

01:10:00,310 --> 01:09:58,719

in the early 2nd century bc and the

2274

01:10:01,030 --> 01:10:00,320

advance guard gets ahead of the main

2275

01:10:02,870 --> 01:10:01,040

column

2276

01:10:04,310 --> 01:10:02,880

the locals see them think oh there's not

2277

01:10:06,709 --> 01:10:04,320

very many of them they don't look that

2278

01:10:08,709 --> 01:10:06,719

well equipped let's attack them

2279

01:10:10,709 --> 01:10:08,719

they do this then the whole roman army

2280

01:10:12,550 --> 01:10:10,719

turns up and they suddenly think oops

2281

01:10:14,229 --> 01:10:12,560

not such a good plan there's a lot more

2282

01:10:15,750 --> 01:10:14,239

of them and then they said an end voice

2283

01:10:17,430 --> 01:10:15,760

saying sorry we didn't realize you were

2284

01:10:19,590 --> 01:10:17,440

strong can we be friends

2285

01:10:21,510 --> 01:10:19,600

and the romans say fine give us so much

2286

01:10:23,510 --> 01:10:21,520

grain give us so much money

2287

01:10:25,510 --> 01:10:23,520

and that's we'll forget all about it

2288

01:10:27,189 --> 01:10:25,520

they sort of understand this sense that

2289

01:10:28,709 --> 01:10:27,199

if you can dominate others if you can

2290

01:10:30,790 --> 01:10:28,719

rob others you will

2291

01:10:33,110 --> 01:10:30,800

and that therefore so it is this very

2292

01:10:35,110 --> 01:10:33,120

dangerous very predatory world

2293

01:10:37,910 --> 01:10:35,120

where the romans make sure they are the

2294

01:10:39,990 --> 01:10:37,920

biggest baddest predator out there

2295

01:10:41,830 --> 01:10:40,000

um and they do want their wars to be

2296

01:10:43,990 --> 01:10:41,840

perm they do want to

2297

01:10:45,910 --> 01:10:44,000

um make sure you don't fight them again

2298

01:10:48,070 --> 01:10:45,920

so you either cease to exist

2299

01:10:50,310 --> 01:10:48,080

or you are very much a subordinate ally

2300

01:10:51,669 --> 01:10:50,320

and friend that will do what you're told

2301
01:10:53,189 --> 01:10:51,679
which means they don't give up because

2302
01:10:55,030 --> 01:10:53,199
they expect wars to be fought that way

2303
01:10:55,830 --> 01:10:55,040
so they are far more serious and they

2304
01:10:57,750 --> 01:10:55,840
endure

2305
01:10:59,990 --> 01:10:57,760
the third of hannibal say the appalling

2306
01:11:00,310 --> 01:11:00,000
losses here the carthaginians inflict on

2307
01:11:02,550 --> 01:11:00,320
them

2308
01:11:03,990 --> 01:11:02,560
and they won't give in whereas most

2309
01:11:05,669 --> 01:11:04,000
normal ancient societies would have

2310
01:11:07,110 --> 01:11:05,679
given in negotiating then thought well

2311
01:11:08,310 --> 01:11:07,120
maybe 20 30 years time we'll have

2312
01:11:11,430 --> 01:11:08,320
another go

2313
01:11:12,870 --> 01:11:11,440

the romans it's life or death and

2314

01:11:14,790 --> 01:11:12,880

one thing however to bear in mind with

2315

01:11:17,910 --> 01:11:14,800

the sort of divide and rule um

2316

01:11:20,550 --> 01:11:17,920

concept which is clearly how they work

2317

01:11:22,149 --> 01:11:20,560

what's very striking is wherever the

2318

01:11:23,990 --> 01:11:22,159

romans go

2319

01:11:25,750 --> 01:11:24,000

some local leaders some local

2320

01:11:27,510 --> 01:11:25,760

communities welcome them

2321

01:11:29,030 --> 01:11:27,520

and some see them as an opportunity

2322

01:11:30,950 --> 01:11:29,040

rather than a threat because

2323

01:11:32,630 --> 01:11:30,960

the people that the enemy they really

2324

01:11:33,430 --> 01:11:32,640

fear and the ones they really hate and

2325

01:11:35,510 --> 01:11:33,440

care about

2326

01:11:37,430 --> 01:11:35,520

are the close neighbors the ones you

2327

01:11:39,590 --> 01:11:37,440

fought for generation after generation

2328

01:11:41,830 --> 01:11:39,600

or the ones you can see expanding

2329

01:11:43,990 --> 01:11:41,840

the romans are they arrive and you're

2330

01:11:44,790 --> 01:11:44,000

faced with a choice do i fight them do i

2331

01:11:50,470 --> 01:11:44,800

join them

2332

01:11:51,350 --> 01:11:50,480

they'll come the romans will help them

2333

01:11:54,709 --> 01:11:51,360

so

2334

01:11:56,630 --> 01:11:54,719

instance that never fight the romans and

2335

01:11:58,870 --> 01:11:56,640

that's true in every province

2336

01:12:00,550 --> 01:11:58,880

so it's it isn't this simple sort of

2337

01:12:02,630 --> 01:12:00,560

resistance against expanding

2338

01:12:04,229 --> 01:12:02,640

it's a lot more complicated but the

2339

01:12:05,910 --> 01:12:04,239

ancient world is very divided in the

2340

01:12:07,910 --> 01:12:05,920

first place and even within

2341

01:12:09,750 --> 01:12:07,920

individual states there are always

2342

01:12:11,110 --> 01:12:09,760

leaders who are thinking well

2343

01:12:12,470 --> 01:12:11,120

i could be in charge i should be the

2344

01:12:13,430 --> 01:12:12,480

chief or i should be the king rather

2345

01:12:15,590 --> 01:12:13,440

than him

2346

01:12:17,030 --> 01:12:15,600

and you know you'll have this um i'm

2347

01:12:17,830 --> 01:12:17,040

about to write about it at the moment

2348

01:12:20,310 --> 01:12:17,840

where

2349

01:12:22,550 --> 01:12:20,320

you get lots of parthian princes are

2350

01:12:24,390 --> 01:12:22,560

sent to rome for an education

2351

01:12:26,390 --> 01:12:24,400

and every now and again there'll be a

2352

01:12:27,990 --> 01:12:26,400

request can we have one back please by a

2353

01:12:29,750 --> 01:12:28,000

faction within the empire

2354

01:12:32,229 --> 01:12:29,760

now most of these people who've lived in

2355

01:12:33,030 --> 01:12:32,239

rome never quite seem to make it for

2356

01:12:35,350 --> 01:12:33,040

very long

2357

01:12:36,550 --> 01:12:35,360

when they go back as king and that might

2358

01:12:37,750 --> 01:12:36,560

be because the people who've asked for

2359

01:12:39,430 --> 01:12:37,760

them aren't as powerful as they think

2360

01:12:40,950 --> 01:12:39,440

they are or it might be tacitus claims

2361

01:12:42,390 --> 01:12:40,960

they've just become too roman

2362

01:12:43,750 --> 01:12:42,400

you know they're no longer thinking like

2363

01:12:45,270 --> 01:12:43,760

apartheid nobleman they don't like

2364

01:12:46,870 --> 01:12:45,280

hunting they don't like feasting

2365

01:12:48,470 --> 01:12:46,880

they want to read books instead you know

2366

01:12:50,709 --> 01:12:48,480

what sort of king is that

2367

01:12:52,390 --> 01:12:50,719

but the difference is is that you're not

2368

01:12:54,070 --> 01:12:52,400

getting romans going

2369

01:12:56,149 --> 01:12:54,080

to other countries and other kingdoms

2370

01:12:58,790 --> 01:12:56,159

even parthia that's so powerful

2371

01:12:59,590 --> 01:12:58,800

and waiting to come back the romans have

2372

01:13:02,790 --> 01:12:59,600

this this great

2373

01:13:03,669 --> 01:13:02,800

and of course they the truly remarkable

2374

01:13:05,590 --> 01:13:03,679

thing about

2375

01:13:07,189 --> 01:13:05,600

the the romans is their ability to

2376

01:13:08,229 --> 01:13:07,199

absorb other people and to make them

2377

01:13:10,709 --> 01:13:08,239

roman

2378

01:13:12,390 --> 01:13:10,719

and whereas you can say you know the the

2379

01:13:13,990 --> 01:13:12,400

sense the the experiment the experience

2380

01:13:15,510 --> 01:13:14,000

of america has to be to bring people

2381

01:13:16,709 --> 01:13:15,520

from all over the world and make them

2382

01:13:18,550 --> 01:13:16,719

american

2383

01:13:19,910 --> 01:13:18,560

most empires have gone and there's very

2384

01:13:22,630 --> 01:13:19,920

much remained an elite

2385

01:13:23,430 --> 01:13:22,640

and then the provinces the conquered but

2386

01:13:26,149 --> 01:13:23,440

the romans

2387

01:13:27,910 --> 01:13:26,159

turned particularly the better off but

2388

01:13:31,669 --> 01:13:27,920

quite a large section

2389

01:13:33,590 --> 01:13:31,679

of britain of gaul of spain i mean the

2390

01:13:34,709 --> 01:13:33,600

syria so you could start to have

2391

01:13:36,390 --> 01:13:34,719

emperors like

2392

01:13:38,390 --> 01:13:36,400

septimius everest from north africa

2393

01:13:39,990 --> 01:13:38,400

hadrian trajan from spain

2394

01:13:41,669 --> 01:13:40,000

philip the arab you know all of these

2395

01:13:42,070 --> 01:13:41,679

people that was one of the problems that

2396

01:13:44,709 --> 01:13:42,080

you

2397

01:13:46,709 --> 01:13:44,719

face with jewish society is that

2398

01:13:49,110 --> 01:13:46,719

particularly as second temple

2399

01:13:50,870 --> 01:13:49,120

judaism has developed whereas in the

2400

01:13:52,470 --> 01:13:50,880

past lots of

2401

01:13:53,830 --> 01:13:52,480

people jews have gone off and

2402

01:13:54,630 --> 01:13:53,840

volunteered fought in other people's

2403

01:13:55,910 --> 01:13:54,640

armies

2404

01:13:58,630 --> 01:13:55,920

and that's a very good way into the

2405

01:14:00,390 --> 01:13:58,640

roman system there are now taboos that

2406

01:14:02,229 --> 01:14:00,400

mean you can't do that

2407

01:14:03,750 --> 01:14:02,239

and the romans struggle with this idea

2408

01:14:05,669 --> 01:14:03,760

and they struggle with how to deal with

2409

01:14:07,590 --> 01:14:05,679

a group that can't

2410

01:14:08,950 --> 01:14:07,600

can't sort of basically as i say tick

2411

01:14:11,910 --> 01:14:08,960

the boxes of being roman

2412

01:14:13,110 --> 01:14:11,920

perform sacrifices to jupiter to the

2413

01:14:14,550 --> 01:14:13,120

imperial cult

2414

01:14:16,310 --> 01:14:14,560

and then go and believe whatever they

2415

01:14:17,990 --> 01:14:16,320

like in their home and in their

2416

01:14:19,510 --> 01:14:18,000

their house and do whatever they like so

2417

01:14:21,430 --> 01:14:19,520

that's one of the reasons for this

2418

01:14:23,350 --> 01:14:21,440

friction that the aristocracy can't be

2419

01:14:25,669 --> 01:14:23,360

absorbed and become roman

2420

01:14:26,390 --> 01:14:25,679

and people like herod who obviously are

2421

01:14:27,990 --> 01:14:26,400

you know

2422

01:14:29,669 --> 01:14:28,000

ambiguous figures in the first place but

2423

01:14:30,149 --> 01:14:29,679

they're trying to straddle this sense of

2424

01:14:31,990 --> 01:14:30,159

being

2425

01:14:33,590 --> 01:14:32,000

a king for the jews not just in their

2426

01:14:36,709 --> 01:14:33,600

kingdom but beyond

2427

01:14:38,229 --> 01:14:36,719

but also a roman and giving temples and

2428

01:14:39,350 --> 01:14:38,239

endowing you know the games in greece

2429

01:14:42,790 --> 01:14:39,360

and this sort of thing and

2430

01:14:46,229 --> 01:14:42,800

advising a gripper and it's it's a very

2431

01:14:49,110 --> 01:14:46,239

hard tight rope to walk but it is

2432

01:14:50,709 --> 01:14:49,120

clearly the romans were good at ruling

2433

01:14:51,669 --> 01:14:50,719

at making this empire work because it

2434

01:14:54,550 --> 01:14:51,679

does last

2435

01:14:56,470 --> 01:14:54,560

a very long time and it falls because it

2436

01:15:00,070 --> 01:14:56,480

rots away from the inside and this

2437

01:15:00,950 --> 01:15:00,080

i don't buy the idea that simply because

2438

01:15:03,510 --> 01:15:00,960

of wider

2439

01:15:04,630 --> 01:15:03,520

demographic economic social factors you

2440

01:15:06,229 --> 01:15:04,640

know there was just there was just a

2441

01:15:07,510 --> 01:15:06,239

need for this big empire and it just

2442

01:15:09,270 --> 01:15:07,520

sort of happened

2443

01:15:11,350 --> 01:15:09,280

this was actively built and preserved

2444

01:15:14,149 --> 01:15:11,360

for a very long time and then

2445

01:15:15,430 --> 01:15:14,159

let go as well so it's it's it's a

2446

01:15:17,030 --> 01:15:15,440

complicated story

2447

01:15:19,030 --> 01:15:17,040

that's wonderful answer and you know

2448

01:15:22,390 --> 01:15:19,040

even in the last part of the

2449

01:15:25,030 --> 01:15:22,400

elites of judea in them straddling line

2450

01:15:26,790 --> 01:15:25,040

it's no different for every every other

2451
01:15:28,709 --> 01:15:26,800
barbarian group they're all doing the

2452
01:15:31,189 --> 01:15:28,719
same thing in the way that you just

2453
01:15:31,830 --> 01:15:31,199
so beautifully kind of described hey so

2454
01:15:35,350 --> 01:15:31,840
one more

2455
01:15:37,510 --> 01:15:35,360
kind of topic roman way to me it seems

2456
01:15:38,229 --> 01:15:37,520
so obvious both in our time and in the

2457
01:15:40,390 --> 01:15:38,239
roman time

2458
01:15:41,750 --> 01:15:40,400
and that is that social engineering is

2459
01:15:43,990 --> 01:15:41,760
always in play

2460
01:15:45,110 --> 01:15:44,000
controlling the narrative controlling

2461
01:15:48,390 --> 01:15:45,120
the beliefs

2462
01:15:51,430 --> 01:15:48,400
the aspirations of the people

2463
01:15:53,030 --> 01:15:51,440

is always front and center because it's

2464

01:15:54,550 --> 01:15:53,040

part and parcel what we do it's called

2465

01:15:56,630 --> 01:15:54,560

governance it's called

2466

01:15:57,830 --> 01:15:56,640

if you don't do it someone else will do

2467

01:15:59,510 --> 01:15:57,840

it better and then

2468

01:16:01,590 --> 01:15:59,520

they will assassinate you and all that

2469

01:16:03,750 --> 01:16:01,600

thing why do we sometimes kind of want

2470

01:16:06,870 --> 01:16:03,760

to push against the idea that

2471

01:16:09,990 --> 01:16:06,880

this parapolitical subterfuge

2472

01:16:13,030 --> 01:16:10,000

is always in play and we it is now

2473

01:16:14,229 --> 01:16:13,040

and it was then it's i suppose it

2474

01:16:15,910 --> 01:16:14,239

depends on

2475

01:16:19,350 --> 01:16:15,920

what the group in power trying to do in

2476

01:16:22,310 --> 01:16:19,360

your own views and reactions to it but

2477

01:16:24,070 --> 01:16:22,320

it's as with anything else to be really

2478

01:16:25,750 --> 01:16:24,080

successful the best thing is to

2479

01:16:26,790 --> 01:16:25,760

encourage people to do something they

2480

01:16:28,310 --> 01:16:26,800

really want

2481

01:16:31,030 --> 01:16:28,320

or that they get something they really

2482

01:16:31,510 --> 01:16:31,040

like from it so you know with augustus

2483

01:16:33,430 --> 01:16:31,520

it's

2484

01:16:34,630 --> 01:16:33,440

there's this clear revolution in the way

2485

01:16:35,669 --> 01:16:34,640

people are thinking in the way they will

2486

01:16:37,669 --> 01:16:35,679

accept

2487

01:16:38,870 --> 01:16:37,679

profound change in the way the republic

2488

01:16:41,910 --> 01:16:38,880

works

2489

01:16:43,590 --> 01:16:41,920

classes you know he starts to

2490

01:16:45,590 --> 01:16:43,600

suddenly for instance the equitas this

2491

01:16:48,070 --> 01:16:45,600

this social class below the senate

2492

01:16:49,350 --> 01:16:48,080

from augustus onwards has a far more

2493

01:16:50,149 --> 01:16:49,360

prominent role than they've ever had

2494

01:16:52,630 --> 01:16:50,159

before

2495

01:16:53,750 --> 01:16:52,640

adrian touch on this cloaking change

2496

01:16:55,910 --> 01:16:53,760

with tradition

2497

01:16:57,430 --> 01:16:55,920

this isn't change this is renewal and

2498

01:16:59,030 --> 01:16:57,440

that's social engineering that's social

2499

01:17:01,510 --> 01:16:59,040

engineering

2500

01:17:03,030 --> 01:17:01,520

it's and it's because people are the

2501

01:17:04,950 --> 01:17:03,040

same that again you've

2502

01:17:06,310 --> 01:17:04,960

as i say it's like i try to sell someone

2503

01:17:07,510 --> 01:17:06,320

something persuade them it's what they

2504

01:17:08,950 --> 01:17:07,520

really need or what they've always

2505

01:17:10,470 --> 01:17:08,960

wanted even if they didn't realize

2506

01:17:12,310 --> 01:17:10,480

that's what they wanted

2507

01:17:13,590 --> 01:17:12,320

it's there it's the way governments work

2508

01:17:15,590 --> 01:17:13,600

but it's

2509

01:17:16,630 --> 01:17:15,600

it's often a two-way process because

2510

01:17:18,310 --> 01:17:16,640

there is an element

2511

01:17:20,550 --> 01:17:18,320

of what your population is doing and

2512

01:17:22,310 --> 01:17:20,560

what it wants its government to do

2513

01:17:24,070 --> 01:17:22,320

and it might be less organized and

2514

01:17:26,149 --> 01:17:24,080

focused but some of these moves it's

2515

01:17:28,950 --> 01:17:26,159

often very hard to tell

2516

01:17:30,390 --> 01:17:28,960

where the movement starts and where the

2517

01:17:32,310 --> 01:17:30,400

government decides actually this is

2518

01:17:34,310 --> 01:17:32,320

going on let's ride it

2519

01:17:37,110 --> 01:17:34,320

let's see where this takes us and let's

2520

01:17:39,030 --> 01:17:37,120

make sure that it benefits us

2521

01:17:40,390 --> 01:17:39,040

rather than necessarily going and sort

2522

01:17:40,950 --> 01:17:40,400

of you know basically sending people

2523

01:17:42,390 --> 01:17:40,960

around say

2524

01:17:45,270 --> 01:17:42,400

hey this would be a good idea wouldn't

2525

01:17:47,830 --> 01:17:45,280

it you know proactive versus reactive

2526

01:17:49,430 --> 01:17:47,840

i i get that confused all the time it

2527

01:17:50,709 --> 01:17:49,440

clearly made political sense for

2528

01:17:53,189 --> 01:17:50,719

constantine

2529

01:17:54,310 --> 01:17:53,199

to become christian doesn't mean it

2530

01:17:56,790 --> 01:17:54,320

wasn't a profound

2531

01:17:57,990 --> 01:17:56,800

emotional thing for him as well and it

2532

01:18:00,709 --> 01:17:58,000

does mean that there's enough

2533

01:18:02,390 --> 01:18:00,719

people out there who you know their

2534

01:18:03,910 --> 01:18:02,400

support is worthwhile so

2535

01:18:05,669 --> 01:18:03,920

the idea that christians are a fringe

2536

01:18:06,950 --> 01:18:05,679

group until suddenly he comes along it's

2537

01:18:07,830 --> 01:18:06,960

official religion and everybody's

2538

01:18:11,030 --> 01:18:07,840

christian

2539

01:18:12,229 --> 01:18:11,040

doesn't make sense either and often

2540

01:18:15,189 --> 01:18:12,239

we're thinking in far

2541

01:18:17,270 --> 01:18:15,199

too theological away because we think

2542

01:18:19,030 --> 01:18:17,280

you're either a christian or you're not

2543

01:18:20,870 --> 01:18:19,040

if you've come from a polytheistic

2544

01:18:23,110 --> 01:18:20,880

tradition where you have this

2545

01:18:25,750 --> 01:18:23,120

different sense of spirituality then

2546

01:18:26,709 --> 01:18:25,760

adding in jesus or this jewish god as an

2547

01:18:29,669 --> 01:18:26,719

extra

2548

01:18:31,189 --> 01:18:29,679

deity is fine that's perfectly you know

2549

01:18:33,189 --> 01:18:31,199

that you can do that it doesn't mean you

2550

01:18:34,390 --> 01:18:33,199

don't sacrifice to dionysus as well

2551

01:18:35,750 --> 01:18:34,400

it doesn't mean you might sometimes

2552

01:18:36,870 --> 01:18:35,760

think actually there's bits of them that

2553

01:18:40,070 --> 01:18:36,880

are the same

2554

01:18:42,870 --> 01:18:40,080

we can be far too structural about

2555

01:18:43,910 --> 01:18:42,880

it and again forget the but usually

2556

01:18:46,229 --> 01:18:43,920

these things work

2557

01:18:48,070 --> 01:18:46,239

because it's sort of almost a meeting

2558

01:18:49,750 --> 01:18:48,080

somewhere in the middle

2559

01:18:52,070 --> 01:18:49,760

and that's why i think sometimes if

2560

01:18:54,470 --> 01:18:52,080

people try to force drastic

2561

01:18:55,669 --> 01:18:54,480

change through social engineering and

2562

01:18:57,510 --> 01:18:55,679

they do it clumsily

2563

01:18:59,350 --> 01:18:57,520

as has happened with various revolutions

2564

01:19:01,270 --> 01:18:59,360

it can go badly wrong or it ends up

2565

01:19:01,910 --> 01:19:01,280

being imposed by force which often then

2566

01:19:04,149 --> 01:19:01,920

turns

2567

01:19:05,830 --> 01:19:04,159

what might have been a well-meant idea

2568

01:19:06,630 --> 01:19:05,840

into something that becomes far more

2569

01:19:09,030 --> 01:19:06,640

sinister

2570

01:19:10,310 --> 01:19:09,040

so it is a two-way process it isn't

2571

01:19:12,070 --> 01:19:10,320

simply

2572

01:19:14,310 --> 01:19:12,080

from the top down i think that there's

2573

01:19:17,350 --> 01:19:14,320

there's a more of a mix there

2574

01:19:19,430 --> 01:19:17,360

fantastic so dr goldsworthy

2575

01:19:21,430 --> 01:19:19,440

in the time that we have left and you've

2576

01:19:24,470 --> 01:19:21,440

been so incredibly generous with

2577

01:19:26,950 --> 01:19:24,480

your time with us today tell us about

2578

01:19:28,390 --> 01:19:26,960

the books tell us about the ones that we

2579

01:19:30,070 --> 01:19:28,400

see up on the screen we haven't really

2580

01:19:33,510 --> 01:19:30,080

talked a lot about them

2581

01:19:36,310 --> 01:19:33,520

in detail paxa romana is fantastic

2582

01:19:38,229 --> 01:19:36,320

so is augustus and caesar and some of

2583

01:19:41,510 --> 01:19:38,239

the other ones and some of your

2584

01:19:44,550 --> 01:19:41,520

fiction as well what would you

2585

01:19:46,630 --> 01:19:44,560

direct someone to who is

2586

01:19:48,229 --> 01:19:46,640

kind of new to your work but maybe is

2587

01:19:50,790 --> 01:19:48,239

interested in what you're

2588

01:19:53,350 --> 01:19:50,800

what you have to say so much depends on

2589

01:19:55,270 --> 01:19:53,360

on what you like i don't expect

2590

01:19:56,390 --> 01:19:55,280

one person to necessarily like all the

2591

01:19:58,070 --> 01:19:56,400

different things i write

2592

01:20:00,070 --> 01:19:58,080

my books reflect very much the sort of

2593

01:20:02,390 --> 01:20:00,080

things i like to read you know i

2594

01:20:03,590 --> 01:20:02,400

in in the end i'm writing for myself as

2595

01:20:05,669 --> 01:20:03,600

an audience they're the books i'd love

2596

01:20:07,430 --> 01:20:05,679

to have but they aren't out there

2597

01:20:09,189 --> 01:20:07,440

um and that's true both of the fiction

2598

01:20:10,550 --> 01:20:09,199

the novels the stories as it is of the

2599

01:20:15,990 --> 01:20:10,560

the non-fiction

2600

01:20:17,750 --> 01:20:16,000

probably one of the biographies are

2601

01:20:19,750 --> 01:20:17,760

either caesar or augustus or anthony

2602

01:20:22,390 --> 01:20:19,760

cleopatra if you want more of a mix of

2603

01:20:23,669 --> 01:20:22,400

something more hellenistic more um not

2604

01:20:26,629 --> 01:20:23,679

simply roman

2605

01:20:28,229 --> 01:20:26,639

um they're a good starting place

2606

01:20:30,310 --> 01:20:28,239

something like pax romana talks about

2607

01:20:32,310 --> 01:20:30,320

how the empire worked

2608

01:20:33,510 --> 01:20:32,320

was there really peace how did the front

2609

01:20:35,910 --> 01:20:33,520

is function it's it's

2610

01:20:36,629 --> 01:20:35,920

it helps i hope you can read it without

2611

01:20:37,990 --> 01:20:36,639

having

2612

01:20:39,910 --> 01:20:38,000

prior knowledge of roman history but it

2613

01:20:42,470 --> 01:20:39,920

helps if you have a bit

2614

01:20:43,910 --> 01:20:42,480

the story of an individual and a leader

2615

01:20:45,830 --> 01:20:43,920

like augustus or caesar

2616

01:20:47,669 --> 01:20:45,840

is often a more accessible way if you

2617

01:20:48,950 --> 01:20:47,679

want to start because again you can just

2618

01:20:50,870 --> 01:20:48,960

look at it as this is how

2619

01:20:52,629 --> 01:20:50,880

a politician how a military leader might

2620

01:20:53,910 --> 01:20:52,639

function and hopefully there'll be

2621

01:20:54,629 --> 01:20:53,920

enough in there to tell you well this is

2622

01:20:56,070 --> 01:20:54,639

how it works

2623

01:20:57,669 --> 01:20:56,080

for the romans and this is how we know

2624

01:20:59,830 --> 01:20:57,679

about it this is what we guess

2625

01:21:00,870 --> 01:20:59,840

um the force the the novels only just

2626

01:21:03,030 --> 01:21:00,880

come out in in

2627

01:21:04,470 --> 01:21:03,040

britain a couple of weeks ago and the i

2628

01:21:05,590 --> 01:21:04,480

think the kindle might be available in

2629

01:21:07,430 --> 01:21:05,600

the us already but the

2630

01:21:09,189 --> 01:21:07,440

the printed book won't be for a month or

2631

01:21:11,030 --> 01:21:09,199

two i think that's august that's

2632

01:21:12,629 --> 01:21:11,040

that's an adventure story i basically

2633

01:21:13,830 --> 01:21:12,639

see them the roman novels have written

2634

01:21:15,270 --> 01:21:13,840

the vindelander series that they're

2635

01:21:17,990 --> 01:21:15,280

basically westerns but

2636

01:21:19,270 --> 01:21:18,000

set in the early late first early second

2637

01:21:22,470 --> 01:21:19,280

century a.d

2638

01:21:24,229 --> 01:21:22,480

um and it's meant to be escapism i've

2639

01:21:27,350 --> 01:21:24,239

tried to make the world

2640

01:21:28,709 --> 01:21:27,360

as accurate as possible and as real to

2641

01:21:30,310 --> 01:21:28,719

that and it's a great

2642

01:21:32,229 --> 01:21:30,320

writing a novel is a wonderful thing for

2643

01:21:33,590 --> 01:21:32,239

a historian because you can play around

2644

01:21:35,430 --> 01:21:33,600

with ideas

2645

01:21:38,070 --> 01:21:35,440

because you've got to make your world

2646

01:21:40,070 --> 01:21:38,080

complete as a historian i can say

2647

01:21:41,750 --> 01:21:40,080

we don't know this you know the evidence

2648

01:21:43,030 --> 01:21:41,760

is so much and then there is a gap we

2649

01:21:45,030 --> 01:21:43,040

simply don't know but

2650

01:21:46,070 --> 01:21:45,040

in a novel you can't simply open a door

2651

01:21:47,990 --> 01:21:46,080

onto nothing

2652

01:21:49,750 --> 01:21:48,000

at least not in this sort of novel and

2653

01:21:51,590 --> 01:21:49,760

you've so i've got to make a world

2654

01:21:52,470 --> 01:21:51,600

that's plausible that fits with all the

2655

01:21:54,229 --> 01:21:52,480

evidence

2656

01:21:55,510 --> 01:21:54,239

but goes beyond that because there's so

2657

01:21:57,270 --> 01:21:55,520

much we don't know so

2658

01:21:59,669 --> 01:21:57,280

those are fun for me but i i consider

2659

01:22:01,830 --> 01:21:59,679

those as i say it's escapism if you want

2660

01:22:02,709 --> 01:22:01,840

an adventure story a rattling good yarn

2661

01:22:05,030 --> 01:22:02,719

that sort of thing

2662

01:22:06,550 --> 01:22:05,040

that's what those are meant to be um the

2663

01:22:08,790 --> 01:22:06,560

books are for their i hope

2664

01:22:10,310 --> 01:22:08,800

anyone who's interested enough to say

2665

01:22:12,070 --> 01:22:10,320

pick up the book on julius caesar to

2666

01:22:13,990 --> 01:22:12,080

want to know more about him

2667

01:22:15,430 --> 01:22:14,000

will even if they've got no prior

2668

01:22:16,870 --> 01:22:15,440

knowledge of history or the ancient

2669

01:22:18,310 --> 01:22:16,880

world we'll be able to follow the book

2670

01:22:19,270 --> 01:22:18,320

understand the book get something from

2671

01:22:20,709 --> 01:22:19,280

it and

2672

01:22:23,110 --> 01:22:20,719

you know read what when all said and

2673

01:22:24,950 --> 01:22:23,120

done these are remarkable stories

2674

01:22:26,149 --> 01:22:24,960

and though these men did some terrible

2675

01:22:27,830 --> 01:22:26,159

terrible things and though

2676

01:22:30,629 --> 01:22:27,840

you know people like actually cleopatra

2677

01:22:33,669 --> 01:22:30,639

they weren't the nicest people around

2678

01:22:35,189 --> 01:22:33,679

nevertheless there is looking at people

2679

01:22:37,030 --> 01:22:35,199

they also lived in extremely difficult

2680

01:22:38,070 --> 01:22:37,040

dangerous times so you have sympathy for

2681

01:22:39,830 --> 01:22:38,080

them as well

2682

01:22:41,350 --> 01:22:39,840

um but it's just trying to understand

2683

01:22:42,950 --> 01:22:41,360

their names we know maybe we know the

2684

01:22:44,390 --> 01:22:42,960

shakespeare play maybe we've you know

2685

01:22:45,669 --> 01:22:44,400

read it at school or seen it on the

2686

01:22:47,030 --> 01:22:45,679

stage

2687

01:22:49,189 --> 01:22:47,040

this is trying to say well what's the

2688

01:22:51,270 --> 01:22:49,199

reality behind it and how you know how

2689

01:22:52,550 --> 01:22:51,280

do the two match up so that's

2690

01:22:54,149 --> 01:22:52,560

that's what i try to do as i say these

2691

01:22:54,790 --> 01:22:54,159

are these are books i would like to read

2692

01:22:57,830 --> 01:22:54,800

so

2693

01:22:59,669 --> 01:22:57,840

because they're not there i write them

2694

01:23:01,750 --> 01:22:59,679

you like to read them and i like to read

2695

01:23:03,350 --> 01:23:01,760

them too and i think our audience i hope

2696

01:23:05,590 --> 01:23:03,360

you do check them out

2697

01:23:07,270 --> 01:23:05,600

and again you know kindle unlimited you

2698

01:23:09,350 --> 01:23:07,280

can get a start and then you won't be

2699

01:23:10,470 --> 01:23:09,360

able to stop that's the only problem i

2700

01:23:13,750 --> 01:23:10,480

see

2701
01:23:14,310 --> 01:23:13,760
is that this guy the writing it sucks

2702
01:23:17,430 --> 01:23:14,320
you in

2703
01:23:17,990 --> 01:23:17,440
and and you will become a fan very

2704
01:23:20,070 --> 01:23:18,000
quickly

2705
01:23:21,990 --> 01:23:20,080
and then the other thing is to have this

2706
01:23:24,310 --> 01:23:22,000
interview to know that this is someone

2707
01:23:25,669 --> 01:23:24,320
who really cares about the way that

2708
01:23:28,629 --> 01:23:25,679
history is done

2709
01:23:30,070 --> 01:23:28,639
i think adds a greater depth i i felt

2710
01:23:32,229 --> 01:23:30,080
that was the case

2711
01:23:34,310 --> 01:23:32,239
in reading the books but hearing that

2712
01:23:36,950 --> 01:23:34,320
today just really makes me

2713
01:23:38,390 --> 01:23:36,960

even more of a fan of your work so it's

2714

01:23:40,709 --> 01:23:38,400

been an absolutely terrific

2715

01:23:41,669 --> 01:23:40,719

opportunity having you on and thanks so

2716

01:23:43,270 --> 01:23:41,679

much

2717

01:23:45,750 --> 01:23:43,280

thank you for inviting me it's been fun

2718

01:23:47,669 --> 01:23:45,760

to do thanks again to dr adrian

2719

01:23:49,510 --> 01:23:47,679

goldsworthy for joining me today on

2720

01:23:52,709 --> 01:23:49,520

skeptico the one question

2721

01:23:54,709 --> 01:23:52,719

i'd tee up from this interview is and i

2722

01:23:57,750 --> 01:23:54,719

kind of hinted at it at the beginning

2723

01:24:01,110 --> 01:23:57,760

what do you make of the state of history

2724

01:24:02,709 --> 01:24:01,120

as an academic discipline we talk a lot

2725

01:24:05,669 --> 01:24:02,719

about science

2726

01:24:06,870 --> 01:24:05,679

how does history in particularly the the

2727

01:24:09,669 --> 01:24:06,880

way that history

2728

01:24:11,590 --> 01:24:09,679

seems to be being done how does that

2729

01:24:14,229 --> 01:24:11,600

factor into your personal

2730

01:24:14,870 --> 01:24:14,239

confidence in what we're being told

2731

01:24:18,310 --> 01:24:14,880

about the

2732

01:24:20,950 --> 01:24:18,320

history that's being written right now

2733

01:24:21,910 --> 01:24:20,960

we're living in some very historic times

2734

01:24:25,430 --> 01:24:21,920

as well as

2735

01:24:27,669 --> 01:24:25,440

about this ancient history as always

2736

01:24:29,350 --> 01:24:27,679

i'd love to get your thoughts on any of

2737

01:24:31,110 --> 01:24:29,360

this track me down in the skeptical

2738

01:24:33,990 --> 01:24:31,120

forum send me an email

2739

01:24:36,390 --> 01:24:34,000

whatever works for you i do have i think

2740

01:24:38,149 --> 01:24:36,400

some really good shows coming up stay

2741

01:24:42,830 --> 01:24:38,159

with me for all of that

2742

01:24:49,380 --> 01:24:42,840

until next time take care and bye for