The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire (Selections)

Edward Gibbon · *Milman edition, selections · English original, Milman edition (Project Gutenberg #731, #733, #736), selections*

The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city. So this hosted file opens—not with Gibbon's famous first sentence, but in Chapter I, Part III. The file then holds Chapters II and III, the General Observations on the Fall of the Roman Empire in the West, and Chapter LXVIII (Mahomet II and the fall of Constantinople, 1453). It is not the complete seventy-one-chapter work, and not even the complete first chapter. Name the limit. For grades 11–12. War: no gore spectacle. Quote Gibbon.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as a selection that opens in Chapter I, Part III, with a Roman camp, and later with General Observations and Chapter LXVIII, rather than as the complete Decline and Fall?

"The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city. 60 As soon as the"

Chapter I, Part III

Edward Gibbon, in the Milman edition, as hosted from Project Gutenberg #731, #733, and #736. The file opens in Chapter I, Part III: The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city. It does not open with the famous first sentence of Chapter I. It then holds Chapters II and III, the General Observations on the Fall of the Roman Empire in the West, and Chapter LXVIII. Not the complete work, and not even the complete first chapter. For grades 11–12. Name the limit. War: no gore spectacle. Quote Gibbon.

KEY CHARACTERS

The Roman legionaries of Chapter I, Part III
Whose camp, in Gibbon's telling, has the appearance of a fortified city, and whose diligence is a fruit of habit and discipline

Edward Gibbon
Whose General Observations begin with the Greeks imputing Rome's triumphs to fortune; name the selection you are in

HOW TO BEGIN THIS GIBBON SELECTION

> *"The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city. 60 As soon as the"*
>
> Chapter I, Part III

> *"The Greeks, after their country had been reduced into a province, imputed the triumphs of Rome, not to the merit, but to the fortune, of the republic. The"*
>
> General Observations

Grades 11–12
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01

A Camp Like a Fortified City

CHAPTER I, PART III

The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city. This is where the hosted file actually begins.

- Keep "appearance of a fortified city."
- 11–12.
- The file opens in Part III, not at the start of Chapter I.
- Quote Gibbon.

> *"The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city. 60 As soon as the"*
>
> Chapter I, Part III

02

The Pioneers Levelled the Ground

CHAPTER I, PART III

As soon as the space was marked out, the pioneers carefully levelled the ground, and removed every impediment that might interrupt its perfect regularity. Labor comes before a march.

- Keep "carefully levelled the ground" and "perfect regularity."
- 11–12.
- Still Chapter I, Part III.
- Quote this wording.

> *"As soon as the space was marked out, the pioneers carefully levelled the ground, and removed every impediment that might interrupt its perfect regularity. Its form was an"*
>
> Chapter I, Part III

03

Habit and Discipline

CHAPTER I, PART III

Active valor may often be the present of nature; but such patient diligence can be the fruit only of habit and discipline. Gibbon separates a gift of nature from a fruit of habit.

- Keep "habit and discipline."
- 11–12.
- A camp, not a spectacle of battle.
- Quote Gibbon.

> *"Active valor may often be the present of nature; but such patient diligence can be the fruit only of habit and discipline. 61 60 (return) ["*
>
> Chapter I, Part III

04

Not to the Merit, but to the Fortune

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The Greeks, after their country had been reduced into a province, imputed the triumphs of Rome, not to the merit, but to the fortune, of the republic. So the General Observations begin.

- Keep "not to the merit, but to the fortune, of the republic."
- 11–12.
- Name the General Observations; this is not Chapter I.
- Quote this wording.

> *"The Greeks, after their country had been reduced into a province, imputed the triumphs of Rome, not to the merit, but to the fortune, of the republic. The"*
>
> General Observations

05

A Selection, Not the Complete Decline and Fall

THE EDITION

Milman edition, from PG #731, #733, and #736. The hosted file opens in Chapter I, Part III, then holds Chapters II and III, the General Observations, and Chapter LXVIII (the fall of Constantinople, 1453). Not the complete seventy-one-chapter work, and not even the complete first chapter. For grades 11–12. Name the limit. War: no gore spectacle. Quote Gibbon. One map cannot teach even this selection entire.

- Name the actual contents; do not invent the famous first sentence.
- Name Chapter LXVIII, not a different chapter number.
- 11–12. No gore spectacle.
- Quote this English.

> *"The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city. 60 As soon as the"*
>
> Chapter I, Part III

A camp like a fortified city

Ground levelled to a perfect regularity

Habit and discipline

Merit, and fortune, of the republic

A selection, honestly named

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. The hosted file opens in Chapter I, Part III, not with Gibbon's famous first sentence: "The camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city."
2. This is a selection from the Milman edition (PG #731, #733, #736): Chapter I Part III, Chapters II and III, the General Observations, and Chapter LXVIII — not the complete Decline and Fall, and not even the complete first chapter. Name the limit.
3. The General Observations begin: "The Greeks, after their country had been reduced into a province, imputed the triumphs of Rome, not to the merit, but to the fortune, of the republic."
4. For grades 11–12. War: no gore spectacle. Quote Gibbon. One map cannot teach even this selection entire.

Quotations are verbatim from the English original, Milman edition (Project Gutenberg #731, #733, #736), selections, Project Gutenberg #731, #733 and #736 (The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, with notes by H. H. Milman), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/gibbon-decline-and-fall-selections/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.