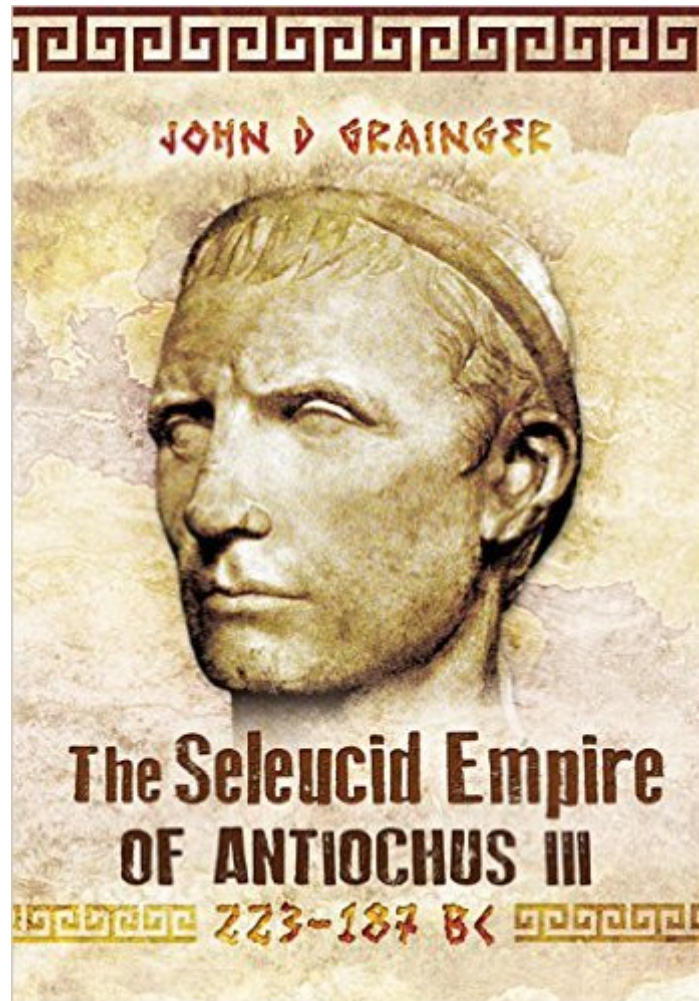


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The Seleukid Empire Of Antiochus III (223-187 BC)



Synopsis

The second volume in John Grainger's history of the Seleucid Empire is devoted to the reign of Antiochus III. Too often remembered only as the man who lost to the Romans at Magnesia, Antiochus is here revealed as one of the most powerful and capable rulers of the age. Having emerged from civil war in 223 as the sole survivor of the Seleucid dynasty, he shouldered the burdens of a weakened and divided realm. Though defeated by Egypt in the Fourth Syrian War, he gradually restored full control over the empire. His great Eastern campaign took Macedonian arms back to India for the first time since Alexander's day and, returning west, he went on to conquer Thrace and finally wrest Syria from Ptolemaic control. Then came intervention in Greece and the clash with Rome leading to the defeat at Magnesia and the restrictive Peace of Apamea. Despite this, Antiochus remained ambitious, campaigning in the East again; when he died in 187 BC the empire was still one of the most powerful states in the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the second volume in John Grainger's history of the Seleucid Empire and it is entirely centred on the (long) reign of Antiochus III, perhaps the best documented Seleucid reign. For once, the [marketing blurb](#) of the cover page (and which figures on [Amazon's](#) sites) reflects some of the book's contents rather well. Antiochus is indeed [too](#) often remembered only as the man who lost to the Romans at Magnesia and this book does show him [as](#) one of the most powerful and capable rulers of the age. However, it also shows that his defeat against the Romans was not a disaster, that the war was no [walk-over](#) for the Romans, and that they almost lost at

Magnesia. The chapters on the Antiochusâ™ War against Rome are probably among the very best of the book and they largely draw from the authorâ™s more scholarly publication on the same topic. The description of the politics and how the premises of the war were rewritten by pro-Roman authors afterwards are particularly well shown. The mistakes of the Seleucid King are also well analysed. The rise of Antiochus to power, or rather how he had to fight to keep his throne and reconquer his Empire province by province, is also well told. Particularly well told are the parts related to the Fourth and Fifth âœSyrian Warsâ• against the Ptolemy rivals and where, again, the author has published a much more complete by more scholarly and terribly expensive book. Also well-described is the re-conquest of Asia Minor which draws on a number of works, such as John Maâ™s, but also some of the John Graingerâ™s himself.

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