The inheritance of Rome: Chris Wickham 2009-07-07 "The breadth of reading is astonishing, the knowledge displayed is so encyclopaedic and the attention given to creating the text and the footnotes is so painstakingly thorough and the presentation so readable that this book is an essential purchase for anyone interested in understanding the Roman world."

The dominance of the Roman Empire in the first millennium AD is uncontestable, and it’s only in the last 25 years that historians have really grappled with the question of its impact on the later European world. This is the first comprehensive account of the Roman legacy for a generation. Chris Wickham argues for a unique, broad understanding of the Roman world, one that includes all the peoples who inhabited the area that was once the Roman Empire. He shows how the Roman inheritance was transmitted, preserved and reinterpreted by the Christians, Muslims, Franks and Turks, and how the idea of the Roman Empire was re-crafted and put to political use.

The book begins by framing the Roman influence in a broad historical context. After an initial overview of the Roman Empire, chapters follow on the people who were involved in the transmission and development of the Roman inheritance. Then follow chapters on the material world and on the Roman cultural legacy. The book concludes by focusing on the impact of the Roman inheritance on the Christian church on the eve of the Carolingian resurgence and on the Islamic empires, the northern Franks and the Byzantine Empire.

The book is written in a lively and accessible prose, and is illustrated with a wealth of helpful maps and diagrams. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the Roman Empire and its impact on the later world. It is also a valuable resource for students of history, politics, and cultural studies.