





*The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by  
Gibbon, Edward - Warne 1872

When Edward Gibbon published his 6 volumes towards the end of the 18th Century, he included almost 8,000 footnotes and asides.

He wasn't the first to incorporate supplementary information but Gibbon's work established the standard for academic publications.

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till at length the hopeless monarch, protesting his innocence and accusing his fortune, ascended a funeral pile, and gave orders, that, as soon as he had stabbed himself, the fire should be kindled by his attendants. The dynasty of the *Song*, the native and ancient sovereigns of the whole empire, survived about forty-five years the fall of the northern usurpers; and the perfect conquest was reserved for the arms of Cublai. During this interval, the Moguls were often diverted by foreign wars; and, if the Chinese seldom dared to meet their victors in the field, their passive courage presented an endless succession of cities to storm and of millions to slaughter. In the attack and defence of places, the engines of antiquity and the Greek fire were alternately employed: the use of gunpowder in cannon and bombs appears as a familiar practice; and the sieges were conducted by the Mahometans and Franks, who had been liberally invited into the service of Cublai. After passing the great river, the troops and artillery were conveyed along a series of canals, till they invested the royal residence of Hamcheu, or Quinsay, in the country of silk, the most delicious climate of China. The emperor, a defenceless youth, surrendered his person and sceptre; and before he was sent in exile into Tartary he struck nine times the ground with his forehead, to adore in prayer or thanksgiving the mercy of the great khan. Yet the war (it was now styled a rebellion) was still maintained in the southern provinces from Hamcheu to Canton; and the obstinate remnant of independence and hostility was transported from the land to the sea. But when the fleet of the *Song* was surrounded and oppressed by a superior armament, their last cham-

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A. D. 1279.

<sup>22</sup> I depend on the knowledge and fidelity of the Pere Gaubil, who translates the Chinese text of the *Annals of the Moguls or Yuen* (p. 71. 93. 153.); but I am ignorant at what time these annals were composed and published. The two uncles of Marco Polo, who served as engineers at the siege of Siengyang-fou (l. ii. c. 61. in Ramusio, tom. ii. See Gaubil, p. 155. 157.), must have felt and related the effects of this destructive powder, and

their silence is a weighty, and almost decisive, objection. I entertain a suspicion, that the recent discovery was carried from Europe to China by the caravans of the 16th century, and falsely adopted as an old national discovery before the arrival of the Portuguese and Jesuits in the 17th. Yet the Pere Gaubil affirms, that the use of gunpowder has been known to the Chinese above 1600 years.

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pion leaped into the waves with his infant emperor in his arms. "It is more glorious," he cried, "to die a prince, than to live a slave." An hundred thousand Chinese imitated his example; and the whole empire, from Tonkin to the great wall, submitted to the dominion of Cublai. His boundless ambition aspired to the conquest of Japan: his fleet was twice shipwrecked; and the lives of an hundred thousand Moguls and Chinese were sacrificed in the fruitless expedition. But the circumjacent kingdoms, Corea, Tonkin, Cochinchina, Pegu, Bengal, and Thibet, were reduced in different degrees of tribute and obedience by the effort or terror of his arms. He explored the Indian ocean with a fleet of a thousand ships: they sailed in sixty-eight days, most probably to the isle of Borneo, under the equinoctial line; and though they returned not without spoil or glory, the emperor was dissatisfied that the savage king had escaped from their hands.

II. The conquest of Hindostan by the Moguls, was reserved in a later period for the house of Timour; but that of Iran, or Persia, was achieved by Holagou Khan, the grandson of Zingis, the brother and lieutenant of the two successive emperors, Mangou and Cublai. I shall not enumerate the crowd of sultans, emirs, and atabeks, whom he trampled into dust: but the extirpation of the *Assassins*, or *Ismaelians*<sup>24</sup> of Persia, may be considered as a service to mankind. Among the hills to the south of the Caspian, these odious sectaries had reigned with impunity above an hundred and sixty years; and their prince, or Imam, established his lieutenant to lead and govern the colony of mount Libanus, so famous and formidable in the history of the crusades<sup>25</sup>. With the fanaticism of the Koran, the Ismaelians had blended the Indian transmigration, and the vi-

Of Persia, and  
the empire of  
the caliphs.  
A. D. 1258.

<sup>24</sup> All that can be known of the *Assassins* of Persia and Syria, is poured from the copious, and even profuse, erudition of M. Falconet, in two *memoires* read before the Academy of Inscriptions (tom. xvii. p. 127—170.).

<sup>25</sup> The *Ismaelians* of Syria, 40, on *Assassins*, had acquired or founded ten castles in the hills above Tortosa. About the year 1280, they were extirpated by the Mamelukes.

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# **The conventions used for supplementary content in print**



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