

# TIMELINE

## LEADERS\*

West Roman Emperors	East Roman Emperors	Non-Romans
Valentinian I (364–75)	Valens (364–78)	Athalaric, <i>index</i> of the Gothic Tervingi (c. 360–75, d. c. 381)
Gratian (375–83)	Theodosius I (379–95)	
<i>Maximus</i> (383–8)		
Valentinian II (383–92)		
<i>Eugenius</i> (392–4)		
Honorius (395–423)	Arcadius (395–408)	Alaric, creator and leader of the Visigoths (c. 395–411)
<i>Constantine III</i> (c. 406–11)	Theodosius II (408–50)	
<i>Flavius Constantius</i> (421)		
<i>John</i> (423–5)		
Valentinian III (425–55)		Geiseric, leader of the Vandal-Alan coalition (427–77)
<i>Petronius Maximus</i> (455)	Marcian (451–7)	Attila the Hun (c. 440–53)
<i>Avitus</i> (455–6)		
Majorian (457–61)	Leo I (457–74)	Valamer, leader of the Pannonian Goths (c. 455–67)
<i>Libius Severus</i> (461–5)		

\* Italics = usurpers (emperors unrecognized in the other half of the Empire). Some minor western usurpers who never extended their power beyond one immediate locality are not included.

Anthemius (467–72)		Euric, creator of the Visigothic kingdom (467–83)
Olybrius (472)	Zeno (473–91)	Gundobad, king of the Burgundians (474–?)
Glycerius (473–4)	Basiliscus (474–6)	
Julius Nepos (474–5)		Theoderic, leader and creator of the Ostrogoths (474–526)
Romulus Augustulus (475–6)		Odovacar, king in Italy (476–93)

## EVENTS

- c.350 Hunnic attacks on Alans east of River Don and Gothic Greuthungi west of Don destabilize area north and east of Black Sea
- 375 autumn(?) – After death in battle of a second leader, one major group of Greuthungi moves west into territory of neighbouring Gothic Tervingi
- 376 **late(?) summer – Greuthungi and 'larger part' of Tervingi arrive on Danube requesting asylum inside Roman Empire**
- 377–82 Gothic war south of Danube
- 377 late winter/early spring – Initial revolt of Tervingi; Greuthungi force their way across Danube
- 377/8 1st phase of Gothic war, confined to eastern Balkans
- 378 24 Aug. – Battle of Hadrianople; death of Valens
- 379/81 2nd phase of Gothic war spreads to western Balkans
- 382 3 Oct. – Peace treaty ends the war; Tervingi and Greuthungi settled in Balkans on relatively generous terms
- 386 More Greuthungi try to cross Danube; defeated by Theodosius and settled on harsh terms in Asia Minor
- 387/8 Theodosius I defeats Maximus; Balkan Goths involved in war and some revolt
- 392/3 Theodosius I defeats Eugenius; Balkan Goths again involved in war and further revolt

**c.395–411 Alaric reigns over Tervingi and those Greuthungi encompassed by 382 treaty**

395/6 First major Hunnic attack on Roman Empire, via Caucasus (Persian Empire also heavily affected)

395–7 Alaric's 1st revolt

397 Treaty between Alaric and Eutropius; Alaric becomes Roman general commanding in Illyricum

399 Fall of Eutropius; end of treaty

401/2 Alaric's 1st invasion of Italy; battles of Pollentia and Verona

**c.405–8 2nd wave of Hun-inspired invasions of Roman Empire, affecting areas west of the Carpathians**

405/6 Treaty between Alaric and Stilicho

Radagaisus invades Italy through Austrian passes, is defeated and killed; many followers sold into slavery, elite warriors drafted into Roman army

406 31 Dec. (?) – Rhine invaders – Vandals, Alans, Suevi and smaller groups – break over Rome's Upper Rhine frontier

407 Constantine III leads Roman forces stationed in Britain and Gaul against Rhine invaders

407–9 Rhine invaders ravage Gaul, then cross Pyrenees into Spain

408(?) Minor Hunnic leader Uldin invades eastern Empire

408–11 Alaric's 2nd invasion of Italy; creation of Visigoths by addition of Radagaisus' followers to Tervingi and Greuthungi encompassed by 382 treaty

410 20 Aug. Alaric sacks Rome

c.410/11(?) British provinces revolt against Constantine III (?)

**411–21 Flavius Constantius dominates western Empire**

411 Alaric dies, is succeeded by Athaulf; Olympiodorus goes on embassy to main body of Huns now established in central Europe(?)

Fl. Constantius suppresses Constantine III and related usurpers

412 Rhine invaders divide Spanish provinces between them

412/13 Honorius sends letter to British provincials telling them that central Roman forces can no longer defend them

- 413–16 Fl. Constantius undermines Athaulf (killed in coup in 415) to force Visigoths into renewed alliance with western Empire; Visigothic settlement begins in Aquitaine
- 416–18 Combined Visigothic-Roman campaigns destroy independence of Alans and Siling Vandals in Spain; survivors unite behind Hasding Vandals to create new Vandal-Alan supergroup
- 421 Promotion to the purple, then death, of Fl. Constantius
- 423 Death of Honorius; usurpation of John
- 422–9 Free hand for Vandal-Alans in Spain culminates in their transfer to Morocco; from 427 led by Geiseric. Suevi establish control in north-western Spain (Galicia)
- 425 East Roman army puts Valentinian III, aged 6, on western throne
- 425–33 Struggle for domination at court of Valentinian III, ending with Aetius' defeat of rival generals Felix and Boniface; partial eclipse of influence of emperor's mother Galla Placidia
- 433–54 Aetius dominates western Empire**
  - 435 Vandal-Alans granted land in Numidia and Mauretania
  - 436 Aetius' forces suppress Bagaudae in north-west Gaul
  - 436/7 Destruction of Burgundian kingdom on both sides of Upper Rhine by Huns; Aetius' resettlement of survivors on Roman territory around Lake Geneva
  - 436–9 Aetius' war with Visigoths in south-west Gaul ends in renewed treaty
  - 438–41 Suevi under King Rechila seize provinces of Baetica and Carthaginiensis
  - 439 Sept. Vandal-Alans seize Carthage, capital of Roman North Africa, and provinces of Proconsularis and Byzacena
- c.440–53 Attila becomes supreme leader of Huns**
  - 441/2 Attila's 1st invasion of east Roman Balkans leads to recall of eastern army sent to participate in Sicilian expedition to recapture lost North African provinces
  - 444 Treaty between Geiseric and western Empire recognizes his control of Proconsularis, Byzacena and Numidia
  - 445(?) Attila murders brother Bleda to take sole control of Huns
  - 446(?) Final appeal of British provincials for central Roman assistance against Saxon and other invaders

- 447 Attila's 2nd invasion of east Roman Balkans; heavy Roman defeats on River Utus and in the Chersonesus
- 448 Priscus participates in embassy to assassinate Attila
- 450 Attila grants Constantinople a generous treaty
- 451 Attila invades Gaul; defeated by Aetius' coalition force of Romans, Burgundians, Visigoths and Franks at the Catalaunian fields c. end June(?)
- 452 Attila invades Italy, sacks cities including Milan; retreats as disease and Roman harassment weaken army
- 453–69 Attila's Hunnic Empire collapses**
  - 453 Attila dies
  - 454 summer(?) – Battle of Nedao; Gepids first subject group to reassert independence from Hunnic domination  
21 or 22 Sept. – Murder of Aetius by Valentinian III
  - 455 16 Mar. – Murder of Valentinian III by Petronius Maximus, declared Augustus next day  
late May – Geiseric's forces sack Rome, Petronius Maximus killed fleeing city (31 May); Geiseric adds Tripolitania, Sardinia and Balearics to his kingdom  
9 July – Avitus declared western emperor by Gallo-Roman senators with support of Visigothic king Theoderic II
- late 450s(?) St Severinus starts work in Noricum
  - 456 17 Oct. – Battle of Placentia and deposition of Avitus
  - 457 1 Apr. – Majorian becomes emperor of west
  - 459 Pannonian Goths of Valamer, now united and independent of Hunnic control, invade east Roman territory to extract annual subsidy of 300 lbs of gold
- 461–72 Ricimer dominates central imperial politics in west**
  - 461 summer – Defeat of Majorian's North African expeditionary force in Spain, followed on 2 Aug. by his deposition and on 7 Aug. by execution; Ricimer's domination of Italy uncontested  
19 Nov. – Nominated by Ricimer, Libius Severus becomes western emperor
  - 465 14 Nov. – Libius Severus dies
  - 466 Euric kills and deposes Theoderic II to become king of Visigoths

- 467 Dengizich, son of Attila, makes war on eastern Empire  
12 Apr. – After long negotiations between Ricimer and Constantinople, Anthemius declared western emperor
- 468–76 Western Empire unravels**
- 468 June(?) – Defeat of final joint east-west Roman expedition against Vandal kingdom
- 469 Dengizich's head publicly displayed in Constantinople; Hernac, Attila's last surviving son, finds asylum in east Roman territory south of Danube  
Euric's forces advance boundary of Visigothic kingdom northwards to Loire
- 472 Apr. – Olybrius declared western emperor by Ricimer  
11 July – Murder of Anthemius by Gundobad, Ricimer's ally, after civil war  
18 Aug. – Ricimer dies  
2 Nov. – Olybrius dies
- 473–5 Sidonius and friends try to preserve Auvergne against Visigothic annexation within a rump western empire
- 473–89 Campaigns of Theoderic the Amal, nephew of Valamer, in east Roman Balkans, lead to creation of Ostrogothic supergroup
- 473 3 Mar. – Glycerius declared western emperor  
Euric's forces seize Tarragona in Spain
- 474 pre-June – Gundobad abandons imperial politics to become joint king of Burgundians  
19 or 24 June – Glycerius deposed by Julius Nepos and made Bishop of Salona; Nepos declares himself western emperor
- 475 28 Aug. – Attacked by Orestes, Nepos retreats to Dalmatia  
31 Oct. – Orestes declares his son Romulus Augustulus western emperor
- 476 After executions of his father Orestes (28 Aug.) and uncle Paul (4 Sept.), **Romulus Augustulus, last western Roman emperor, is deposed.** Odovacar returns imperial vestments to Constantinople, telling emperor Zeno that no emperor is any longer required in the west

Euric's Visigothic kingdom now controls entire Hispanic peninsula except for north-west corner, and annexes Arles and the rest of Provence

- 481/2–507 Campaigns of Clovis bring both Frankish unification and extension of Frankish control over all of former Roman Gaul
- 482 Jan. – St Severinus dies
- 489–93 Theoderic the Amal conquers Italy, defeating and deposing Odovacar