

Dr Harry Sidebottom

Dr Harry Sidebottom was brought up in racing stables in Newmarket, where his father was a trainer, and was in a basket saddle on a donkey before he could walk.

He was educated at various schools and universities, including Warwick and Oxford, where he took his doctorate (with *Studies in Dio Chrysostom "On Kingship"*) in Ancient History at Corpus Christi College. Harry has taught Classical History at various universities, and is now Fellow and Director of Studies of St Benet's Hall and a Lecturer in Ancient History at Lincoln College.



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Publications

Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
FALLING SKY 2022 Zaffre	AD 265, Gaul - The Roman Empire is on the brink. Emperor Gallienus has amassed a huge army across the Alps to seize back the mountains from the usurper Posthumus. War has come. Ballista and his cavalry are on the frontline, battling in the most brutal of conditions. But if he is to survive the campaign and finally retire to his beloved Sicily, it's not just the battlefield he needs to navigate. As he and Praetorian Prefect Volusianus lay siege to Posthumus' armies, it becomes clear the greatest threat to Ballista's life might just come from within his ranks. After all, Volusianus has shown he will go to any distance for his own ends. Is Ballista just another pawn in his game

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THE BURNING ROAD 2021 Zaffre	<p>AD265 - Sicily, Ancient Rome: In the shadow of Mount Etna, slaves are rising up. As the rebel leader declares Sicily the new land of the free, men and women are slaughtered, and cities across the island are sacked and burned. When a ship is wrecked off the island's west coast, all but two survivors are cut down in the surf by the rebel slaves. Ballista, an experienced Roman soldier, has always found a way to survive against the odds - but his son Marcus is still just a boy.</p> <p>With the burning road stretching out ahead of them, father and son must cross the war-ravaged island in a race against time to save the rest of his family, and somehow find a way to extinguish the brutal rebellion, before it all goes up in flames.</p>
BLOOD & STEEL 2015 HARPERCOLLINS	<p>This is the second book in an epic new series set in third century Rome; a dramatic era of murder, coup, counter-rebellions and civil war.</p> <p>In a world of battle and betrayal men will fight – and kill – to sit on the Throne of the Caesars.</p> <p>Rome, AD238</p> <p>Emperor Maximinus’ reign hangs in the balance. At the helm of an empire that is bleeding manpower and money to sustain his wars in the north, rebellions flare in the far reaches of its territories.</p> <p>In Africa, Gordian the Elder and Younger are proclaimed as the new Augusti. A family descending from the imperial bloodline, they represent a chance for the establishment to take back the empire.</p> <p>In Rome, the first blood of the revolt is shed when an assassin murders Maximinus’ prefect and announces to Rome that their ruler is dead and the Gordians have taken the throne. Still bitter at having a soldier from the barracks wearing the imperial purple, the Senate endorses the rebellion: the Gordiani are hailed as Emperors.</p> <p>But as chaos descends on the capital, news reaches Maximinus of the betrayal. A man of war, he acts with decisive brutality and violence. On the dusty plains outside Carthage, bloody battle will determine the fate of the Roman empire.</p>

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IRON & RUST 2014 HARPER COLLINS	<p>Iron and Rust is the first book in a new series set in third century Rome; a dramatic era of murder, coup, counter-rebellions and civil war.</p> <p>In a single year six emperors will lay claim to the Throne of the Caesars... SPRING AD235</p> <p>Dawn on the Rhine. A surprise attack and the brutal murder of the Emperor Alexander and his mother ends the Severan dynasty and shatters four decades of Roman certainty.</p> <p>Military hero Maximinus Thrax is the first Caesar risen from the barracks. A simple man of steel and violence, he will fight for Rome.</p> <p>The Senators praise the new emperor with elaborate oratory, but will any of them accept a Caesar who was once a shepherd boy? And in the streets of the eternal city, others merely pray to escape imperial notice.</p> <p>In the north, as the merciless war against the barbarians consumes men and treasure, rebellion and personal tragedy drive Maximinus to desperate extremes, bloody revenge and the borders of sanity.</p> <p>Iron & Rust, the first book in a major new series, creates a world both sophisticated and brutal, yet firmly rooted in history; a world of intrigue, murder, passion and war, a world where men will kill to sit on the Throne of the Caesars.</p>
THE AMBER ROAD 2013 MICHAEL JOSEPH	<p>AD 264 - The Roman Empire is torn in two.</p> <p>The western provinces - Gaul, Spain and Britain - have been seized by the pretender Postumus. To the east, on the plains of northern Italy, the armies of the emperor Gallienus muster.</p> <p>War is coming.</p> <p>Everyone must choose a side.</p> <p>On a mission shrouded in secrecy and suspicion, Ballista must journey The Amber Road to the far north to Hyperborea, back to his original home and the people of his birth.</p> <p>A fearsome, masked warlord attacks, bringing fire and sword against the Angles. Yet not all welcome Ballista`s return.</p> <p>Does treachery pose the greatest danger?</p>

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THE WOLVES OF THE NORTH 2012 PENGUIN	<p>In the fifth novel in Harry Sidebottom's acclaimed and bestselling Warrior of Rome historical fiction series, Ballista returns in Warrior of Rome: The Wolves of the North to undertake yet another epic mission - while the Roman Empire reels in chaos around him.</p> <p>AD 263 - the Roman Empire is close to turmoil, violent uprising threatening to shatter the fragile balance of power.</p> <p>In the north, the tribes are increasingly bold in their raids on the Imperium - their savagery unlike anything Rome has known before. Ballista must undertake his most treacherous journey yet - a covert attempt to turn the barbarians against each other. He must face the Heruli - the Eaters of Flesh, the Wolves of the North - the most brutal tribe of them all. As Ballista and his retinue make their journey, someone - or something - is hunting them, picking them off one by one, and leaving a trail of mutilated corpses and terror.</p> <p>Ballista is in a strange land, among strange people, but is it possible that the greatest threat may come from within his own familia?</p> <p>Harry Sidebottom's Warrior of Rome: The Wolves of the North is a nail-biting, action packed epic tale of rebellion and terror set in the Roman Empire.</p> <p>'A book to keep you up well past your bedtime' Evening Standard</p> <p>'Blazes with searing scholarship' The Times</p>
LION OF THE SUN 2010 MICHAEL JOSEPH	<p>Mesopotamia, AD 260 Betrayed by his most trusted adviser, the Roman Emperor Valerian has been captured by the Sassanid barbarians. The shame of the vanquished beats down mercilessly like the white sun, as the frail old emperor prostrates himself before Shapur, King of Kings. Ballista looks on helplessly, but vows under his breath to avenge those who have brought the empire to the brink of destruction with their treachery. One day, maybe not soon, but one day, I will kill you . . . But first he must decide what price he will pay for his own freedom.</p> <p>Only the fearless and only those whom the gods will spare from hell can now save the empire from a catastrophic ending. Ballista, the Warrior of Rome, faces his greatest challenge yet.</p>
KING OF KINGS 2009 MICHAEL JOSEPH	<p>AD256. The spectre of treachery hangs ominously over the Roman world. The sparks of Christian fervour have spread through the empire like wildfire, and the imperium is alive with the machinations of dangerous and powerful men. All the while, Sassanid forces press forward relentlessly along the eastern frontier, and the battle-bloodied general Ballista returns to the imperial court from the fallen city of Arete, only to find that there are those who would rather see him dead than alive. Balista is soon caught in a sinister web of intrigue and religious fanaticism. His courage and loyalty will be put to the ultimate test in the service of Rome and the Emperor. The Warrior of Rome is back, in the second book of the series.</p>

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FIRE IN THE EAST 2008 MICHAEL JOSEPH	<p>FIRE IN THE EAST is the first instalment in the immense grand narrative of the WARRIOR OF ROME series: a trilogy spanning the first tumultuous events of the decline of the Roman Empire. AD255 – the Roman Imperium is stretched to breaking point, its authority and might challenged throughout the territories and along every border. Yet the most lethal threat lurks far to the east in Persia, where the massing forces of the Sassanid Empire loom with fiery menace. The far flung and isolated citadel of Arête faces out across the wasteland, awaiting the inevitable invasion. One man is sent to martial the defences of this lonely city – one man to shore up the crumbling walls of a once indomitable symbol of Roman power – a man whose name itself means war, a man called Marcus Clodius Ballista. Alone, Ballista is called to muster the forces and the courage to stand first and to stand hard against greatest enemy ever to confront the Imperium.</p>
THE LOST TEN 2019 ZAFFRE	<p>When Valens, a junior officer in the Roman Army, joins a crack squad of soldiers on a dangerous mission, little does he know what's in store for him. Tasked with rescuing the young Prince Sasan, who has been imprisoned in the impenetrable Castle of Silence, the troops set out across Mesopotamia and into the mountains south of the Caspian Sea.</p> <p>Deep in hostile territory, inexperienced Valens finds himself in charge. And as one by one his soldiers die or disappear, he begins to suspect that there is a traitor in their midst, and that the rescue is fast becoming a suicide mission. Valens must marshal this disparate group of men and earn their respect, before it's too late . . .</p>

Non-Fiction

Publication Details Notes

**ANCIENT
WARFARE: A VERY
SHORT
INTRODUCTION**

2004

OUP

Greek and Roman warfare differed from that of other cultures and was unlike any other forms of warfare before and after. The key difference is often held to be that the Greeks and Romans practised a 'Western Way of War', where the aim is an open, decisive battle, won by courage instilled in part by discipline. Harry Sidebottom looks at how and why this 'Western Way of War' was constructed and maintained by the Greeks and Romans, why this concept is so popular and prevalent today, and at whether or not this is an accurate interpretation.

All aspects of ancient warfare are thoroughly examined - from philosophy and strategy to the technical skills needed to fight. He looks at war in the wider context - how wars could shape classical society, and how the individual's identity could be constructed by war, for example the Christian soldier fighting in God's name. He also explores the ways in which ancient society thought about conflict: Can a war be just? Why was siege warfare particularly bloody? What role did divine intervention play in the outcome of a battle?

Taking fascinating examples from the Iliad, Tacitus, and the Persian Wars, Sidebottom uses arresting anecdotes and striking visual images to show that the any understanding of ancient war is an ongoing process of interpretation.

"A thoughtful and thought-provoking discussion of the way in which the ancient Greeks and Romans thought about warfare and how they used war to think about society and their place in the world. In this sense it is a radical and fresh reading of Greek and Roman warfare that is both surprising and stimulating. ... This is a little book which is jam-packed with both ideas and insight"

TLS

"In this well written and equally well organised survey Dr Sidebottom gives readers a sound introduction to warfare in this period. ... Despite its brevity, this book is a tour de force."

CONTEMPORARY REVIEW

"Harry Sidebottom fairly presumes you wouldn't know a Hoplite if one thrust a spear at you, and that you grasped legionary tactics from watching the DVD of GLADIATOR: he uses our instinctive understanding of what has been sold since classical Greece as the "western way of war" as the basis for a boot-camp for the brain - a short, sharp shock to presumptions. The book manages to practical fighting from the Iliad to Islam's challenge to Byzantium; was as personal and state metaphor in Greece and Rome; strategy and motivation on sea and land; then nips briskly on to historians' re-evaluations of the above - in 128 neat pages plus extra reading list and a wicked chronology. Got that? Right, then. Fall in."

GUARDIAN