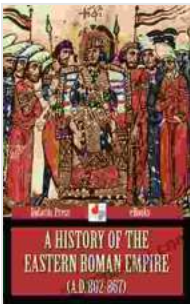


# History of the Eastern Roman Empire 802-867: A Tapestry of Triumphs and Tribulations

In the annals of history, the Eastern Roman Empire stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of ancient Rome. From its humble beginnings in the 4th century, this empire flourished for over a millennium, its influence spanning vast tracts of land and leaving an indelible mark on the world.



## A History of the Eastern Roman Empire - A.D. 802-867

(Illustrated) by J.B. Bury

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The period from 802 to 867 marks a particularly intriguing chapter in the history of the Eastern Roman Empire. This era witnessed a succession of enigmatic emperors, each leaving their unique mark on the political, religious, and cultural landscape of the empire.

## The Reign of Leo V the Armenian (813-820)



As the 8th century drew to a close, the Eastern Roman Empire was embroiled in a bitter struggle over the issue of iconoclasm, the practice of destroying religious images.

Leo V ascended to the throne in 813 as a staunch iconoclast. His reign was marked by religious persecution and the destruction of numerous icons.

Leo's policies alienated many within the empire, and his reign culminated in his assassination in 820.

### **The Amorian Dynasty (820-867)**

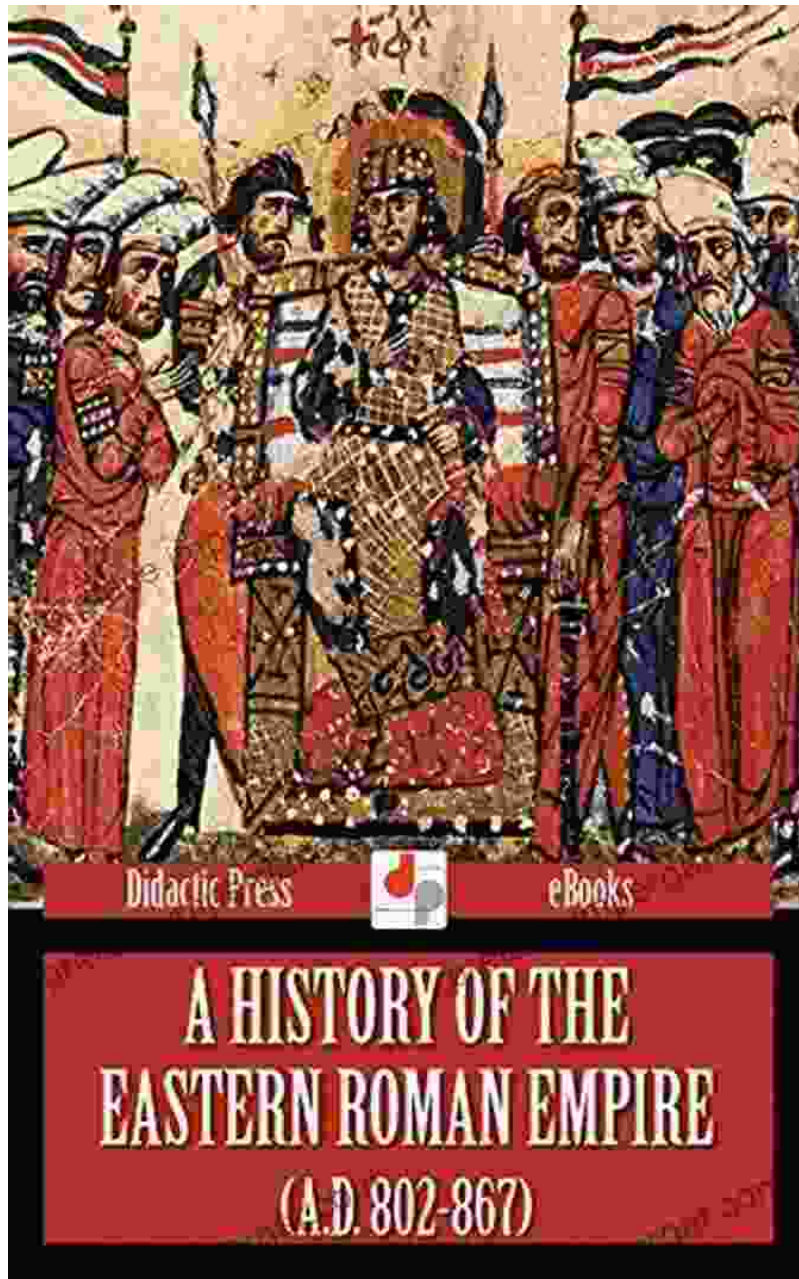
With Leo V's death, the Amorian dynasty came to power. Michael II the Amorian and his successors ruled the empire for nearly half a century, a period characterized by both stability and turmoil.



Michael II reversed Leo V's iconoclastic policies, restoring the veneration of icons and ending the persecution of iconophiles. However, religious divisions continued to plague the empire, culminating in the Great Schism of 1054 between the Eastern and Western Churches.

### **The Reign of Theophilus (829-842)**

The reign of Theophilus was marked by both cultural and military achievements. A patron of the arts, Theophilus commissioned the construction of magnificent churches and palaces, including the renowned Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.



In terms of military prowess, Theophilus's reign witnessed a series of successful campaigns against the Arabs, expanding the empire's bFree Downloads and securing its frontiers.

### **The Reign of Michael III the Drunkard (842-867)**



Michael III's reign was a turbulent period marred by political instability and cultural decadence. Known for his excessive drinking and debauchery, Michael III neglected his duties as emperor, leaving the empire vulnerable to external threats.



During Michael III's reign, the empire faced a series of invasions and raids

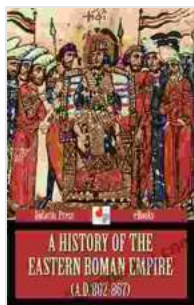
by the Bulgars, Arabs, and Vikings. The empire's defenses crumbled, and its territories were gradually whittled away.

## The End of an Era

Michael III's assassination in 867 marked the end of the Amorian dynasty and the beginning of a period of decline for the Eastern Roman Empire. The empire would continue to exist for several centuries, but its power and influence would never fully recover.

The period from 802 to 867 was a pivotal chapter in the history of the Eastern Roman Empire. It was an era marked by political turmoil, cultural advancements, and religious fervor. The emperors who ruled during this time, from Leo V the Armenian to Michael III the Drunkard, played a significant role in shaping the destiny of this enigmatic civilization.

By delving into the intricate details of this era, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of the Eastern Roman Empire and its enduring legacy.



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