

## Pax Romana

*Jonathan Hickman*

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**JONATHAN HICKMAN**

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#734344 in Books Jonathan Hickman 2009-09-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.90 x .50 x 6.501, .68  
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**Jonathan Hickman : Pax Romana** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pax Romana:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended, top-notch writing By OvenPro86(d) This is a GREAT story, fantastic writing, I feel like if it were expanded and really fleshed out it'd make an awesome "Game of Thrones" type TV show. Only reason it's 4 stars instead of 5 is because I wasn't a HUGE fan of the illustration. Hickman's writing is excellent, but sometimes the illustrating can be a bit chaotic, which works great for books like

"The Nightly News" but for this one I would have liked to see a slightly more "traditional" graphic novel illustration style. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good idea, bad execution  
By Peter J. Orvetti  
This is an interesting idea done poorly. The concept: The Roman Catholic Church, facing decline in Europe in the latter half of the current century, recruits a troop of mercenaries to travel back to the Roman Empire at the start of the Fourth Century C.E. to reshape Constantine's empire into an undefeatable Catholic power. In a nod, intentional or otherwise, to L. Sprague de Camp's "Lest Darkness Fall", they bring modernity with them, and Europe evades the Dark Ages and industrializes a millennium ahead of in our timeline. The execution is lacking. There is little to differentiate between the main characters, and Hickman's style of drawing people -- stark and minimal -- makes them hard to tell apart. The book is all in yellows and blues that dull differentiation, and scenes have backgrounds laden with symbols of sometimes obscure relevance. The worst flaw is that the book is text-heavy -- every dozen pages or so, there are lengthy text dialogues where the characters debate. These provide a lot of exposition but are unnecessarily verbose. Hickman forgets the basic rule of "show, don't tell". 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellence in Words and Picture  
By Julian C. Chambliss  
Jonathan Hickman is making a splash at Marvel Comics with his complex and interweaving story lines in Secret Warriors, Fantastic Four and S.H.E.I.L.D. I would recommend anyone to pick up any of those titles, but you can't ignore Hickman's independent work through Image Comics. I think Hickman is a visual innovator and provocative writer who takes fantastic ideas and makes them work for the reader. I have read Nightly News and Transhuman and I even tracked down his Top Cow pilot season entry--The Core. I was impressed by all of them, so I went looking for Pax Romana. It did not disappoint. One word of warning, reading anything from Hickman requires you to pay attention. It is dense with language, references, and original layout using black and white, negative space, and flashes of color. It is well worth the read however, because the premise is so fantastic you can't help but be a little impressed. If you are interested in a comic creator who looks to maximize what the comic page can do, then you should check out Hickman.

In 2045, as Islam has overrun Europe and the West openly shuns monotheism, the Vatican funded, CERN Laboratories 'discover' that time travel is possible. The Pope orders the creation of a private army, and led by a few handpicked Cardinals and the finest graduates of selected war colleges, they travel back in time to 312AD the reign of the first Christian Emperor, Constantine. Upon arrival, conflicting agendas, ideological differences, and personal greed see grand plans unravel. Pax Romana is the tale of 5,000 men sent on an impossible mission to change the past and save the future. At the end of the world, will they succeed, or will they fail? This politically driven sci-fi epic comes from the creator of the hit Nightly News! Collects the entire Pax Romana series with never-before-seen back matter!