

The Works of Tacitus Vol. I,
edited, translated, and with essays by
Thomas Gordon



Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

LibriVox

**The Works of Tacitus Vol. I, edited, translated, and with essays
by Thomas Gordon**

By Tacitus, Publius Cornelius (c. 56-117).

Edited, translated, and with essays by Thomas Gordon (d. 1750).

The historical works of Tacitus are a history of the period from A.D. 14 to 96 in thirty volumes. Although many of the works were lost (only books 1-5 of the Histories and 1-6 and 11-16 of the Annals survive), enough remains to provide a good sense of Tacitus's political and moral philosophy.

Tacitus recognized the necessity for strong rulers but argued that more should be done to manage the succession of power and allow for the ascension of talent. He asserted that it was the dynastic ambitions of Rome's many emperors that caused the decline of moral and political life and precluded the possibility of recruiting leaders of real ability. Moreover, the dynastic temptation caused political instability because military force was now required for political change. His works point to the necessity of systematic institutional restraints on power for the preservation of liberty.

Gordon's translation and his lengthy Discourses on Tacitus bring Tacitus' ideas up to date and apply them to the British state of the early 18th century. (Description from Online Library of Liberty)

This is the first of four volumes of Gordon's Tacitus edition.

Read by many wonderful LibriVox volunteers; total running time: 15:08:07.

This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For more information or to volunteer, visit librivox.org. Cover picture from the engraving by John Reinhard Weguelin (1880). Copyright expired in US, Canada, EU and all countries with author's life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by Janette Brown. This design is in the public domain.