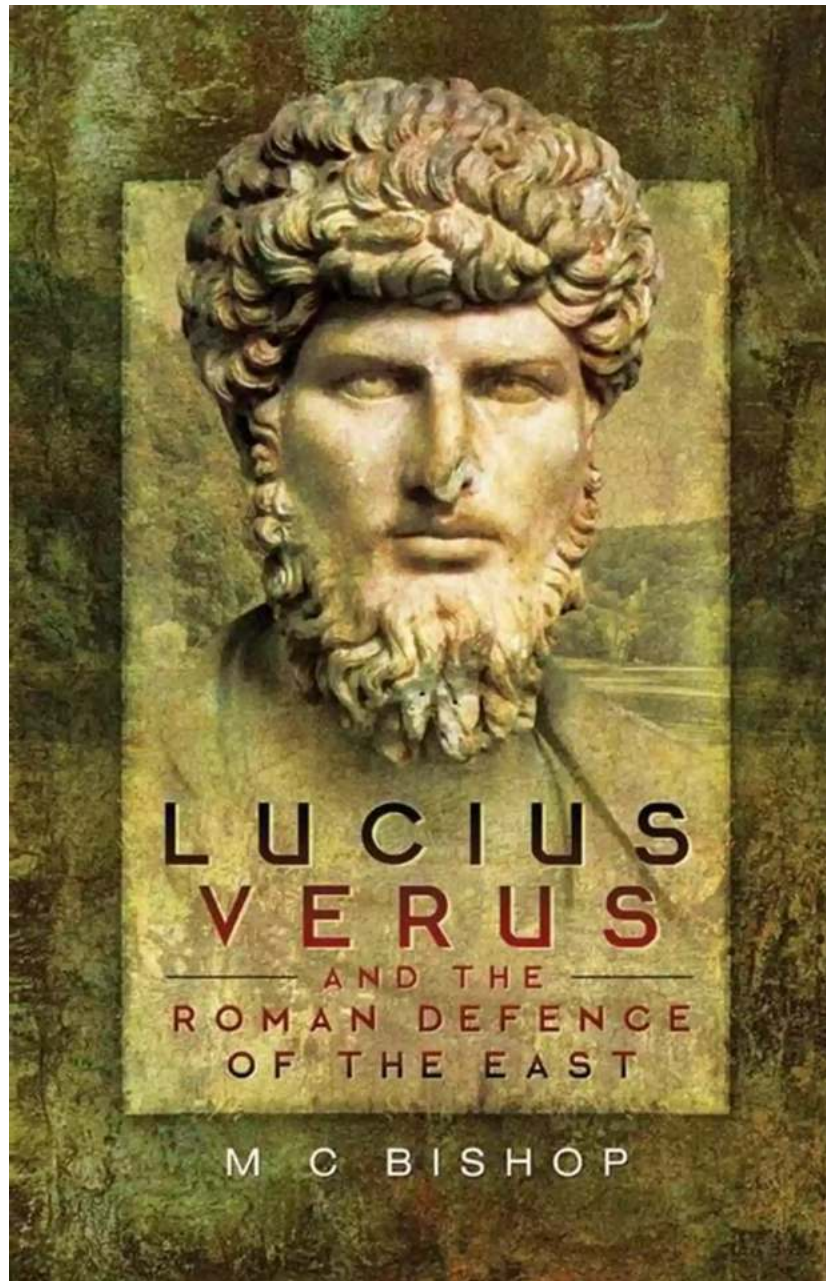


# Lucius Verus And The Roman Defence Of The East

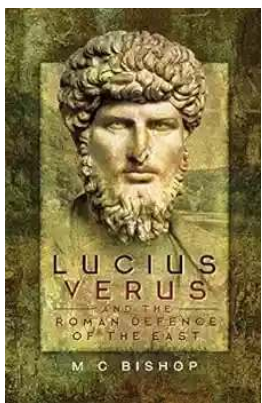


The Roman Empire was known for its military might and strategic expansions. One of the key figures in preserving the eastern borders of the empire was Lucius Verus, a Roman emperor who ruled from 161 to 169 AD. Lucius Verus played a

crucial role in defending the Roman territories against external threats, particularly in the east.

## The Rise of Lucius Verus

Lucius Verus, born in 130 AD, was the son of Aelius Caesar and the adopted son of Emperor Hadrian. He ascended to the throne as co-emperor with his adoptive brother Marcus Aurelius. During his reign, Lucius Verus faced numerous military challenges, especially in the eastern part of the empire.



### Lucius Verus and the Roman Defence of the East

by M.C. Bishop (Kindle Edition)

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One of the most notable campaigns led by Lucius Verus was the Parthian War. The Parthian Empire, located in modern-day Iran and Iraq, posed a significant threat to Roman territories and had been a long-standing adversary of the empire. Lucius Verus, along with his skilled generals, devised a strategic plan to counter the Parthian forces.

## The Parthian War

The Parthian War, which took place from 161 to 166 AD, was fought primarily in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. Lucius Verus, accompanied by his general Avidius Cassius, led a large Roman army to repel the Parthian invasion. The Roman forces initially faced challenges due to the unique Parthian warfare tactics, including swift horse archers and heavily armored cataphracts.

However, Lucius Verus demonstrated exceptional military leadership, adapting the Roman tactics to counter the Parthian strategies. He decentralized his army and utilized a swift cavalry force to counter the Parthian archers. Additionally, Lucius Verus formed alliances with local tribes who were dissatisfied with Parthian rule, effectively weakening the enemy's positions.

After years of intense fighting, the Romans gained the upper hand and scored significant victories against the Parthians. Lucius Verus and his forces captured crucial Parthian territories, including the cities of Seleucia and Ctesiphon. These victories not only ensured the Roman control over the eastern territories but also expanded the reach of the empire.

## **Legacy and Impact**

The successful defence of the eastern borders and the triumph in the Parthian War brought significant glory to Lucius Verus and the Roman Empire. Lucius Verus' military strategies and leadership qualities played a crucial role in safeguarding the empire's interests in the east.

Furthermore, Lucius Verus' victories allowed for increased Roman influence and cultural exchange in the vast territories of the east. This facilitated the spread of Roman civilization, architecture, and governance, leaving a lasting impact that can still be seen in the region to this day.

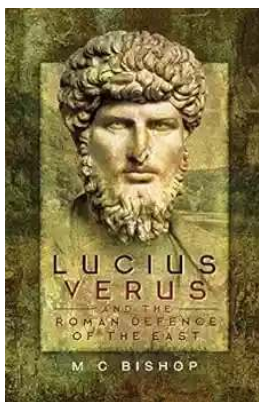
## **Personal Life and Tragic End**

While Lucius Verus was celebrated for his military successes, his personal life was filled with tragedy and misfortune. He faced health issues, including battles with various ailments and plagues that afflicted the Roman Empire during his reign.

Lucius Verus passed away in 169 AD, leaving behind a mixed legacy. Despite his contributions to defending the eastern borders, he faced criticism for his extravagant lifestyle and alleged debauchery. However, his role in military history and the preservation of the Roman Empire's eastern boundaries cannot be overlooked.

Lucius Verus, as a Roman emperor, played a significant role in defending the east and expanding the reach of the Roman Empire. The successful Parthian War showcased his military prowess and his ability to adapt to challenging situations.

Although his personal life was marred by controversy, Lucius Verus left a lasting legacy through his military achievements and the cultural influence that followed the Roman expansion in the east. His impact on the Roman Empire and its defense strategies is a testament to his leadership abilities and his determination to preserve the empire's interests.



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“The first biography of Marcus Aurelius’ adopted brother and co-emperor . . . a valuable read for anyone with an interest in Roman history.”—The NYMAS Review

Lucius Verus is one of the least regarded Roman emperors, despite the fact that he was co-ruler with his adoptive brother Marcus Aurelius for nine years until his untimely death. The later sources were strangely hostile to him and modern writers tend to dismiss him, but contemporary writings shine a more favorable light on his accomplishments. His handling of military affairs, particularly the conflict with Parthia after their invasions of Armenia and Syria, deserves a new consideration in the light of a careful reassessment of all the available source material. This volume looks at the upbringing of the boy who lost two fathers, acquired a brother, had his name changed twice, became a general overnight, and commanded the army that defeated one of Rome’s greatest foes in the 2nd century AD. His rise to power is placed in the context of Rome’s campaigns in the East and the part played by all—from the ordinary soldiers up to the aristocracy who commanded them—in making Lucius Verus’s Parthian Wars a success.

“Bishop’s background is in Roman military archaeology, and where the details of Roman warfare are concerned, he knows his subject matter backwards and forwards . . . For those who wish to understand how the Roman commanders fighting under Verus achieved success in the East, Bishop’s book can be heartily recommended.”—Bryn Mawr Classical Review



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