



## Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium

By Judith Herrin

Download now

Read Online →

### Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin

In the eighth and ninth centuries, three Byzantine empresses--Irene, Euphrosyne, and Theodora--changed history. Their combined efforts restored the veneration of icons, saving Byzantium from a purely symbolic and decorative art and ensuring its influence for centuries to come.

In this exhilarating and highly entertaining account, one of the foremost historians of the medieval period tells the story of how these fascinating women exercised imperial sovereignty with consummate skill and sometimes ruthless tactics. Though they gained access to the all-pervasive authority of the Byzantine ruling dynasty through marriage, all three continued to wear the imperial purple and wield tremendous power as widows. From Constantinople, their own Queen City, the empresses undermined competitors and governed like men. They conducted diplomacy across the known world, negotiating with the likes of Charlemagne, Roman popes, and the great Arab caliph Harun al Rashid.

Vehemently rejecting the ban on holy images instituted by their male relatives, Irene and Theodora used craft and power to reverse the official iconoclasm and restore icons to their place of adoration in the Eastern Church. In so doing, they profoundly altered the course of history. The art--and not only the art--of Byzantium, of Islam, and of the West would have been very different without them.

As Judith Herrin traces the surviving evidence, she evokes the complex and deeply religious world of Constantinople in the aftermath of Arab conquest. She brings to life its monuments and palaces, its court ceremonies and rituals, the role of eunuchs (the "third sex"), bride shows, and the influence of warring monks and patriarchs. Based on new research and written for a general audience, *Women in Purple* reshapes our understanding of an empire that lasted a thousand years and splashes fresh light on the relationship of women to power.

↓ [Download Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium ...pdf](#)

# Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium

By Judith Herrin

## Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin

In the eighth and ninth centuries, three Byzantine empresses--Irene, Euphrosyne, and Theodora--changed history. Their combined efforts restored the veneration of icons, saving Byzantium from a purely symbolic and decorative art and ensuring its influence for centuries to come.

In this exhilarating and highly entertaining account, one of the foremost historians of the medieval period tells the story of how these fascinating women exercised imperial sovereignty with consummate skill and sometimes ruthless tactics. Though they gained access to the all-pervasive authority of the Byzantine ruling dynasty through marriage, all three continued to wear the imperial purple and wield tremendous power as widows. From Constantinople, their own Queen City, the empresses undermined competitors and governed like men. They conducted diplomacy across the known world, negotiating with the likes of Charlemagne, Roman popes, and the great Arab caliph Harun al Rashid.

Vehemently rejecting the ban on holy images instituted by their male relatives, Irene and Theodora used craft and power to reverse the official iconoclasm and restore icons to their place of adoration in the Eastern Church. In so doing, they profoundly altered the course of history. The art--and not only the art--of Byzantium, of Islam, and of the West would have been very different without them.

As Judith Herrin traces the surviving evidence, she evokes the complex and deeply religious world of Constantinople in the aftermath of Arab conquest. She brings to life its monuments and palaces, its court ceremonies and rituals, the role of eunuchs (the "third sex"), bride shows, and the influence of warring monks and patriarchs. Based on new research and written for a general audience, *Women in Purple* reshapes our understanding of an empire that lasted a thousand years and splashes fresh light on the relationship of women to power.

## Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #838755 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Princeton University Press
- Published on: 2004-01-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.97" h x .94" w x 5.84" l, 1.03 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

 [Download Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium ...pdf](#)



## Editorial Review

Review

**Judith Herrin, Winner of the 2016 Dr A.H. Heineken Prize, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences**

"[Herrin] has succeeded in writing a scholarly study [that] opens up a new perspective on a vital period of Byzantine history, [and] one that is eminently accessible to a wider public. It is also superbly illustrated."--**Michael Angold, *Times Literary Supplement***

"A work of remarkable scholarship. . . . Throughout her book, the author explains the court intrigues and theological debates with outstanding clarity."--**Bart McDowell, *Washington Times***

"Herrin's study provides important glimpses into medieval history as well as the daily lives and rituals of Byzantine imperial women. . . . [Her] book is the most accessible of the few currently available on this topic."--***Publishers Weekly***

"Throughout history, the dynastic and political role of ruler has been the prerogative of men, with some notable exceptions. In medieval Byzantium, there were three such rarities: Irene, Euphrosyne and Theodora. Gaining considerable power as emperors' wives, they continued to wield authority as widows and helped alter what is now a singular aspect of Byzantine culture its iconography. Reversing the ban on holy images that was fashionable at the time, they helped restore icons to a prominent position in Eastern Christian worship."--***The Washington Post Book World***

"Herrin traces the lives of three Byzantine empresses of the late eighth and early ninth centuries. . . . [She] deals with the contradictions inherent in being a female ruler and the ways in which the three women used and manipulated the structures and symbols of Byzantine power. . . . The book is lightly footnoted, has an excellent discussion of the problems of finding sources about women during this period, and is written in a clear style accessible to general readers interested in historical biography."--***Choice***

From the Back Cover

"Judith Herrin's book not only illuminates the lives and significance of three medieval Byzantine empresses who are scarcely known outside of the field, but she uses their lives to bring this entire period as well as its history and general significance to life. Through these three extraordinary women, Herrin will introduce a wide public to this important yet neglected period. It is time for a new Byzantium to emerge, and this book is a very good step in that direction."--**Susanna Elm, University of California, Berkeley**

About the Author

Judith Herrin is Professor of Late Antique and Byzantine Studies and Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College London. Her books include "The Formation of Christendom" (Princeton) and "A Medieval Miscellany: The Medieval World in Its Own Words".

## Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Shirley Kistner:**

The book *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Why must we leave the good thing like a book *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium*? Wide variety you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim that will book can give many info for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, you may give for each other; you can share all of these. Book *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* has simple shape however, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can seem the enormous world by open and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

**Doris Seavey:**

What do you in relation to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what your own problem? How about your time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They must answer that question because just their can do which. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on guardería until university need this particular *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* to read.

**Roger Cooper:**

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with education books but if you want sense happy read one using theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* is kind of book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

**Jerold Niemi:**

Is it a person who having spare time after that spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* can be the reply, oh how comes? A book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these textbooks have than the others?

**Download and Read Online *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* By Judith Herrin #6ZAGMNJVXQ2**

## **Read Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin for online ebook**

Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin books to read online.

### **Online Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin ebook PDF download**

**Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin Doc**

**Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin Mobipocket**

**Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium By Judith Herrin EPub**