The Power Game in Byzantium: Antonina and the Empress Theodora

by James Allan Evans


Antonina and the Empress Theodora were key figures in the reign of Justinian (527-565), who governed Byzantium as Emperor from 527 to 565 AD. They were both alumnae of the theatre and became key figures in the politics of the time. 

Empress Theodora was the wife of Emperor Justinian I and played a significant role in the administration of the empire. She was known for her influence and was involved in various political decisions. Antonina was a close friend of Theodora and played a significant role in her rise to power. 

The book, "The Power Game in Byzantium: Antonina and the Empress Theodora," by James Allan Evans, explores the power dynamics of the time, focusing not only on Theodora but also on Antonina. It reveals how Empress Theodora and Antonina, both alumnae of the theatre, were remarkable examples of social mobility, moving into positions of power and influence, becoming wives of key figures.


The book was reprinted by Continuum in 2011, and it is available in paperback and hardcover formats. The book offers a fascinating exploration of the power dynamics of the time, focusing on the roles of Empress Theodora and Antonina in the administration of the empire. It is a valuable resource for historians interested in the history of Byzantium and the role of women in politics.