



## A Companion to Marcus Aurelius

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*A Companion to Marcus Aurelius* presents the first comprehensive collection of essays to explore all essential facets relating to contemporary Marcus Aurelius studies.

- First collection of its kind to commission new state-of-the-art scholarship on Marcus Aurelius
- Features readings that cover all aspects of Marcus Aurelius, including source material, biographical information, and writings
- Contributions from an international cast of top Aurelius scholars
- Addresses evolving aspects of the reception of the *Meditations*

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### Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

Considered the last of the "Five Good Emperors," Marcus Aurelius ruled the Roman Empire from AD 161 until his death in 180—yet his influence on philosophy continues to resonate in the modern age through his *Meditations*. *A Companion to Marcus Aurelius* presents the first comprehensive collection of essays to explore all essential facets relating to contemporary Marcus Aurelius studies. Featuring contributions from top international scholars in relevant fields, initial readings provide an overview of source material by addressing such topics as manuscript transmission, historical written sources, archaeological evidence, artifacts, and coins. Readings continue with state-of-the-art discussions of various aspects of Marcus Aurelius—his personal biography; political, cultural, and intellectual background; and aspects of his role as emperor, reformer of administration, military leader, and lawgiver. His *Meditations* are analyzed in detail, including the form of the book, his way of writing and an overview of the various aspects of his philosophy. The final series of readings address evolving aspects of Aurelius reception. *A Companion to Marcus Aurelius* offers important new insights on a figure of late antiquity whose unique voice has withstood the centuries to influence contemporary life.

About the Author

**Marcel van Ackeren** is Professor at Cologne University. He is the author of *Das Wissen vom Guten* (2003), *Heraklit* (2005), *Understanding Ancient Philosophy* (with Jörn Müller, 2006), *The Political Identity of the West: Platonism in the Dialogue of Cultures* (edited with Orrin F. Summerell, 2006), and *Die Philosophie Marc Aurels* (2011).

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