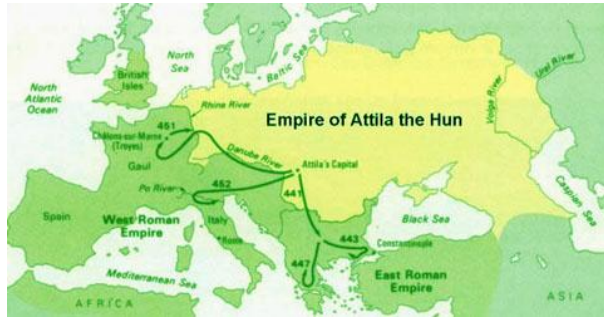


0. ATTILA DECIMATES THE WEST - Story Preface

1. WHO WERE THE HUNS?
2. SAVAGE BEYOND PARALLEL
3. A HOME FOR THE HUNS
4. WHO WAS HE?
5. SCOURGE OF GOD

6. ATTILA DECIMATES THE WEST

7. ATTILA'S WESTERN TRAVELS
8. DEADLY BATTLE - AETIUS and ATTILA at CHALONS
9. DEATH IN LOMBARDY
10. ATTILA MEETS THE POPE



During his short reign, as leader of the Huns, Attila captured an astonishing amount of territory. Moving by horses, he and his men built an empire as depicted in this map.

Without infrastructure in his kingdom, Attila built an army of versatile and nimble horsemen. Funded by enormous tributes collected from foreigners (and plunder forcibly taken from others), he could well afford to pay (and feed) his troops and their horses.

The Hun bow was their decisive weapon. Attila held his domains through fear.

Using terrain as cover, until they were within arrow range, the Huns would send arrow showers at unspecified targets. They used the sword as well, for close combat.

Historians believe that Hunnic boys were taught to use a sword by the age of five. It was said (and noted by Edward Gibbon in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*) that Attila was presented with the sword of the god Mars (which he wielded with brutal ferocity).

Even after his people were given a homeland, Attila remained a nomadic warrior. Having plundered towns and cities in the Eastern Empire, the King of the Huns decided to go west, to Gaul. It would be another winning journey, but it culminated in a battle which Attila lost.

It is believed Attila's headquarters were located at, or near, Aquincum, a town Rome founded on the west bank of the Danube River. That city of hills, subsequently called Buda, is now the left-bank side of Budapest. (Buda, and the flat-lands city of Pest, located on the eastern bank of the Danube, were combined into one city - Budapest - in the 19th century.)

Attila's likely route west (from his headquarters to the Seine, among other places) is depicted in William R. Shepherd's 1911 Historical Atlas. Let's trace his path to virtually visit some of the towns he captured or besieged.

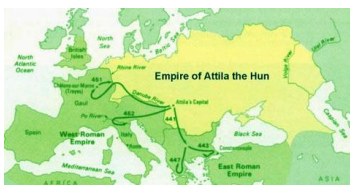
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ATTILA-DECIMATES-THE-WEST-Attila-the-Hun)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ATTILA-DECIMATES-THE-WEST-Attila-the-Hun>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ATTILA-DECIMATES-THE-WEST-Attila-the-Hun)

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Media Stream



Map of the Hunnic Empire under Attila

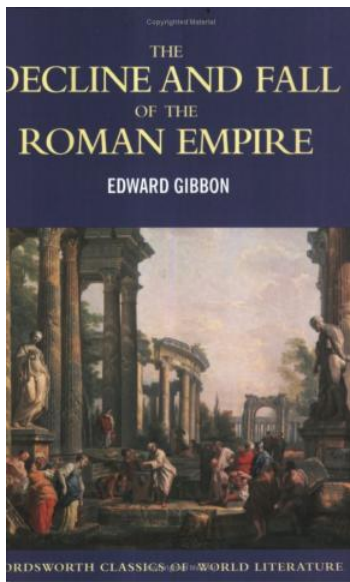
During his short reign, as leader of the Huns, Attila captured an astonishing amount of territory. Moving by horses, he and his men built an empire as depicted in this map.

Click on the image for a better view.

Map, located on a Hungarian-language website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-the-Hunnic-Empire-under-Attila>



The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

Image online, courtesy Google Books.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Divine-and-Fall-of-the-Roman-Empire>



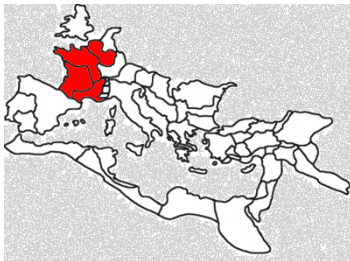
Eastern Half of the Roman Empire - Map

The map, online courtesy Perry Castañeda Map Collection (University of Texas, at Austin), is from *East and West Through Fifteen Centuries*, Volume II, by G. F. Young. Published by Longmans, Green and Co. 1916.

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Map Depicting Gaul

Image by Duden-Dödel, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Aquincum - Reputed Headquarters of Attila

Image by Darrell Peck. Online, courtesy Darrell Peck.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Aquincum-Reputed-Headquarters-of-Attila>



Aquincum Ruins

Image by Ian Pitchford, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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European Provinces of Rome - Map

Map by Velhagen & Klasing, included in *The Historical Atlas* by William R. Shepherd, 1911. Online, courtesy Perry Casteñada Map Collection (University of Texas, at Austin).

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/European-Provinces-of-Rome-Map>



Budapest - Map Locator

Image, described above, online courtesy Perry Casteñada Map Collection (University of Texas, at Austin).

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Budapest

Image online, courtesy Hungarian-language website.

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Pest - City View

Image online, courtesy Russian-language website.

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View of Pest - Eastern-Bank View of Budapest

Image of the "Pest" side of "Budapest," online courtesy Vrije ("Free") University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Sciences.

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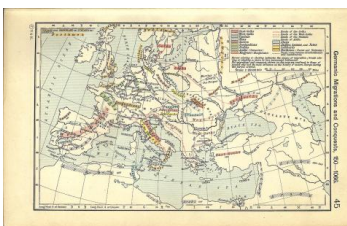


Budapest - City View

Image of the "Pest" side of "Budapest," online courtesy Vrije ("Free") University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Sciences.

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Germanic Migrations and Conquests - Roman Empire

Map, described above, included in *The Historical Atlas* by William R. Shepherd, 1911. Online, courtesy Perry Casteñada Map Collection (University of Texas, at Austin).

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Germanic-Migrations-and-Conquests-Roman-Empire>



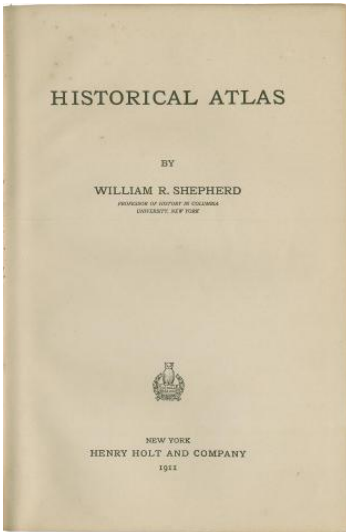
Hills Surrounding the Buda Section of Budapest

Image of the "Pest" side of "Budapest," online courtesy Vrije ("Free") University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Sciences.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hills-Surrounding-the-Buda-Section-of-Budapest>



Historical Atlas

Image online, courtesy Perry Casteñada Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

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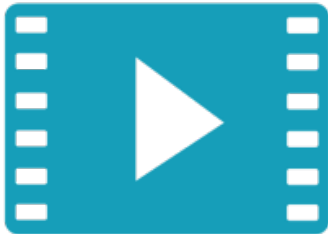


Map - Attila's Likely Route West

Map, described above, included in *The Historical Atlas* by William R. Shepherd, 1911. Online, courtesy Perry Casteñada Map Collection (University of Texas, at Austin).

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Attila - Believes He Can Conquer the World

Clip from *Attila: Scourge of God* (1987). Written by Jesse Sublett; narrated by Monte Markham; aired on A&E's "Biography" series. Clip online, courtesy Uralic's Channel on YouTube.

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