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the borders of the roman empire which fluctuated throughout the empire s history were a combination of natural frontiers the rhine and danube rivers to the north and east the atlantic to the west and deserts to the south and man made fortifications which separated the lands of the empire from the barbarian lands beyond the roman frontier in other words is better seen not as an impervious barrier sealing fortress rome off from the world but as one tool the romans used to extend influence deep into barbaricum where there was no natural frontier such as rivers mountains deserts or sea the romans constructed artificial barriers these frontiers extended over 7 500 kilometres 4 660 mi stretching from the atlantic ocean across europe to the black sea through the deserts of the middle east to the red sea and across north africa the limes arabicus was the frontier of the roman province of arabia petraea facing the desert it runs from the gulf of agaba to northern syria for about 1 500 kilometers 930 mi at its greatest extent post roman limites a collection of twenty two papers presented to the preeminent roman frontier scholar including papers on army organization frontiers military history military and logistic supply and roman and native interaction the limes germanicus latin for germanic frontier or germanic limes is the name given in modern times to a line of frontier fortifications that bounded the ancient roman provinces of germania inferior germania superior and raetia dividing the roman empire and the unsubdued germanic tribes from the years 83 to about 260 ad the frontier the former frontiers of the roman empire are set to become the world's biggest single archaeological site unesco world heritage site status is now in prospect for the frontiers as a whole historic scotland s david breeze is a leading advocate of the move the borders of the roman empire which fluctuated throughout the empire s history were realised as a combination of military roads and linked forts natural frontiers most notably the rhine and danube rivers and man made fortifications which separated the lands of the empire from the countries beyond the frontiers of the roman empire comprise significant remains of the limes romanus a border defense or delimiting system of ancient rome it includes the upper german raetian limes hadrian s wall and antonine wall all built in the 2nd century ce in the northwestern part of the empire map of the roman provinces and frontiers during the reign of emperor hadrian 117 138 ce frontiers of the roman empire the roman

limes represents the border line of the roman empire at its greatest extent in the 2nd century ad it stretched over 5 000 km from the atlantic coast of northern britain through europe to the black sea and from there to the red sea and across north africa to the atlantic coast yet roman armies clearly reached certain points which today we call frontiers where they simply stopped advancing and annexing new territories in frontiers of the roman empire c r whittaker examines the roman frontiers both in terms of what they meant to the romans and in their military despite its strategic importance the land frontier developed gradually as the ruthlessly expansionist roman state slowly grasped that its armies had stalled the batavian revolt in ad 69 first brought home the need to create a permanent presence beyond the upper reaches of the rhine and danube after discussion of frontier theory and types of frontier the author analyses the acquisition of an empire and the ways in which it was ruled he addresses the vexed question of how to define the edges of provinces and covers the relationship with allied kingdoms roman frontiers have a considerable contribution to make to the study of the roman empire here uniquely romans met their barbarian neighbours on a day to day basis they are the boundary lines through which roman objects spread outwards from the imperial heartlands across europe north africa and parts of asia reaching as far as abstract during a pioneering aerial survey of the near east in the 1920s father antoine poidebard recorded hundreds of fortified military buildings that traced the eastern frontier of the roman empire based on their distribution poidebard proposed that these forts represented a line of defence against incursions from the east frontiers of the roman empire hugh elton routledge apr 15 2013 history 160 pages with its succinct analysis of the overriding issues and detailed case studies based on the latest the romans built a series of supply forts roads and fortlets constructed on the routes up to the new frontier line of the forth clyde isthmus in scotland in theory treating the universal concept of frontier should produce results relevant to geo political borders for the traditional limesforscher the geo political sense of frontier is after all its basic meaning other usages reflect metonymy or metaphor roman frontier studies have long attracted archaeological interest and one of the major questions still facing scholars is how did these frontiers evolve over time were the extensive walls and fortifications meant to last

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