

## What Would the World Look Like Today if the Roman Empire Didn't Fall?

Virginia Author Warns that History May End Up Repeating Itself if Change Doesn't Come Soon

By Rachel M. Anderson, Contributing Writer

(Falls Church, VA) – One hundred years from now when high school and college students are studying American history, there will likely be an entire chapter in their history books about the year 2020. Students will reflect back on the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump Presidency, race riots and what will likely become known as the Second Great Depression.

As events have unfolded, history enthusiasts like M.D. Missaiel of Falls Church, Va., have made note of the fact that we are living during significant times. So significant, in fact, that Missaiel decided 2020 had to be the year he finally finished and published a book he had started work on in 2012.

*The Alternative History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, scheduled for release on July 4, 2020, by Ill at Ease Press, is the story of Saul Brutus. When the tale begins, Saul has just arrived at the Smithsonian with his wife, Marine. They are there to attend the opening reception for an exhibit on the history of maritime travel.

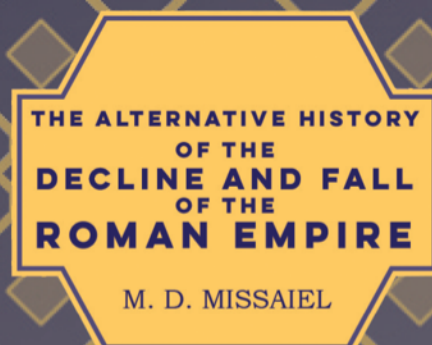
Shortly after arriving, the couple runs into someone they know and begin a conversation. Eventually, Saul wanders off and it isn't long before the narrator and Marine hear a scream coming from the Mayflower exhibit.

"It turns out Saul has just returned from a trip to an alternate reality. One in which Rome didn't fall, and the modern world is a lot different as a result," says Missaiel, who explains that in his alternate world, society has advanced 1,000 years beyond where it is today. Something he assumes would have been possible if the most advanced society the planet has ever seen had been allowed to continue along the trajectory it was on when it fell.

Missaiel says the story was inspired by his love of history, an overactive imagination, and the parallels he noticed between the Fall of the Roman Empire and what is happening in America today. "We've seen what can happen when a country that leads the world falls on hard times. It can bring the rest of the world down with it," says Missaiel, who explores what may have been through the eyes of a traveler who finds his way to a parallel world.

"I used time travel and parallel universes as a vehicle to tell the story. I thought it was the best way to show my readers how important the choices leaders make today are to our future," says Missaiel, whose narrator shares Saul's story of having been on a 7-day mission to convince the world to adapt to the "Materials Offset Initiative."

The Initiative was a plan that relied on technology rather than plants, animals and fossil fuels to renew resources such as food, clothing, shelter and energy. "The idea is that rather than consuming animals for meat, genetic material is pulled from their DNA to create meat; and rather than clear cutting forests and depleting fossil fuels, the materials needed to build housing and infrastructure are artificially created," says Missaiel.



**Feature Article**

Not only has technology advanced lightyears in the society Saul traveled to, the architecture of homes and businesses is a lot different as well. Missaiel works in the architecture industry by day, and as a result of his knowledge about design is especially adept at transporting readers to the cities his characters visit during their 7-day mission to change the hearts and minds of societies.

In chapter one he writes, *“It was snowing when I was at the docks earlier, but inside the city the snow stopped at the glass roof that covered all the streets. It was warm underneath the glass roof, creating a climate-controlled exterior space, lined with trees and fountains that even further moderate the temperature and enhance the aesthetic of the civic space. Rows of decorative sculptures doubled as structural support for the glass roof. The buildings themselves were intricately adorned with colorful, detailed pediments, domes, and dynamic gravity-defying statues.”*

As for why he decided to share his concerns about where America is heading by showing readers an alternate reality, Missaiel comments, “In 2012 I started the book as a fun fantastical exploration, but between 2012 and 2020 the parallels between the U.S. now and Rome before the fall were more evident. Most uncanny are the parallels between the current administration and Commodus, the Roman emperor whose reign is commonly considered the end of the golden period of the Roman Empire. I am hoping other people will see the same signs before it’s too late.”

REVIEWS WILL GO HERE WHEN SECURED

Copies of ***The Alternative History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*** will be available for purchase online through both Amazon and Barnes and Noble beginning July 4, 2020. Books can also be ordered through stores.

For more information, go to [Mmissaiel.illatease.info](http://Mmissaiel.illatease.info)

### About the Author

M.D. Missaiel was born in Egypt and moved to America during his early teen years. He graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 2015 and works at a commercial design architecture firm on the East Coast.

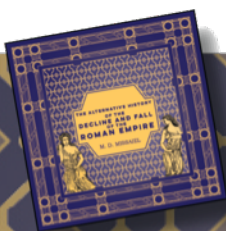
When he is not drawing floor plans or designs for buildings, he enjoys painting and writing. Missaiel began work on his debut novel, ***The Alternative History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire***, in 2012 and is bringing the book to market in 2020.



***The Alternative History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*** is Missaiel’s first published book. M.D. Missaiel calls Chicago his home but is currently based in Northern Virginia, outside of Washington, D.C.

*EDITOR’S NOTE: This feature article is available for your use copyright free and cost-free. High resolution photography is available for your use for free as well. To arrange an interview of your own with author M.D. Missaiel, or to request a review copy of The Alternative History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, at 952-240-2513 or [rachel@rmapublicity.com](mailto:rachel@rmapublicity.com).*

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