

# Marcus Aurelius Encyclopedia Article

## Marcus Aurelius

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# Marcus Aurelius

**121-180**

Roman emperor and philosopher who extended the knowledge of the Middle East and the area along Rome's northern frontier through defensive and offensive military campaigns in these regions. He was adopted by his uncle, Emperor Antoninus Pius, and succeeded him as emperor in 161. His reign brought to an end Rome's extended period of peace and prosperity known as *Pax Romana*. His writings, known collectively as *Meditations*, are significant expressions of Stoic philosophy.