

# Procopius Encyclopedia Article

## Procopius

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# Procopius

d. 565?

Byzantine historian, born in what is now Israel, whose writing is one of the principal sources on the era of Justinian (r. 527-565). Procopius served as advisor to Justinian's brilliant general Belisarius (c. 500-565) in military campaigns from 527 to 540 against the Persians in what is now Iran; the Goths in Italy; and the Vandals in Spain and North Africa. He chronicled these events in *Procopius's History of Our Time*, and also wrote *On Buildings*, a six-volume work concerning structures erected under the reign of Justinian. Behind the scenes, however, Procopius was writing what came to be known as the *Secret History*, in which he portrayed Justinian and the empress Theodora (c. 500-548) as literal fiends in human form, while Belisarius appeared as a cuckold and a fool.