

Chapter 10 Rome from City-State to Empire



Etruscans rule Rome
Roman Republic
Conquest of Italy
The First and Second Punic Wars
The two triumvirates
Reign of Augustus
Pax Romana
Julio-Claudian emperors
Flavian emperors
Marcus Aurelius

Roman Foundations

- Italy settled by Indo-Europeans about 1500 BCE
- Rome: City-state situated half way down Italian Peninsula
- Etruscans
 - Arrived in Italy around 800 BCE
 - Form small city states in north, central Italy
 - Strongly influenced Roman religious beliefs, art and architecture
 - Federation, including Romans, ruled by Etruscans (750-509 BCE)
 - After Roman rebellion, gradually disappeared from history
 - Written language not deciphered
- Greeks the one alien group Romans thought superior
- Colonies established in south Italy
- Carthaginians most powerful force in western Mediterranean
- Fought Greek colonies





Republican Government

- Res Publica (Latin for Republic) state without a monarch
- Senate made up of patricians (5-10% of the population)
- General Assembly made up of plebeians (the mass, 90% of the population)
- Executives:
- Two consuls (elected from the senate one year terms)
 - Censors (originally tax assessors, later reviewed morals/conduct of senators)
 - Tribunes (with power to speak/act in name of commoners)
- Equal voting rights (Hortensian Law, 287 BCE, gave patricians and plebeians equal voting rights)
- No REAL equal access to government for all

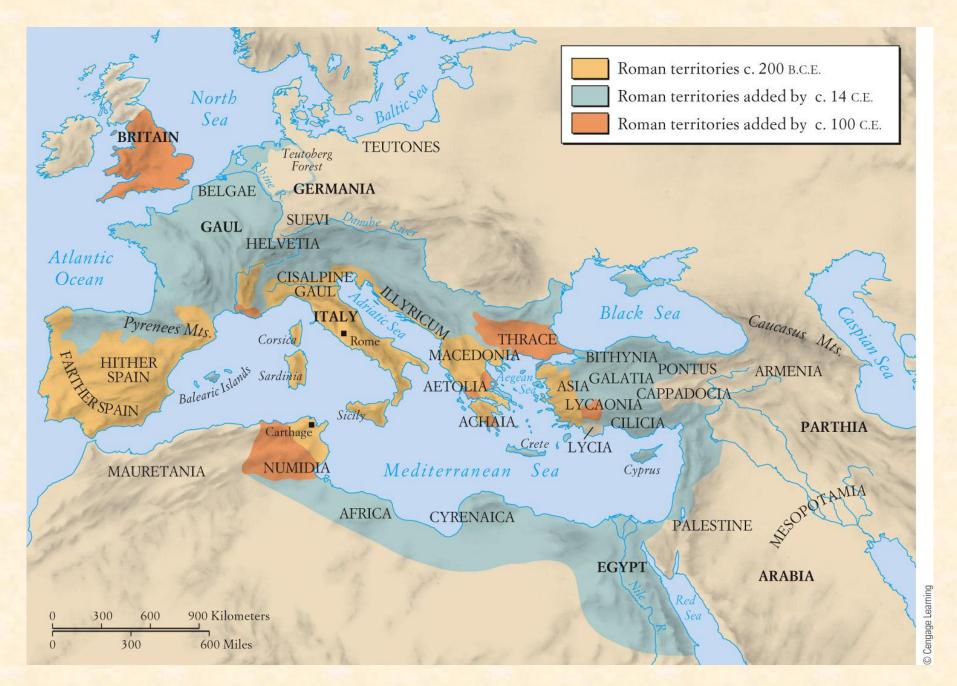
Rome's Conquests

- Rome ruled most of central Italy by 340
 - Encouraged subject populations to become integrated with Rome by granting them citizenship
- Punic Wars (500-275 BCE)
 - First Punic War (264-241 BCE)—Fought over control of Sicily
 - Second Punic War (218-212 BCE)
 - Hannibal ravages Italy for 15 years
 - Rome defeated Carthage at Battle of Zama (212 BCE); controlled western Mediterranean

Conquest of the East

Conquest of Hellenistic Kingdoms

- Some Senate opposition
- Built outstanding military machine
- Originally manned by by landowning pleb infantry soldiers commanded by patrician officers
- Proconsuls (from mid-300s BCE) created as permanent
 - Military commander/governors
 - Annual election fell into disuse
 - Leadership fell to politically/militarily powerful men



The Crisis of the Late Republic

- Late Republic's Crisis
 - Plebe citizen-soldiers lost land to wealthy who owned great estates run by slaves
 - Landless peasants now flocked to cities
 - Proletariat (people with income except from daily labor)
 - Ready to follow any general who would lead them
 - Marius(former consul, re-elected for 6 terms)
 - Recognized need for reform
 - Abolished property qualifications
 - Army became a base for instability
 - Soldiers promised pensions and land upon retirement
 - Sulla (Harsh soldier/consul, became dictator in 83 BCE)

Triumvirate

Julius Caesar and First Triumvirate (with Crassus, Pompey)

- 50s BCE, Caesar conquered Gaul
- Dictator, 46-47 BCE
- Assassinated, 44 BCE

Octavian (adopted son of Caesar) and Second Triumvirate (with Mark Antony, Lepidus)

- Crushed assassins and divided the empire
- War with Antony (32 BCE)
 - Octavian's final victory at Actium (31 BCE)



The Augustan Age

- Augustus' reforms
 - Retained the form of the Republic while retaining all power
 - Offices and titles
 - Pontifex Maximus: high priest
 - Octavian accepted title of "Augustus" ("Revered One")
 - preferred to be called "Princeps" ("First Citizen", 27 BCE-14 CE, called Principiate), head of the Senate
 - Consul for life
- Imperial government policies
 - Kept republican institutions intact
 - Recognized problem of impoverished citizens
 - Tried to institute moral reforms, ended the love of luxury
 - Tried to revive faith in old gods and state cult
 - Reformed imperial protection, administration
 - Other military reforms
 - Praetorian Guard only armed force in Italy

The Augustan Age

- Imperial Government Policy
 - Supposedly, Senate/citizens were sovereign
 - Reality: Augustus had final say
- Social policy
 - Basic food rations from state
 - "Gifts" from Augustus as Consul
 - Public Works
- Moral reform, end "love of luxury"
- Faith in "Old Gods"
- Germanic tribes remained a problem
 - Resistance sets boundaries at Rhine and Danube
- Reduced size of army by 50% (to 250,000)
- Legionnaires
- Praetorian Guard

The Augustan Age

- Peace and Prosperity
 - Pax Romana (31 BCE-180 BCE)
 - benefits
 - Art and Literature
 - Trade
- Succession Problem
- Augustus made Tiberius his son-in-law successor
 - Successors depended on military support more than heredity to get into office
- Imperial Unification
 - Imperial government became increasingly centralized
 - Municipia Roman towns, administrative units
 - Government became open to non-Italians



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Roman Culture

Law

- Probably most valued Roman gift to later society
- Basic principles: precedent, equity, interpretation
- lus gentium: law for relations between citizens, non-Romans
- Natural law

Arts

- Literature
- Modeled after the Greeks
- Pictorial and plastic arts-Etruscan and Greek models
- Popularity of busts
- Architecture-arches and circles

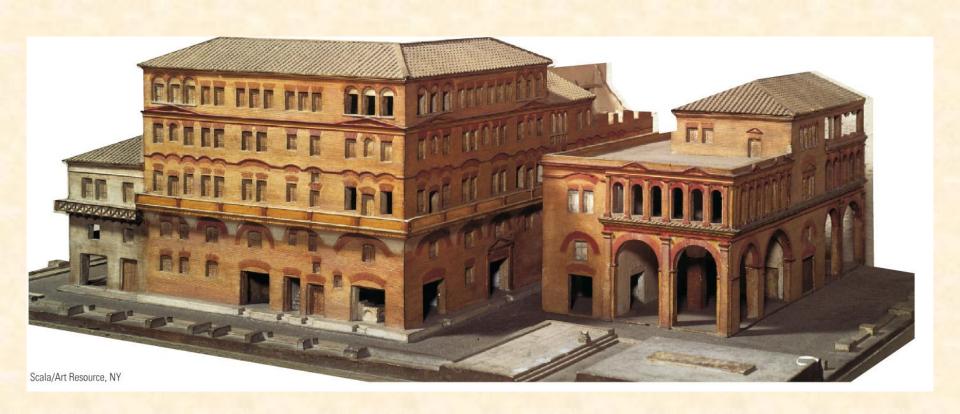


Patterns of Belief

- Roman Stoics
- Seneca
- All humanity shares a divine spark
- Marcus Aurelius (rule, 161-180 CE)
 - Last of "Five Good Emperors"
 - Wrote Meditations
 - Pessimistic Stoic (Good man in a bad world)
- Pragmatic People, "here and now"
 - Admired, cultivated the arts ("Finer things")
- Religions
 - Duty to state and family
 - Mutual promises
 - Gods protection for community and survival
 - People ceremonial worship and respect
 - Jupiter (Zeus), Apollo, Neptune (Poseidon), Venus (Aphrodite), Minerva (Athena), Ares (Mars)
 - Much borrowed from Greeks
 - Popularity of mystery religions

Society and Economy

- Considerable boom in trade and manufacturing
- Silk Road and Spice Route
- Livelihood changed little
- Most farmers but growing urban population
- Tenant farmers or slave plantations
- Slavery
 - Increase of slaves due to conquest
 - Slaves often better educated, more highly skilled than masters
 - Navy and merchant fleet depended on galley slaves
 - Use in mines
 - 3rd and 4th century increase in voluntary slavery



Society

- Gender relations
 - Patria potestas authority of father over family
 - Could execute family members
 - Women regarded as property
 - Father's power exceeded husbands
 - Marriages arranged, divorce common
 - Abortion legal until 1st century CE
 - Women worked in most trades
 - Women not as segregated as in Greece
- Children and education
 - Patrician male child received an excellent education



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