

## Section 1: The Roman Republic

### -The Italian Peninsula

- Greeks set up farms in Sicily and Southern Italy
  - Cultural diffusion and gave Greek alphabet to Italians
- Central location in Mediterranean
  - Good for trade
- Mild climate-good soil on large plains
- Silt blocked mouths of many rivers and made swamps (diseases)
- Alps block north and mountains run through to south
  - Locals mostly trade with each other
- Few good harbors but eventually used sea for much trade

### -Early People

- Neolithic cultures by 500 BC
- Indo-Europeans 2000-100BC came
  - Pushed out previous neolithics
  - Umbrians in North-Latins in central plain Latium (lay-shee-uh)  
/Oscans in South
- Etruscans 900-500 BC
  - Ruled north plains of Etruscans
  - Not much known of origins and did not speak an Indo-European language
  - Alphabet from Greeks but not able to decipher language
  - Very expressive art-murals and sculptures
  - Society probably wealthy overlords-aristocratic priests-slave labor
  - Repeated revolts by slaves and other Italian people
  - Overthrown by Latins (pg 156)

### -Rise of Rome

- Legend of Romulus and Remus
- Etruscan Rule
  - 620 BC gained control of Rome
  - Wealthy Etruscan family began ruling (Tarquins)
  - Taught how to make bricks and use tile for roofs
  - Drained marshes- planned city streets
  - Center of city-Forum-seat of Gov.
  - Built temples and shared religious rituals
  - 534 BC Tarquin the Proud new ruler
    - Very cruel-angered Romans and revolted 504BC
    - Tarquin family driven out
    - Etruscan artists and engineers stayed
- New wealthy aristocratic class slowly forming over time
  - Latin nobles-Patricians
  - When Etruscan rulers outed-Patricians declare Rome a Republic-  
where people elect leaders
- Most inhabitants were plebeians

- Non-aristocratic wealthy-landowners-merchants-farmer and middle class
- Had right to vote-pay taxes-military service
- Couldn't hold public office like Patricians

### **-Roman Republic**

- Executive and legislative branches
  - Legislative-Assembly of Centuries (100) and Senate (300)
    - Under Patrician Control
    - Assembly elected officials of executive branch
    - Senate more power
      - Proposed laws
      - Advised executive consuls
      - Approved public works contracts
  - Executive branch
    - Headed by 2 patrician officials
    - 1 year terms
    - called consuls because had to consult each other before acting
    - Either could veto (veto- "I forbid")
    - Oversaw censors-tax collectors-judges-records
- Dictator
  - In emergency someone elected to rule in crisis
  - Able to overrule consuls and only temporary rule

### **-Plebeians against Patricians**

- Angry because no voice in government
- Knew Patricians had to give in (why?)
- 494 BC Plebeians refuse military service if no reform
- Patricians give in
  - Plebeians choose representative-called Tribunes- could veto government decisions
  - Recognize Assembly of Tribes-body of Plebeians who elect Tribunes
    - Won right to make laws
    - Enslavement for debt ended
    - Marriage between Plebeians and Patricians allowed
- Creation of written lawcode
  - Old way-Judges interpreted unwritten traditions
  - Now apply laws fairly and to all
  - Patricians engrave laws onto 12 bronze tablets
    - Put on display for all to see
    - Basis of future Roman laws

### **-Religion**

- Early on worshipped nature spirits
- West Etruscan influence-moved to gods and goddesses
- Practice of foretelling future
  - Priests(soothsayers) tell by birds flying and animal entrails

- Borrowed Greek deities and gave new names
- Privately many also worshipped ancestral spirits
- Family
  - Basic unit of Roman society
  - Extended families in large households
    - Unmarried children- married sons and families-other dependent members
  - Father absolute head of house
    - Conducted religious ceremonies
    - Controlled property
    - Supervised education of sons
    - Power to kill or sell members of family into slavery
- Wives few legal rights (more than Greeks)
  - Hosted parties
  - Market alone
  - Ran household
  - Occasionally acquired own property and businesses
  - Wealthy women with slaves study literature, art, fashion
  - Lower-class household tasks and work in family owned shops
- Children grew up with much discipline
  - Complete loyalty to family
  - Taught reading-writing-morals
  - Boys trained by fathers for farming or trade or military
  - Girls trained by mothers to run households
- Despite class and wealth- most held same values
  - Thrift-discipline-self-sacrifice-devotion to family and republic

## **Section 2: Expansion and Crisis**

- 500-300 BC Rome under various threats from neighbors
  - conquered or forced them to ally with Rome
  - by 264 peninsula under rule
  - Greek colonists in Southern Italy gave problems
    - 282 BC sought help from Pyrrhus
      - ruler in Western Greece
      - Fought back Romans twice but with bad losses
      - 275 BC Romans forced them to Greece
- Roman legions
  - Success due to strong army
  - Early on-all male citizens to serve with called up
    - Used Greek tactics (phalanx)
  - Greek ways too large and too slow
    - Reorganized into legions (6000) and then smaller units (60-120)
    - Now easily able to win
  - Soldiers called legionnaires
    - Well trained and professional
    - Deserters were killed
  - Conquered people treated well and sometimes kept government

- Some given citizenship and partial rights
- Set up permanent military settlements-coloniae
  - To protect strategic areas-heights-river crossings
  - Roads built to link together
    - Became major trade routes
- Rome against Carthage
  - Carthage Phoenician city-state in Med.
    - Wealthiest city
    - Expanding commerce so took Spanish coast and most of Sicily
- Rome decide Pre-empt expansion of Carthaginians (Punic)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Punic War 264 BC
    - Carthage threaten straight between Italy and Sicily
    - Rome sent force to secure and brought about war
    - Rome took most of Sicily
    - Carthage sends overwhelming navy
    - Rome built larger fleet and attacked with new tactic
      - Grappling hooks-board ship-fight hand to hand
    - Carthaginians retreat and 241 BC Romans threat home invasion
      - Agree to pay indemnity to Romans
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War 219 BC
    - Carthaginian general in Spain in 221
    - 219 took Roman allied city in Spain
    - next to attack Italy
      - 40,000 troops and 40 elephants
        - across southern France and into Alps
    - cold-snow-sickness-attacks by mountain peoples
      - kill half of troops and most elephants
    - Hannibal's troops outnumbered- defeated Romans
    - By 216 BC battle of Cannae in south eastern Italy
      - Nearly destroyed Roman army
      - Romans rallied and raised new volunteer legions
        - Led by general Scipio (movie)
        - Attacked Carthage
          - Caused Hannibal return to Africa
    - 202 BC Scipio defeats Hannibal at Zama near Carthage
      - Scipio demands:
        - Give up lands in Spain
        - Turn over most of fleet
        - Pay another indemnity
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Punic War
    - 50 years peace and Carthage regain prosperity
      - no threat to Rome
    - Rome decide to force a war (why?)
    - Roman senator Cato ended every speech with "Carthage must be destroyed"
    - 146BC Romans burned Carthage

- Sold population into slavery
- Legend that Romans sowed salt into soil-no crops
- Victory gave Rome complete control of western Mediterranean

## **Republic in Crisis**

### **Rich, Poor and Slavery**

- Military triumphs but social discontent growing in empire
  - Conquered provinces paying taxes-complaining about corruption
    - Roman officials skimming taxes and stealing “provincial wealth”
      - Seize land from small farmers to create large estates called latifundia(la-tuh-fuhn-dee-uh)
        - Grew cash crops for urban markets
        - Used POW (slaves) to work the land
- By 100BC slaves 30% of people in Roman Empire
- Slave labor forced small farmers and rural workers to migrate to the city
  - Jobs not available/poor class of urban and landless poor
- Rich and poor gap widen→threat of revolt increases
  - Legions stationed in most provinces
    - 73 to 71BC army of 70,000 slaves led by Spartacus
      - Plundered Italian countryside and tried to win freedom
      - Romans finally crushed uprising→ lost 2 legions
        - Killed 600 by crucification as warning to slaves
        - Several thousands killed in battle and rest fled-later captured
        - Putting down revolts costly-people-payment-food-supplies
- Rich and powerful families fought for favor and control in government-caused weakness
- Some Romans proposed reforms to close gap between rich and poor
  - 133BC Tiberius Gracchus proposed limiting size of latifundia and distribute land to poor
    - Senate (wealthiest Romans) opposed plan and he was killed in street fighting
    - 123BC Tiberius brother-Gaius proposed same and was also murdered

### **Military taking control**

- After Gracchi brothers killed, military leaders came to power
- 1<sup>st</sup> one, general Marius, became a consul in 107 BC
  - had saved Rome from attack by Germanic Tribes
  - Dwindling number small farmers mad citizen army obsolete
    - Marius looked to unemployed and urban poor
      - These troops paid-given equipment and uniforms
      - Promised land when discharged
      - 1<sup>st</sup> time Rome have professional army
      - Soldiers owe more allegiance to commander than Republic

- To advance power and political ambitions
  - Other political leaders formed own separate armies
    - 88-82BC Marius and rival general Sulla fought
      - Sulla drove Marius into exile
      - Sulla appointed himself dictator
- Julius Caesar (Veni, Vidi, Vici-I came, I saw, I conquered)
  - Became one of greatest generals
  - An ambitious aristocrat-rose to political power
  - 60BC allied with general Pompey and politician Crassus
  - 59BC with help from Pompey and Crassus-elected consul
    - over next decade-the 2 ruled Rome as a Triumvirate
      - with bribery and force made government and critics be loyal
  - military campaigns
    - needed victories to be popular and advance political career
    - 59BC took command in Gaul (France)
      - conquered Celts living there
      - Crossed Rhine R. and fought Germanic tribes
      - Invaded Britain twice
    - Very popular with lower classes viewed as hero
    - Senators worried about growing popularity (political threat)
    - By 50BC triumvirate gone
      - Crassus dead-killed in battle in Asia
      - Pompey had become political rival to Caesar
    - 49BC Senate- with Pompey backing-order Caesar give up army and return to Rome
      - Caesar assembled 5000 loyal troops and entered into Roman Italy
      - Captured Italy and drove Pompey and allies out of country
      - Fighting spread east and finally defeated Pompey
        - At Pharsalus, Greece in 48 BC
  - Caesar in Power
    - 45 BC took over government/declared "dictator for life" by Senate
    - granted Roman citizenship to people in provinces
    - added Senate representative from provinces (and were loyal to him)
      - made Senate responsive to provincial needs
      - strengthened his own power
  - social reforms for poor
    - public works for unemployed
    - ordered land holders to hire more help
    - had colonies founded throughout territories
      - for landless poor
    - kept giving free grain but reduced number of those eligible for it

- New calendar-365 and 1 day every 4 years (Julian calendar)
  - Based on work of scholars in Alexandria
  - Roman Province
- Death of Caesar
  - Believed he would become a King
  - Had son brought from Egypt
  - Cleopatra came as well
  - Law stated-anyone who plotted become King to be killed
  - Several dozen senators led by Brutus and Cassius killed him
- Republic ends
  - Caesar's grand nephew Octavian, Marc Antony and Marcus Lepidus made another triumvirate
    - Defeated opponents of Caesar
    - Slowly divided republic into 3 sections
      - Octavian-Italy and west
      - Antony-Greece and East
      - Lepidus-north Africa
  - Octavian forced Lepidus to retire
  - Antony marries Cleopatra (queen of Egypt)
    - Octavian convinces Rome-Antony and Cleopatra to rule together
    - Octavian declares war in Rome name
    - 32 BC Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide in Egypt
  - Octavian became emperor and ended Republic

### **Section 3: The Roman Empire**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Emperors
  - Octavian "elected" consul and commander in chief for life by Senate
    - Changed name to Augustus or "Majestic One"
    - Claimed support Republic but worked towards Empire
    - Began rule in 27BC to 14 AD (40 years)
    - Many reforms and public works
      - Tax collectors replaced with permanent government emp.
      - Grain imported from North Africa (all fed)
      - New roads built and old repaired
      - New public buildings (large and visually pleasing)
  - 31BC Pax Romana began (Roman Peace)
    - time of peace-lasting about 200 years
    - only problems when new leaders come to power
      - Augustus picked his successor but no laws to set up further emperors
- Julio Claudian Emperors
  - Next 4 after Augustus-14 to 68 AD
  - Called so because all members of Augustus's family
  - Tiberius-after Augustus-accused many people of treason (death)
  - Caligula-Tiberius grandnephew-many "wild" parties
    - Caligula was killed by palace guard
  - Claudius-Caligula's uncle-was a scholar but lost interest in state affairs

- Nero-stepson to Claudius-cruel and insane
  - Loved art and parties
  - Believed to have started fire in Rome to destroy it
    - Wanted to build bigger and greater
  - Felt people plotting against him
    - Killed wife-mother-senators
    - Senate sentenced him to death but he killed himself
- The Good Emperors
  - 28 years after Nero's death-Rome ruled by Emperors backed by army
  - 96AD Senate chose own emperor
    - Nerva-first of "good emperors"
    - Trajan-increased empire to largest size
    - Hadrian-strengthened Rome defense (Hadrian's wall-Britain)
    - Antoninus Pius-maintained prosperity
    - Marcus Aurelius-(movie) ruled under economic height
- Life in the Empire
  - By 27BC- 70 to 100 million in empire
  - Augustus chose professional governors to rule provinces
    - Senate had elected in experienced proconsuls each year
    - Left some local Kings and government in place (Judea)
    - Served as chief priest of Rome-set precedent for other emperors
- More territory and provinces-new non-citizen law
  - Jus gentium-law only applying to non citizens
- Laws for citizens-jus civile (citizen laws)
  - By 200AD all free males in most provinces now citizens
  - 2 sets of laws incorporated
- Roman law stressed authority of state over individuals
  - People given legal rights-innocent until proven guilty
  - Basis for Western legal system
- Army-Augustus and all others had full-time professional army
  - With peace not as much needed
  - Reduced legions and took males from provinces into service
  - By 160AD threats of invasion continuous problem
- Economy
  - Artisans made: pottery-glass-woven cloth-jewelry
  - Provinces sent: silk cloth-spices-luxury items from other countries
    - Raw materials from mines: tin-iron-lead
- Family
  - Less important in empire during Pax Romana than in republic
  - Fewer children and more divorce and remarriages
  - Men lost some absolute power/women gained legal rights
- Society-less stable
  - Poor could become rich-patricians might go bankrupt
  - More people getting money and living better
  - Majority still poor
    - Had use of "general" public baths



- Lived in wood multistory apartment buildings
- Entertainment
  - 130 holidays a year
  - Chariot races (Circus Maximus 150,000 seats)
  - Gladiators
  - Animal fights
- Engineering and Science
  - Colosseum-Circus Maximus
  - 128AD Hadrian built Pantheon-temple for all gods-used concrete
  - roads-1<sup>st</sup> major one-Appian Way/eventually 50,000 miles in empire
  - aqueducts- some still used today
  - used work of other cultures to build on technology and science
- Education
  - Rich boys and girls tutored at home-boys went on to academies, girls kept at home but still received education
  - Poor and lower classes taught basic reading-writing and math
  - Latin official language and base of many European ones
  - Later Romans studied history by Livy (glorified early Romans)

## **Section 4: The Rise of Christianity**

- Background
  - 6AD Kingdom of Juda → Roman province (Augustus)
  - Rome usually let people worship own religion
    - Still had to recognize authority of Empire
  - With Juda-Jewish people treated poorly
    - Many hoped for messiah and God intervene (covenant)
  - Several rebellions tried and were put down (66 and 132AD)
    - Jews scattered throughout Mediterranean and Middle East
- Jesus of Nazareth
  - Grew up near Nazareth
  - Began split away from Judaism unhappy with corruption
    - Preached peace-forgiveness of debt
    - Very poor and sick= to everyone else
      - Common belief-if sick or poor, punishment from God
    - Followers believed Jesus as Messiah
  - Viewed as political and religious rebel and false prophet
    - Caused disturbances in and around Judah
  - Arrest ordered by Roman governor (Pontius Pilate)
    - Ultimately crucified
- Spread of Christianity and problems
  - After death of Jesus-disciples proclaimed resurrection
    - Preached Jesus son of God and follow his example
    - Led to beginnings of Christianity
- Non Jews began converting as well
- Disciple Peter traveled to Rome and began preaching
- Christians only follow one faith
  - Stopped worshipping Roman gods and emperor/refuse military service

- Romans felt Christian rejection of deities bring punishment
  - To prevent-Christians persecuted
    - No public worshipping
    - Taxes
    - Scapegoat for floods-famine-etc.
    - At times some put to death at events
- Christian number small because other polytheistic religions appealing
  - Very poor mostly turn to Christianity
    - More poor in cities→Christianity more visible
    - Only real advantage
- Roman adoption and early church
  - Emperor Constantine 1<sup>st</sup> to convert
    - On route to battle- given sign (cross as standard=victory) 312
      - Soldiers to paint a cross on shields
      - Victorious and credited to Christian God
      - After battle-named emperor
- 313 ordered Edict of Milan
  - all religions free to worship
- attended Christian meetings and ordered church as built
- Constantine made Christian meetings and ordered Churches built
- Constantine made Christianity fashionable and legit to citizens
- 392 Emperor Theodosius
  - Christians official religion of empire
  - Banned Hellenistic and Roman religions
- Christianity lacked official unity
  - Religious thinkers 100-500AD explained and defined Christianity
    - “Great Fathers” wrote books and began organize
- Church Structure bottom→top levels
  - Local gatherings led by priests
  - Several priests make up a parish
  - Several parishes make up diocese and overseen by bishop
  - Bishops interpreted beliefs and managed church
    - Large cities had powerful bishops
    - Met to decide on doctrine
    - Answered questions and settle disputes
    - 400s AD bishop of Rome claimed authority over others
      - known as the Pope

## Section 5: Roman Decline

- Internal Problems
  - 180AD Marcus Aurelius dies→son Commodus Emperor→Commodus strangled by Narcissus who was hired by his advisors while bathing
    - Bankrupt emp. Spending on excesses-killed by own troops
  - Pax Romana ends
  - 192-284 AD Army installs and kills 28 emperors
  - Northern Europe tribes attack along borders
    - Mostly Germanic (Goths-Franks-Saxons)

- War broke down economy and caused food shortages
  - government made more money to help but high inflation occurred
- Because of war-more money spent on army and more taxes
- Reforms
  - General Diocletian became emperor by killing the previous one
    - Said empire too large for 1 to rule
      - Diocletian rule E. provinces (Greece and E.)
      - Gen. Maximian W. provinces and Rome
    - Issued Edict of Prices (fixed prices and wages) penalty of death
      - Black market surged
- Diocletian retired 305 AD/Constantine emperor 312 AD
  - Continued Edict
  - 330AD moved capital to Byzantium-renamed Constantinople
    - Why?
- Theodosius emperor after Constantine
  - Declared after his death Empire officially separated
    - East Byzantine Empire
    - West Roman Empire
- Invaders and downfall (pg 177)
  - Mostly Germanic
    - Moved into Gaul and Spain because grazing and Huns
    - Poor existence-farmers and herders
    - Not unified politically-only with language and common goal
    - Visigoths most important group
      - Rebelled and defeated Roman army in Balkans
        - Killed East Roman Emperor
  - Huns from central Asia- led by Attila
    - Romans and Visigoths join and defeat Huns in Gaul
      - Huns turn South to Italy and plunder-Atilla killed
        - 453 return to Eastern Europe when Attila dies
  - Vandals sacked Rome 455 AD
  - Empire collapsing since 200AD-by 500AD reduced to tribal territories
  - Eastern Roman Empire still strong/preserved culture
    - Hellenistic culture have strong influence though